THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Looking over a cluster of rental apartments toward Shwedagon Pagoda ,Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

UNDER THE HAMMER

Myanmar real estate market has room to grow

THE Myanmar real estate market could develop from exponential foreign investment during the term of the next government, says managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com, U Nay Min Thu.

It is predicted that confidence in the next government by both local and foreign business entrepreneurs could create an increase in the amount of investment coming into the country, resulting in growth of the real estate sector.

"Foreign investment will flood Myanmar when the next government takes office. The real estate market will develop as a result. There will be more buying and selling. It will also improve the rental market too." commented U Nay Min Thu.

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Securities accounts can be opened to trade stocks

THE First Myanmar Investment (FMI) started to open securities accounts on Monday for the trading of stocks on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), according to Kanbawza Stirling Coleman Securities (KBZSC).

"We've joined together with the Singaporean Stirling Coleman Securities for their technical expertise. We will use the technology of this company to start to act as mediators for those companies who wish to trade stocks on the YSX. We will start to install software and systems." explained chief financial officer of KBZSC, U Nay Myo Aung.

KBZ Securities Company is a joint-venture between the Kanbawza group and Stirling Coleman Securities from Singapore. They were the first company to be issued with an underwriter license to offer securities accounts for the YSX.

Stocks will not be traded directly on the YSX, but through third-party securities companies with underwriter licenses.

"Those who wish to trade stocks must first open an account with a third-party securities company. The account holder will be issued with an account name and a pin-code. Using this information, they will then be able to trade stocks on the YSX online, by logging on to the securities company website.

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One confirmed dead, another missing in latest Hpakant landslide

Aye Min Soe

LOCAL authorities confirmed yesterday that one miner died in a landslide in Hpakant that occurred on Monday evening.

"A man injured in the landslide died upon arrival at the hospital. We were also informed that two were missing following the accident," said U Tin Swe Myint, the head of the Hpakant Township Administration Office, to *The Global New Light of Myanmar* over the phone.

"One of the two who were reportedly missing arrived back home on Tuesday," he added.

The accident happened around 4 pm on Monday as migrant workers returned home.

In late November last year, a deadly landslide occurred at the site, leaving 115 migrant workers dead.

Shortcomings in following safety regulations by both mining companies and migrant squatters pose challenges for local authorities in preventing future landslides around jade mines in Kachin State.

To prevent landslides, local authorities have suggested that migrant miners squatting around at-risk areas be relocated to safer areas and that mining companies dump their waste soil in accordance with technical safety rules.

When miners began using heavy machinery to extract jade from mines in Myanmar in 2005, migrant workers across the country flowed into the area to scavenge small jade stones from the discarded mine soil.

There are currently around 200,000 squatters in Hpakant Township.

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Migrant workers are scavenging for leftover Jade. PHOTO: THAUNG NYUNT

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session continues with discussions on committees' reports

THE 13th regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for 37th day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with discussion on six reports including the report of the Joint Public Accounts Committee.

Union Minister U Win Shein and Union Auditor-General U Myo Myint explained matters related to the findings and remarks of the Joint Public Accounts Committee on the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Fund for 2014-2015

Union Minister U Win Shein suggested that further discussion is needed for proposed tax exemption for work financed by the Fund, and stated that ways and means will be sought to ease difficulties and restrictions being faced in implementation of the projects under the Fund through further coordination of the Internal Revenue Department.

During today's session, changes in the boundary, formation and names of a town, village-tracts and villages was documented.

Next, presentation of the reports of the respective committees followed, and members of Union-level organisations responded to the reports. —*Myanmar News Agency*

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

MWAF holds annual meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, greets attendees of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation. PHOTO: MNA

THE Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation held its annual meeting for 2015 at Thiri Yadana Hall of the building in Nay Pyi Taw, with the opening ceremony graced by Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of President U Thein Sein, and Daw Nann Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

In her address, Daw Ni Ni Win, patron of the federation, stressed the need of heightening awareness about child abuse cases that account for 40 per cent of all criminal cases last year and preventive measures.

The Patron highlighted the importance of providing more legal protection for victims and necessary assistance to improve their livelihoods and upholding the task of anti-human trafficking as the bounden duty.

Next, Prof. Dr Khin Mar Tun, president of the MWAF, elaborated on activities undertaken by the federation in the year 2015.

After the ceremony, Daw Khin Khin Win and party observed documentary photos on activities of the federation.

The annual general meeting set for three days from 26 to 28 January is aimed at reviewing the department-wise work of the federation and previous undertakings of the state/region organizations.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw

Final approval of former President's security bill to be sought from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Commodore Aung Thaw. PHOTO: MNA

THE 13th regular session of the First Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) entered its 29th day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, approving a proposal to seek final approval of the former President's security bill from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

During yesterday's session a parliamentarian submitted a proposal to discuss and seek final parliamentary approval on the bill sent back by the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) with amendments from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Next, Deputy Minister for Defense Commodore Aung Thaw responded to a question about a road that was blocked from public use in Dagon Township, raised by MP U Nanda Kyaw Swa.

The deputy minister said that the Bo Yar Nyunt road in the township will be reopened for the public to use before the end of this month.

11 Pyithu Hluttaw committees presented their respective reports to the Parliament. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar Parliamentary Union Meeting releases statement

MYANMAR Parliamentary Union Meeting (1/2016) was held at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, releasing a statement with approval.

First, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, who is also the MPU Chairman, and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint who is also the MPC Vice Chairman addressed the meeting.

Next, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, who is also the secretary of the MPU, explained the draft statement of the MPU and work progress on implementation of the tasks laid down at the previous meeting.

The draft statement was approved, and regional speakers reported on general matters.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

According to the statement approved at the meeting, MPU meetings were held 14 times during the period from 2012 to 2015, focusing on capacity enhancement for parliamentarians and enactment of laws that are of benefit to the people. Progress was made through coordination between the Union parliament and regional parliaments, said the statement, calling on the new Parliament to keep up the sound foundations of the First Parliament. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint chair Myanmar Parliamentary Union Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Nyan Tun attends India's Republic Day reception

Vice President U Nyan Tun being welcomed by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhaya.
PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Nyan Tun attended a reception to mark the 67th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India at the Sule Shangri-la Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

Also present at the reception were Daw Khin Aye Myint, wife of the Vice-President, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw, Yangon Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Zaw Thein, deputy ministers, ambassadors and diplomats from foreign embassies in Myanmar and officials.

The Vice-President and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhaya spoke on the occasion.

Next, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife and those present enjoyed dinner hosted by the Indian Ambassador and wife.—*Myanmar News Agency*

New Myanmar Embassy building opens in Tokyo

THE grand opening ceremony of a new building for the Myanmar Embassy in Japan was held in conjunction with a reception to mark the 68th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the embassy in Tokyo on Monday.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin was present at the ceremonies.

During the ceremony, the Union minister thanked the Japanese government and its foreign ministry as well as Japanese construction companies for their respective roles in construction of the new building that began in November, 2014 and was completed in December, 2015.

According to sources, Myanmar and Japan established diplomatic ties in 1945, and diplomatic missions were opened in the capital cities of the two countries. The former Myanmar Embassy building was constructed in 1960 but was damaged by the Tohoku earthquake in 2011.

During his stay in Japan the Union minister met the Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Fumio Kishida, exchanged views on matters of mutual interests and further cooperation between the two countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*

One confirmed dead, another . . .

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According to data collected up to 30 November 2015, 627 mining companies have been allowed to mine on 7,714 plots, while another 231 companies are mining through a win-win business system on 311 plots. Mining areas constitute a total area of more than 22,558 acres in the township. As of 2000, the government has practiced a production-sharing system with mining companies, collecting 25 percent of the incomes from the sales, apart from tax.

Securities accounts can be . . .

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The list of what's been traded will then be sent to the YSX, after which they will reset the price [of stocks] accordingly." said U Nay Myo Aung.

FMI securities accounts can be opened at ten KBZ banks across the country as well as FMI centers in Yangon and Mandalay. Come this March Myanmar's first Yangon Stock Exchange will be ready for trading stocks.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Gov't, NLD hold second meeting on handing over of Head of State's duty

THE second coordination meeting on the handing over of the duty of the Head of State between the governments's supporting committee and the National League for Democracy's committee took place in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Both sides held discussions on the planned agenda for holding a ceremony to transfer the duty of the Head of State and ongoing ministerial works, bilateral cooperation in the matter and decided to hold a third meeting next month. At the second coordination meeting, the government's supporting committee led by the committee's chairman U Hla Tun accompanied by members Union Minister U Ye Htut, Director-General of the President Office U Hla Tun, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Construction U Maung Maung Ohn and the Director of the President Office U Zaw Htay were in attendance while the NLD's committee was led by its chairman U Win Htein, a member of the Central Executive Committee of the NLD, and members Dr Myo Aung and Dr Aung Thu.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Representative of the government and National League for Democracy discuss handing over of the duty of the Head of State.
PHOTO: PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Myanmar real estate market has room to grow

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Currently, there is more demand for apartment rentals than the buying or selling of property, but the renting market is also facing a cold spell. The current value of monthly rental fees for apartments in the lively downtown Yangon townships of Kyauktada , Pabedan, Lamadaw and Latha range from 300,000 to 1 million kyats dependent upon the size of the apartment and the floor it is located on, while apartments in townships slightly outside of the downtown grid, such as Kyimyindaing and Ahlone, go for considerably less, between 150,000-250,000 kyats, according to local real estate agents.

"Foreign investment has come into Myanmar. It's mainly been prioritised in the creation of employment opportunities in the form of labour intensive manufacturing, while a great deal of investment has gone into agricultural enterprises as [Myanmar] is predominantly an agrarian country." said Dr. Malar Myo Nyunt, director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).—*Myitmakha News Agency*

PHOTO: NAVY

All crew members of sunken Vietnamese ship saved

ALL 14 crew members of a Vietnamese cargo ship, the MV Dong Then Phu Silver that collided with an oil tanker off the Yangon river were rescued, according to the Myanmar Port Authority.

The MV Dong Then Phu Silver,carrying bags of cement, sank after colliding with the MT Ocean Osprey while sailing out of the river following an anchor line failure at about 12 noon.

Thirteen crew members were saved by the Ocean Osprey while the remaining one was rescued by a fishing boat, said U Aung Kyaw Htoo, an official from MPA.

All crew members were taken to Nann Thida port by a naval ship at about 11.30 pm that day and were transferred to the resident representative of the shipping company, he added.

According to the MPA, an investigation into sinking of the Vietnamese ship will be conducted in cooperation with organisations concerned.

Despite being hit by the cargo ship, the oil tanker sustained only minor damage.—*Ko Moe*

Board of Trustees of Shwe San Daw Pagoda of Pyay honours Sayar Gyi U Mya Win

ON behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Shwe San Daw pagoda of Pyay, Commander of Regional Command Brig-Gen Myint Aung presented a gift in honour of U Mya Win (Mya Win-Philosophy), who won the 2014 National Literary Award (Poem) on 26 January at the Tooth relic assembly Hall in the compound of the Pagoda .

U Mya Win, the Rector (Retried) and member of the Trustees of Shwe San Daw Pagoda of Pyay, has been awarded for his poem "the rain and wind ushering in" under his other pen-name Maung Linn Kyi. — *Shwe Win (Pyay)*

Brig-Gen Myint Aung giving a gift to U Mya Win. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Rural solar electrification launched in Ayeyawady Region

CENTRAL executive committee members of Myanmar Women and Children Development Federation carried out rural solar electrification project at four villages in Pathein, Nyaungdon and Kyaunggon Township, Ayeyawady Region on Friday.

According to the MWCDF, six women from the remote villages were sent to Barefoot College in India for implementation of the project.

The MWCDF and the women who completed the rural solar electrification course at the college discussed matters related to installation of solar panels worth US$160,307 donated by the college for the villages.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Imports exceed exports at Tachileik boarder trade office

THE volume of imports into Myanmar through the Thailand-Myanmar border town of Tachileik in eastern Shan State in January 2016 has exceeded exports, according to the Tachileik Department of Boarder Trade (DOBT).

Exports between 1 and 24 January were valued at just over US$354,000, while imports into Myanmar far exceeded this with a total value of roughly $9.7 million.

"A rise in domestic consumption is the cause behind the increase in imports from neighbouring Thailand. For example, carbonated soft-drinks from Myanmar can't be exported because trade costs are expensive. As such, they are ordered from Thailand instead," said U Ko Ko Naing, director of thw Tachileik DOBT.

Rice, onions and metals are currently being exported to Thailand from the aforementioned boarder region, while engine fuel, household construction materials, consumer products and farming implements are imported into Myanmar via the same route.

The previous fiscal year (2014-2015) saw over $100 million of trade passed through the Tachileik border trade route between Myanmar and Thailand. This year, however, trade appears to have fallen, with just under half the previous year's trade volume—$48.7 million—being traded up to December of the 2015-2016 fiscal year.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

New Parkway Yangon Hospital to open by 2020

SINGAPORE'S Parkway Group has announced that it will construct a 250-bed hospital in Yangon to provide quality health care for the public.

The project is being implemented by Andaman Alliance Healthcare Ltd in cooperation with the Singaporean group.

Both companies recently celebrated a ground-breaking ceremony on the project site, located on a 4.3 acres of land owned by the Ministry of Health at the corner of Bogyoke Street and Pyay Street in Lanmadaw Township in Yangon. "The international-grade hospital will offer people an alternative to going overseas for medical treatment and will provide training opportunities for local healthcare providers," said Dr Thet Khaing Win, the permanent secretary of the health ministry. "The country has lost nearly US$1 billion from overseas medical trips."

"The construction of the new hospital is expected to be completed by 2020, with plans to establish medical centres across the nation," said Mr Tan See Leng, the managing director of Singapore's Parkway Group.

Mr Tan See Leng has pledged to conduct both long- and short-term refresher courses for healthcare providers as well as scholarship programmes for outstanding local medical students.—*Win Sandi*

Crime News

Ownerless logs seized in Sagaing

AS PART of its project to control illegal timber smuggling, the Myanmar Police Force has put more effort into exposing illegal smuggling cases in its project areas.

A combined team of police and staff form the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry found 128 ownerless padauk wood logs near a cemetery in Monywa Village, Sagaing Region, on Saturday.

The team transferred the logs to the Pale Township Forest Department.

The team said it will accelerate its investigation into wood smuggling across the region, with plans to conduct public awareness seminars about the benefits of forests and to distribute pamphlets to locals.—*Min Khant Soe*

Fire consumes rice mill in Pyay

A FIRE destroyed a rice mill and 100 baskets of rice in western part of Paungtalai Township in Pyay District, Bago Region, at around 4am on Saturday. The rice mill measured 90 feet long, 50 feet wide and 25 feet high.

A subsequent investigation revealed that the fire broke out due to an overheated boiler inside the rice mill, which was named Thukhapyaesone and owned by U Hla Moe Paing. The mill was located between mile posts No. 7/1 and No. 7/2 on Pyay-Paukkhaung road.

The fire was put out with the assistance of neighbours by fire fighters using seven fire engines from Pyay and Paungtalai district fire departments. They put the fire under control before it spread to neighbouring houses.—*838*

Motorcyclist killed in head-on collision

A HIGHWAY bus collided head-on with a motorbike on the Pathein-Monywa road on Saturday, killing a man, police reported. Kyaw Min Naing sustained serious injury and died at the scene of the accident, which occurred between mile post No. 26/7 and No. 27/0 near Gonmin Village in Kyaunggon Township, Pathein District.

Bus driver Aung Naing Lin was found guilty of careless driving by the police.—*Win Kyaing*

Man arrested for attempted murder

A MAN has been charged with attempted murder for trying to kill his wife in Pyay town, Bago region on Saturday. According to investigation, Ye Kyaw Saw, 35, attempted to kill Ma Nilar, 42, following a domestic dispute. Local police have taken action against him.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Raw opium seized in Mong Tung

Ma Nar Kyi. PHOTO: MPF

A LOCAL anti-drug squad seized raw opium weighing 2.5 kilos at a house owned by one Ma Nar Kyi in Nar Kaung Mu Village, Mong Tung township on 23 January.

Members of the police force further raided the house of Nay Myint Oo and found Min Min Htet, Saw Eh Khaung, Lwin Naing Oo, Khun San Myint Aung and Kyaw Ye Aung with 170 pills of opium. The police station has filed charges against them under the Anti-Narcotic Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

Blue skies over Beijing? Decaying suburbs bear cost as China cuts pollution

CHAOMIDIAN, (China) — On the outskirts of Beijing, the disused factories of Chaomidian show the impact of China's drive to shut down thousands of small firms causing big pollution. Amid scrapheaps and idle machinery, the community has clean air these days — and no jobs.

After a three-year campaign, China's push to cut smog appears to be paying off, whatever the localised cost, just as economic growth weakens to its slowest pace in 25 years. Chinese cities saw an average 10 per cent drop in key pollutants last year, according to Greenpeace.

While a World Health Organisation report in 2014 found 13 of the world's 20 dirtiest cities were in India, a still smog-bound Beijing issued its first pollution "red alerts" last month. Soon after, the capital said it would shut down 2,500 more small firms this year, leaving communities like Chaomidian, in the southwest suburb of Fangshan, in the firing line.

Beijing doesn't issue comprehensive lists of the firms it has shut down to combat pollution, but Reuters research shows those already closed include Ding Kai Yuan Co among others in Chaomidian, home to about 2,000 people. The coal-burning brick works was shut in late 2014, 170 workers were laid off, and the manager left behind to watch over the ghost factory says she is still waiting for nearly half a million dollars in compensation.

"I'm 53 years old, I grew up in this village," said Han Fengge. "Right now, I don't have the ability to re-start such a big investment from scratch, so all I can do is wait," said Han.

The city has promised compensation to firms closed on pollution grounds. Nationwide, China has earmarked 17 trillion yuan ($2.6 trillion) for investment in overall environmental protection between 2016 and 2020, Xinhua, the state news agency, reported in December.

Asked why Han might not have received compensation yet, an official at the Beijing Municipal Commission of Economy and Information Technology, who wasn't aware of Ding Kai Yuan's case, said, "There could have been a problem at a certain link in the process. It's possible the firm didn't meet requirements in a certain area," said the official, who gave only her surname, Gao.

People walk past stacks of bricks in a field near new residential compounds, at a village in Beijing, China, on 18 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Around Beijing, company closures are just one of many tactics adopted to make the city's air less noxious. Others include closing or relocating coal-fired power plants, many of which are operated by large state-owned businesses, forcing old cars off roads and limiting outdoor construction.

Critics say Beijing will have to move beyond small factory shutdowns and rely more on coordination with its neighbours, along with fair enforcement of the environmental law, to truly tackle the pollution problem.

"No matter what measures Beijing takes inside its own city, it cannot effectively eliminate its own pollution, as a huge source of it comes from coal-fuel and industrial emissions outside of Beijing," said Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs.—*Reuters*

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Thai 2017 election to take place even if constitution does not pass referendum

BANGKOK — Thailand will hold a general election in 2017 even if a draft constitution does not pass a referendum this year, the prime minister said yesterday

"No matter whether the draft constitution passes the referendum or not, the government will hold the election in 2017 according to our roadmap," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told reporters.

A May 2014 coup ended months of political protests in Bangkok and the military tore up the previous constitution.

The junta had said that a draft constitution needed to be in place before an election could take place and that getting the constitution approved in a referendum was a key part of the junta's "road map to democracy". A junta-appointed committee is expected to unveil a draft of the constitution on Friday.—*Reuters*

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha addresses the nation and summarises the junta government's annual report in Bangkok, Thailand on 23 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cambodian leaders meet US top diplomat, discuss bilateral ties, regional issues

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen met with visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry yesterday, focusing their talks on bilateral cooperation and regional issues, a Cambodian senior official said.

Eang Sophalleth, a personal assistant to the prime minister, said Hun Sen stressed the importance of boosting trade relations between the two countries and also praised the US-Cambodia cooperation in anti-terrorism.

"The prime minister requested the US to consider providing quota-free and duty-free for Cambodian products in order to contribute to increasing bilateral trade volume," he told reporters after the meeting at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh.

According to Sophalleth, Kerry said his visit to Cambodia was to prepare for the upcoming special US-ASEAN summit in Sunnylands, California and to maximize opportunities for cooperation between the United States and Cambodia.

Kerry said US investors saw Cambodia as a potential destination for investment and also promised to take the prime minister's request into consideration.

Both sides also touched on the South China Sea issue.

Hun Sen said all parties concerned in the dispute should fully implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) towards the compilation of the Code of Conduct (COC).

Earlier in the day, Kerry held talks with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and the two top diplomats also focused on economic issues and regional and international matters.

"Since the US is the big market for Cambodian garment and shoes, and Cambodia is among the least developed countries, I requested US to grant duty free for Cambodian garment and footwear products," Hor Namhong told reporters after the meeting.

On the recent hydrogen bomb test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Hor Namhong said Cambodia urged the DPRK to comply with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The two foreign ministers also exchanged views on the extremist Islamic State (IS) and voiced their condemnation on the group for their cruel acts.

Kerry arrived in Phnom Penh on Monday evening for a 24-hour visit.—*Xinhua*

Probe clears Malaysian PM Najib, says $681 million transfer a Saudi gift

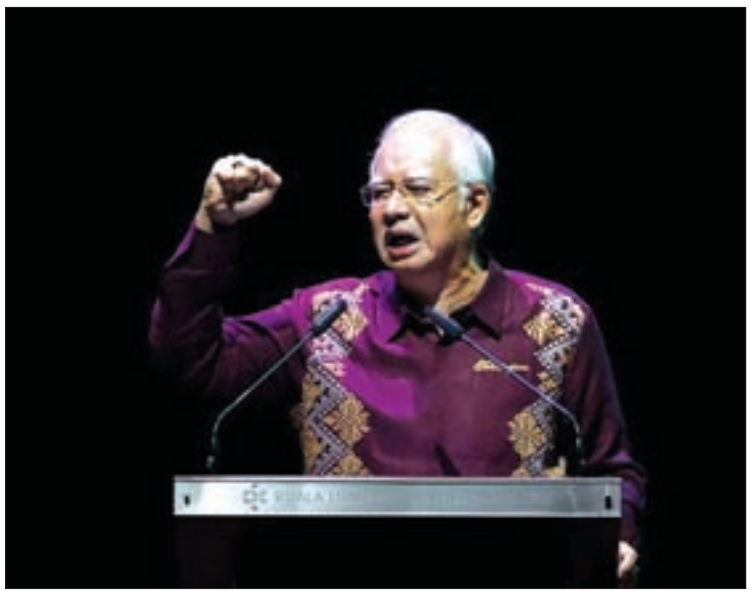
KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's attorney-general cleared Prime Minister Najib Razak of any criminal offense or corruption yesterday, and said a controversial transfer of $681 million into his personal bank account was a gift from Saudi Arabia's royal family.

The leader of the main opposition party denounced the findings, which came after months of pressure on Najib to resign over the scandal, saying the appointment of the attorney-general by the prime minister himself suggested a conflict of interest.

The involvement of the Saudi royal family is an unexpected twist in the saga over the mysterious funds transfer and the troubles of indebted state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), whose advisory board Najib chairs.

"I am satisfied with the findings that the funds were not a form of graft or bribery," Attorney-General Mohamed Apandi Ali told a hastily called news conference.

Apandi said in a statement that $620 million was returned to the Saudi royal family in August 2013, about five months after the transfer, because it had not been utilized.



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak. PHOTO: REUTERS

"There was no reason given as to why the donation was made to PM Najib, that is between him and the Saudi family," he said.

Apandi said no criminal offense was committed by Najib in relation to three investigations submitted by Malaysia's anti-graft agency and that no further action would be taken.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) had earlier said the funds were a political donation from an unidentified Middle Eastern benefactor.

The attorney-general said in a statement he would return to the MACC papers pertaining to the three separate investigations with instructions to close all three cases.

At the height of the scandal in mid-2015, Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail — who had led probes into 1MDB — was replaced by Apandi, a former federal court judge with strong ties to Najib's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party.

"The attorney-general should not have been involved in the decision affecting the PM because he was appointed by the PM," said Lim Kit Siang, parliamentary leader of the opposition Democratic Action Party.

"It was very controversial circumstances when Gani Patail was sacked. It is a conflict of interest," he said.

Najib, who has weathered repeated calls from opposition leaders and establishment figures to quit, has denied any wrongdoing and says he did not take any money for personal gain.

His office declined to make any comment on the attorney-general's findings.

The scandal has shaken investors in Southeast Asia's third-biggest economy and rocked public confidence in the coalition led by UMNO, which has held power since independence in 1957. However, Najib still enjoys the backing of most of UMNO's powerful division chiefs. Even his fiercest internal critics, such as influential former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, accept that he cannot be unseated.

Two of the anti-corruption commission papers that Apandi reviewed related to SRC International, a former 1MDB subsidiary that is being probed for an alleged misappropriation of funds worth 4 billion ringgit ($932 million).

A *Wall Street Journal* report, which Reuters has not verified independently, had said 42 million ringgit ($9.79 million) of the funds channeled into Najib's account originated from SRC.

1MDB is under investigation by law enforcement agencies in Switzerland, Hong Kong and the United States, media and sources have said.

There was no need for Malaysia to seek legal assistance from any foreign state in respect of the donation made to the prime minister's account, Apandi said, given his findings that no criminal offense had been committed.—*Reuters*

Malaysia says debris found off Thai coast not from missing MH370

KUALA LUMPUR — A piece of suspected plane wreckage found off the coast of southern Thailand does not belong to a Malaysia Airlines passenger jet that disappeared almost two years ago, the Malaysian transport ministry said yesterday.

The debris does not match those of a Boeing 777 and the part numbers found on the debris were not listed on the Malaysia Airlines parts catalogue manual, the ministry said in a statement following an investigation.

A large piece of curved metal washed ashore in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province on Saturday, prompting speculation it might belong to the missing Boeing 777. The MH370 disappearance is one of the greatest mysteries in aviation history.

The plane disappeared with 239 people on board during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in March 2014. A piece of the plane washed up on the French island of Reunion in July 2015 but no further trace has been found.

The search, led by Australia and one of the most expensive ever conducted, is focused on a 120,000-sq-km (46,330-sq-mile) band of sea floor in the remote southern Indian Ocean. Earlier this week, Australian authorities searching for the jet said they had lost a deep-water sonar detector being used to scour a patch of the ocean floor.—*Reuters*

India displays military might at Republic Day parade

NEW DELHI — India yesterday displayed its military might at its 67th Republic Day parade in the national capital, with French President Francois Hollande as the chief guest.

The parade started in the morning under unprecedented security that included deployment of 5,000 policemen and 15,000 para-troppers, anti-aircraft guns and around 1,000 snipers amid terror threats.

The Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy displayed their tanks, guns, air craft and models of warships and submarines on Raj Path, an iconic road at the heart of the national capital.

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee took salute from the passing forces at the parade, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the French president looked on.

Tableax of various Indian states were put on display, alongside the military, as the nation glued on to TV sets to watch the celebrations.

Though the parade this year was shorter as there were fewer marching contingents, a contingent of French soldiers added to the colours of celebrations.

The marching contingents were led by the French 35th Infantry Regiment that was deployed in India between 1781 and 1784.

Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari, the country's main opposition Congress president Sonia Gandhi and senior Indian ministers all were present on the occassion.

Gallantry awards were also given to families of martyrs of the Indian armed forces and children by the Indian president.

The parade ended with spectacular displays by fighter jets of the Air Force, and the presidential bodyguards escorted the Indian president and his French counterpart back to Rashtrapati Bhawan.

The French president, who had arrived in India on Sunday on a three-day tour, will wrap up his visit and leave for Paris later in the day.—*Xinhua*

China denounces 'irresponsible' US official's remarks on North Korea

Hua Chunying, spokeswoman of China's Foreign Ministry, speaks at a regular news conference in Beijing, China, on 6 January 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China yesterday criticised what it said were "irresponsible" remarks made by a US official this week calling for Beijing to do more to curb North Korea's banned nuclear programme.

North Korea said it had successfully conducted a test of a miniaturised hydrogen nuclear device on 6 January which, if true, marks a significant advance in the isolated state's strike capabilities in contravention of UN Security Council resolutions.

China is North Korea's lone major ally. A senior State Department official told reporters North Korea had few avenues to conduct international business that don't involve China, despite several rounds of economic sanctions, adding that Beijing could "clearly" do more.

"Many of the remarks made no sense and were not constructive," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters.

Hua spoke ahead of a visit to China this week by US Secretary of State John Kerry, who has promised to press China to push for more curbs on North Korea's nuclear programme.

Hua urged "relevant countries" to take responsibility and not "point the finger at other people and make irresponsible remarks". Kerry is also planning for discussions on the South China Sea, a source of growing tension between China and Southeast Asian countries with rival claims.—*Reuters*

Billions-dollars deals signed as Iranian president visits Europe

ROME — Italy and Iran signed billions of dollars of business deals on Monday at the start of a visit to Europe by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani aimed at rebuilding his nation's ties with the West after years of economic sanctions.

Heading a 120-strong delegation of business leaders and ministers, Rouhani will spend two days in Rome before flying to France on Wednesday, looking to polish Tehran's diplomatic credentials at a time of turmoil in the Middle East. An Italian government source said the Iranians would sign up to 17 billion euros ($18.4 billion) worth of deals in sectors from energy to infrastructure and from steel to shipbuilding. "This is just the beginning of a journey. There are sectors where we must work closer together," Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said, standing alongside Rouhani.

"I am sure this visit will be a fundamental part of our ability to overcome together the challenge of fighting terrorism, atrocity and evil that we all have to confront together," Renzi added, referring specifically to Islamic State militants, who oppose Iran and the West in equal measure.

Rouhani had originally been due to visit Europe in November but canceled the trip after an Islamic State attack on Paris, which killed 130 people. "We have always been in the front line against terrorism ... we have to continue (cooperating with Italy) to secure a genuine peace in Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Libya," the Iranian president said, speaking through a translator. Many Western nations have accused Iran of funding various militant groups, and despite a landmark nuclear deal between world powers and Tehran last year, the United States is keeping some of its financial sanctions in place because of the alleged links and human rights abuses. This will complicate Iran's full return to international markets, but judging by the Italian and French businesses lining up to clinch deals there is an enormous appetite in Europe to revive old trade ties and boost the sluggish economy.—*Reuters*

Surge of Americans tests limits of Cuba's tourism industry

Tourists enjoy a ride in vintage cars in old Havana on 17 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HAVANA — Cuba's tourism industry is under unprecedented strain and struggling to meet demand with record numbers of visitors arriving a year after detente with the United States renewed interest in the Caribbean island.

Its tropical weather, rich musical traditions, famed cigars and classic cars were for decades off limits to most Americans under Cold War-era sanctions, but those restrictions are fading.

Once a rare sight, Americans are now swarming Old Havana's colonial squares and narrow streets along with Europeans and Canadians.

Entrepreneurs and hustlers have responded by upping prices on taxi rides, meals, and trinkets. Cuban women who pose for pictures in colourful dresses and headwraps while chomping cigars are now charging $5 instead of $1.

Cuba received a record 3.52 million visitors last year, up 17.4 per cent from 2014. American visits rose 77 per cent to 161,000, not counting hundreds of thousands of Cuban-Americans.

Industry experts worry the island will be unable to absorb an even greater expected surge when scheduled US commercial airline and ferry services are due to start this year. As it is, foreigners face extreme difficulties booking hotels and rental cars, and those who hoped to discover Cuba before the hordes arrive realise they are too late.

"Cuba is over the top with tourists right now. I've seen so many Americans, it's not even funny," said Ana Fernandez, 44, of Nashville, Tennessee.

Gisela Hoiman, 46, a schoolbook editor from Berlin, hoped to see Cuba "before it changes" but was disappointed to find long airport lines, ubiquitous hucksters and masses of tourists. She was stranded in Havana when she was unable to get a spot on the bus leaving for the eastern city of Santiago. "It was too much to handle, too many other tourists. We stood in line and were sent back and forth to different counters," she said from an Old Havana cafe with her large backpack parked on the floor. "I don't think Cuba is prepared."

The United States and Cuba agreed in December 2014 to end five decades of animosity and have since restored diplomatic ties, igniting international buzz about Cuba.

The opening has benefited Cuba's small private sector, which offers restaurants and rooms for rent in family homes.

But the tourism infrastructure, with just 63,000 hotel rooms nationwide, is still largely a function of the state and has languished under decades of US economic sanctions and underdevelopment.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Head of Syrian opposition team says not optimistic about peace talks

AMMAN— The head of the Syrian opposition's negotiating team said yesterday he was not optimistic about upcoming peace talks in Geneva.

Assad Zoubi was quoted by Arabic news channel Al-Hadath that recent diplomatic moves "did not give cause for optimism over the negotiations".

The United Nations special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, "cannot impose conditions" on the opposition team, Zoubi added without elaborating.—*Reuters*

Malaysians search for capsized boat after 13 found dead

KUALA LUMPUR/JAKARTA — Malaysian authorities yesterday launched a search for a boat carrying up to 35 people, after 13 bodies washed up on a beach in the southern state of Johor.

Police discovered the bodies at a beach in near the town of Bandar Penawar earlier in the day.

District police chief Rahmat Othman said the boat had come from Indonesia and was carrying illegal migrants. Up to 35 people were believed to have been on the boat, police said.

Authorities in Jakarta said the boat had capsized after being hit by strong waves. "ID cards from Indonesia were found," on the 13 victims, Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman Armanatha Nasir said in a text message.—*Reuters*

Cameron and Merkel agree more work needed for February deal on EU reforms

LONDON — Prime Minister David Cameron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke on Monday and agreed there was more work to be done to reach a deal on a reformed relationship between Britain and the European Union, a spokesman for the British leader said.

Cameron has said he hopes to come to an agreement with EU leaders over his plans to renegotiate Britain's relationship with the bloc at a 18-19 February summit. That could pave the way for a British membership referendum as early as June.

"They agreed that there had been progress since December's European Council and that there was genuine goodwill across the EU to address the British people's concerns in all four areas," a spokesman for Cameron said following a phone call between the two leaders on Monday.—*Reuters*

EU states seek extension of border controls within Schengen

AMSTERDAM — European Union countries have asked the bloc's executive to prepare for the extension of temporary border controls within the Schengen free-travel zone for up to two years, Dutch Migration Minister Klaas Dijkhoff said on Monday.

Struggling to control Europe's worst migration crisis in decades, some Schengen countries have reintroduced controls on the area's internal borders.

"Currently, the temporary border measures can be taken only for a limited period of six months. But the unprecedented influx of asylum seekers, which compelled member states to take these measures nationally, have not decreased yet," Dijkhoff, who chaired the EU ministerial meeting in Amsterdam, told a news conference.—*Reuters*

MPs urged to reject draft interpretation of copyright law

BELGRADE — Representatives of several associations of photographers called on Monday on MPs not to pass the draft interpretation of the Law on Copyright and Related Rights, which considers electronic photographs to be "the result of mechanical actions, of routine, physical actions" that should not covered by copyright protection. Representative of the Photography Development Center Zvezdan Mancic said that photographers were standing up against the degradation of their profession.

"I am sure that MPs do not fully understand these matters, so we are here to inform them and the public, in whose interest we make photographs," Mancic told a news conference.—*Tanjug*

OPINION

Let's be mindful of our reason for existence

Khin Maung Aye

LIFE is short. It is shorter for those who sleep a lot. It is worth remembering that even if a person sleeps eight hours a day as recommended by physicians he is spending one third of his life span sleeping.

According to UN reports, the life expectancy is between 60 and 80, depending upon the country's being developed or developing or underdeveloped. In this regard, the life span should be between 74 and 75 according to Buddhism. In the days of the Gotama Buddha, the life span was 100 for the human beings. Now, with the passage of around 2600 years or so, the life expectancy should be more than 74 years. According to Lord Buddha, our life span should decrease one year for one century. However, all people cannot live up to their full span of life because it also depends upon other factors like the weather, the food we eat etc not to mention the abrupt deaths caused by accidents and natural disasters.

As life is too short, we cannot be too lazy, wasting our precious time. To make our lives worth living, we need to bring benefit to our society as well as to do the virtuous deeds for our next existences if you believe in the rounds of rebirth. We ought to ponder over why we have come into this abode of humans. In fact, our abode or our plane of existence is the best of all 31 abodes because we can perform meritorious deeds by all three volitional activities – physical, verbal and mental whereas those beings from the remaining 30 abodes cannot say prayers, count the rosary beeds or pay homage to the Buddha, His teachings and His disciples through the use of the faculties they are not possessed with.

In fact, the life of a devout Buddhist is meaningful only when he is pious, performs the meritorious deeds, shares the merit thus gained, leads a right livelihood, refrains from committing sins, observes the Five Precepts daily, keeps Eight Precepts on Sabbath days and meditates from time to time. This being so, it will be very difficult to become a pious Buddhist. Bearing this in mind, we as Buddhists should not be forgetful of why we were born on this earth as human beings. The Global New Light of Myanmar would, therefore, like to remind all Buddhists to spend their time wisely and rightly in order that they will become valuable persons for their society and can bring forward the good Karmic effects to the existences to come until they attain nibbana or nirvana.

Write for us

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Overcoming Culture shock and Avoiding No- no

Tommy Pauk

WE all belong to human race, but live in different regions or continents throughout the world. Human race can be divided into different groups by their geographical habitat. The people from each group share the same language, history and culture. Different people who live in different geographical places on earth have different culture. Culture refers to the traits of a population's behavior, values, practices, beliefs and religion. We need to understand and respect diverse culture around the world. These days people travel to different countries on business or social purposes. Because of advancement in telecommunications and transportation, we get closer to one another and can communicate and interact more easily and conveniently.

Nowadays, people are working abroad with the multi-national corporations or as assigned by their governments. Under these circumstances, they face different culture and they ought to obey the host country's culture and deal with local people in a harmonious way. Whoever visits or works or studies in a foreign country, he or she ought to show respect and behave in conformity with the cultural norms of the people of the host country concerned. Culture is an identity of a race which reflects the standard of its society. Every group of people in different society cherishes, loves and values their own culture. We should not have narrow-minded attitudes towards alien cultures. We should get rid of ethnocentric feelings to avoid cultural misinterpretation about other people's culture. Some narrow-minded people say that they must protect the influence of alien culture. Generally, this concept seems acceptable to a certain extent only. However, as for multicultural societies like The US and Singapore, it is totally impossible to protect the influence of alien culture. No matter the different cultures prevail in a certain society, the most important thing is that we must live together with mutual respect and sincerity. Furthermore, the practice of giving importance to all cultures in the world is a must indeed. We all must cherish our own culture and respect alien cultures as well. We shouldnot discriminate nor insult other.

As we all know, culture shock is a feeling of uncertainty, confusion or anxiety that people experience when visiting, doing business in or living in a society that is different from their own. Culture shock can arise from a person's unfamiliarity with local customs, language and acceptable behavior, since norms can vary significantly across cultures. The feeling of culture shock can dissipate over time. Visitors to a new country, for example, will at first be unfamiliar with the nuances of local culture, but will learn how to adapt as interactions with people continue. Culture shock can be daunting for those who do business or study abroad, but they need to overcome it with some helpful acts or behaviors in dealing with the people of different cultures.

Basically, they might face language barrier which is the most important problem for the visitors to communicate with the locals. Using English language could be a part of solution to the problem, but not everyone can speak English in some countries. The visitor who is going to do business on a long-term basis must make an effort to learn the local language for the purpose of communications with the locals. Then he or she can achieve smooth and effective communications with the people of the host country. It takes time to acculturate and adapt to new surroundings, a new culture and a new life style. So the patience is required. The visitors and students should get to know people in their new environment. They need to respectfully ask questions, read local newspapers and attend a variety of traditional festivals and events. They shouldnot take cultural familiarity or knowledge at face-value. This means that superficial knowledge about rituals, customs and protocol can be misleading. They must treat the locals with sense of humor so that friendly relationship can be established and the locals will admire the visitors. Keeping open mind is helpful for them to understand the culture of the people in the country they are staying for doing business or studying as well.

If the culture shock persists among global people, we will not be able to deal with each other for trade, diplomatic relations and socio-economic co operations and tourism etc. How can we communicate? We need to overcome the culture shock by learning alien cultures broadly. For instance, if a certain westerner has to work or study in some eastern countries, he or she ought to learn about the cultures of eastern countries beforehand. Conversely, a certain easterner has to learn about the cultures of the western countries if he or she has to work or study in western countries beforehand.

As a result, we will be able to facilitate the process of cross-cultural understanding smoothly. Mutual respect and understanding on culture are fundamental requirements for establishing the foundation of friendship or meaningful relationship among nations in the world as well. Also we must develop the meaningful relations with those around us in a foreign country in which we stay there for some purposes. Being not very friendly among the global people and lack of learning about alien cultures cause the feeling of culture shock. When we suddenly expose to an unfamiliar foreign country for the purpose of long-term study or business or work, we definitely feel culture shock due to our above stated weaknesses.

It is also very important to avoid no-no or proscription when you are in a foreign country or in a certain community. No-no is a thing or a way of behaving that is not acceptable in a particular situation. No-no is proscribed by a society as improper or unacceptable act or behavior or thing. No-no is similar to that of taboo in social life in any society indeed. You must be familiar with the customs or ritual or tradition or religion of the local people in a certain society. For examples; In Myanmar, foot wearing in the Buddhist monastery compound and within the precincts of pagoda is definite no-no. Hugging and kissing of adults in public are also no-nos in Myanmar. In Singapore, chewing the quid of betel and chewing gum in public areas are no-nos. You must bear in mind that you will encounter different social situations when you are visiting in a different society or in different community.

We must avoid doing things or a way of behaving which is proscribed or prohibited in a community or in a foreign country. It is compulsory to avoid no-no in human society regardless of any race or any country or any community. In other words, avoiding no-nos reveal the due respect for multicultural norms or customs in respective societies and communities in the world. When we stay or visit any country, we will come across with such prohibitions and we should not neglect these customary rules or disciplines or religious values. We must follow dos and avoid don'ts in visiting countries so that we can develop goodwill and understanding among human beings.

The practice of overcoming culture shock and avoiding no-nos will lead us to convenient and harmonious relationships with other people in cultural differences in the world. It is advisable for the people, who plan to visit or study or work abroad, must make preparation for learning specific alien culture. If they do so, they will be able to overcome the culture shock in foreign countries. Use information technology and explore different cultures on earth easily!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pesudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L I. degrees holder. He has English Teching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, nad now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

HORSE-drawn carriage in Minbu Township going to fade out

Horse-drawn carriages seen in Minbu. PHOTO: PHOE HTET (MINBU)

HORSE-drawn carriage in Minbu Township is going to disappear soon as the region sees the increasing number of three-wheeled vehicles and motorcycles.

A high price for horse feeds is one of major challenges to continue the horse-drawn carriage business, one of carriage driver said.

"There were more than 200 horses carts last five years. But now this number has reduced to about 40 as the prices for horse feeds were high and they earned less," he added. "We normally earn around K5,000 (US$3.87) but we spend K3,000 ($2.32) from total income on feeding our horses."

A horse is worth between K500,000 ($387.22) and K1 million ($774.44). The amount is equivalent to a three-wheeled motorcycle. Therefore, some carriage drivers shift to other jobs as passengers choose motorcycles and three-wheeled vehicles.

Those carriage drivers have to live on shoestring as they earn less income and the price for horse feeds becomes high. Now the value of a cart is equivalent to that of a three-wheeled motorcycle. So they buy the motor cycles by selling off their carriages.

Several quarrels have occurred between the horse-drawn carriage drivers and motorcyclists near Myoma Market in Minbu Township for passengers.—*Phoe Htet (Minbu)*

Squatters removed after deadline passed

FOLLOWING a deadline for removing squatters in an area in Pyinmabin Industrial Zone in Mingaladon Township, authorities removed 478 huts yesterday, transporting them to their new places.

The authorities issued notices to the illegal settlers for two times in 2014 and two times in 2016 to leave the area as they were staying on the state-owned areas.

"Some were living in this area as they were facing difficulties for their dwelling, but some were doing business there by buying and selling plots and huts," said Col Tin Aung Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs.

The authorities have set up a temporary shelter at a nearby factory for some families and have provided ferry services to those who want to move to another areas.

Yangon Region Government has a plan to allow squatters to settle in some vacant land in the region, according to the minister.— *Myanmar News Agency*

LIFT to support non-agricultural enterprises

THE Livelihoods and Food Security Trust (LIFT), a multi-donor trust fund, plans to expand its financial assistance in the agricultural sector as well as for other economic enterprises, according the funding body.

"Sixteen international organisations are currently working to provide Myanmar people with proper, fair and reachable loans. Roughly 60 per cent of LIFT's activities provide loans to the general public. When these loans are given out, they're not just given solely for agriculture activities, but other businesses unrelated to agriculture, too," explained Andrew Kirwood, director of LIFT.

He urged the Myanmar Central Bank to allow foreign investment banks and domestic private banks to provide loans, making the overtures at the release of the fifth Qualitative Social and Economic Monitoring of Livelihoods Report (QSEM), which was held at Yangon's Summit Parkview Hotel on January 25.

LIFT dished out $100 million in financial loans to over 6,000 villages between 2011 and 2015 for agricultural activities. Each household was entitled to a loan of between K100,000–K500,000, which was required to be repaid with an interest rate no higher than 30 per cent.

"In the past, loans were only available for agriculture. Now, however, there are proper and fair loans for other economic enterprises besides agriculture. Two years ago the government started to provide financial assistance for the building of schools and provisions of needed learning materials. We've seen an increase in state-backed financial assistance in village infrastructure," said Matthers Zurstrassen, a civil society and economic quality assurance consultant for the World Bank.

LIFT started to provide financial assistance for rural development in Myanmar in the form of low-interest loans in 2011.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Social media helps reduce treatment gaps among people with HIV

LOCAL HIV/AIDS care organizations widely use social media to reduce treatment gaps for HIV infection by creating networks among people with HIV to share information they need, a healthcare provider says.

According to the official figures, there are 210,000 people living with HIV in 2014 in Myanmar, most of whom are men who have same-sex experiences, injecting drug users and sex workers.

It is estimated that HIV prevalence rate in Myanmar is 0.54 % of adults, 6.3 % of women, 6.6 % of same-sex couples and 13.1 % of injecting drug users.

According to the Ministry of Health's record last year, a total of 101,000 people infected with HIV disease have received Antiretroviral therapy.

Dr Sit Naing from Yangon-based Marie Stopes International Myanmar said that the prevalence of the deadly diseases is higher in migrants, sex workers and people from far-flung areas.

"Majority of patients fear people's discrimination when they seek medical help. So, they hesitate about their real health conditions in their workplaces and relatives."

The ART drugs have already been distributed to all health centres nationwide. The drugs are also available in local non-government organizations working for HIV patients. But some patients face difficulties to receive the drug treatment because of certain reasons.

"Insufficient number of health staff in all organisations is one of main challenges to reduce treatment gaps among the patients who need ART drugs," said Dr Sit Naing.

The civil society organisations have held people with HIV by creating job opportunities to reduce prevalence of the disease.—*Htut Htut*

Pyay's BEMS No (1) to get new building

A ground breaking ceremony in progress. PHOTO: MNA

A ground breaking ceremony for construction of a new school building for No (1) Basic Education Middle School was held at the school in Pyay, Bago Region on Thursday.

It was attended by Bago Region Education Officer U Tin Oo, Chairman of Shwetaung Development Company U Aik Tun and officials.

The purpose of donation is to nurture good and able citizens for shaping the better future of the country, said the company chairman at the ceremony.

I am very delighted to see such donation that can help students to get a new building, said School Head Daw Than Than Nu.

The two-storey new building is set to be built with the use of K100 million, and construction works are scheduled for three months. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Israeli woman dies of wounds after Palestinian stabbing attack

An Israeli soldier secures the area near the scene of what Israeli police said was a stabbing attack by two Palestinians on two Israelis in the West Bank Jewish settlement of Beit Horon near Jerusalem on 25 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

JERUSALEM — An Israeli woman died on Tuesday of wounds suffered in a stabbing attack in a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank a day earlier in which two Palestinian assailants were shot dead, police said.

The incident pointed to an emerging pattern of attacks inside West Bank settlements and prompted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to order preparation of what a spokesman said would be a "comprehensive and detailed plan" to protect them.

Police said the 24-year-old woman died in a Jerusalem hospital. Another woman stabbed in the assault in the settlement of Beit Horon sustained moderate injuries.

Police said a security guard shot and killed the two assailants, who were caught on a surveillance camera trying to storm into Beit Horon's grocery store as its owner used a shopping cart to block their entry.

It was the latest Palestinian attack in an almost four-month long surge of violence that has raised concern of wider escalation, a decade after the last Palestinian uprising subsided. It followed three stabbings last week inside settlements carried out by Palestinian teenagers, according to Israeli authorities.

Many of the attacks on Israelis at the start of the bloodshed occurred in Jerusalem and other cities. But much of the violence has shifted to the West Bank, where settlers live adjacent to Palestinian population centres.

Since the start of October, Israeli forces have killed at least 151 Palestinians, 97 of them assailants according to authorities. Most the others have died in violent protests. Almost daily stabbings, shootings and car-ramming attacks by Palestinians have killed 26 Israelis and a US citizen.

Many of the Palestinian assailants have been teenagers. The identities and ages of the alleged attackers on Monday were not immediately released.

On Saturday, a 13-year-old Palestinian girl, who according to an Israeli policewoman "had fought with her family and left home with a knife and intended to die", tried to stab a security guard at a West Bank settlement and was then shot dead by him.

On 17 January, an Israeli mother of six was stabbed to death at her home in a West Bank settlement and a 15-year-old Palestinian was arrested for the attack. A day later, Israeli troops shot and wounded a 17-year-old Palestinian who had stabbed and wounded a pregnant Israeli woman in a settlement. The bloodshed has been fuelled by various factors including frustration over the 2014 collapse of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and the growth of Jewish settlements on land Palestinians seek for an independent state.—*Reuters*

Libya's recognised parliament rejects UN-backed unity government

BENGHAZI — Libya's internationally recognised parliament voted on Monday to reject a unity government proposed under a United Nations-backed plan to resolve the country's political crisis and armed conflict.

Though not a surprise, the rejection was a setback in efforts to heal Libya's deep divides. Of 104 members who attended the session in the eastern city of Tobruk, 89 voted against an administration nominated last week, demanding a new proposal within 10 days.

Since 2014, Libya has had two competing parliaments and governments, one based in Tripoli and the other in the east. Both are backed by loose alliances of armed groups and former rebels who helped topple Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Western powers hope a unity government will deliver stability and be able to tackle a growing threat from Islamic State militants.

One member of the Tobruk parliament, Mohamed al-Abani, said the proposed administration did not represent the interests of the Libyan people but had been formed "according to the demands of militia leaders".

Lawmakers from the parliament, known as the House of Representatives, also said the proposed 32-member government was rejected because it included too many posts. They called on the Tunis-based Presidential Council to put forward a shorter list of ministers.

One of those to vote against the unity government, Omar Tantoush, said he did so because it did not "respond to current challenges". "They did not use the correct criteria in choosing ministers and the size of the government, especially now that the economy is collapsing in Libya," he said.

In a separate vote, 97 members of the Tobruk parliament backed the UN-mediated agreement that sets out a political transition for Libya and under which the Presidential Council operates. They rejected a clause, however, that transfers power over military appointments to the new government.—*Reuters*

ADVERTISEMENT FOR AD-7 MARINE SEISMIC IEE REPORT

Daewoo International Corporation (Daewoo) proposes to undertake a marine seismic survey in Block AD-7 located in the Rakhine Basin, Myanmar. This is scheduled to commence in early 2016. An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the proposed activity has been prepared by Daewoo (the seismic survey Operator on behalf of joint venture participants Daewoo and Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd), ERM and E Guard Environmental Services. The report can be viewed at:

- Daewoo office in Yangon: International Business Center (IBC), Building No.88, Pyay Road, 6½ Miles, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar
- E Guard's office in Yangon No. 99, MyaKanThar Lane, NyeinChanYay Street 10 Miles, Pyay Road, Saw BwarGyi Gone, lnsein Township, Yangon;
- Sittwe District General Administrative Department (GAD) Office, Chin Pyan Street, Ball-Lone Kwin Quarter; and
- Department of Fisheries, Tha-Ta Htar Na Street, Pyi-Taw-Thar Quarter, Rakhine Regional Office.

Feedback on the report can be provided in writing to env@daewooenp.com, info@eguardservices.com or directly to staff at E Guard's office in Yangon by 6 February 2016.

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Date **27 January 2016** kmma@kcyangon.com

Oslo trash incinerator starts experiment to slow climate change

OSLO — Oslo's main waste incinerator began the world's first experiment to capture carbon dioxide from the fumes of burning rubbish on Monday, hoping to develop technology to enlist the world's trash in slowing global warming.

The test at the Klemetsrud incinerator, which burns household and industrial waste, is a step beyond most efforts to capture and bury greenhouse gases at coal-fired power plants or factories using fossil fuels.

"I hope Oslo can show other cities that it's possible" to capture emissions from trash, Oslo Mayor Marianne Borgen said at an opening ceremony at the Klemetsrud waste-to-energy incinerator which generates heat to warm buildings in the city.

So far, high costs have plagued technology for carbon capture and storage. Last month, almost 200 nations agreed a deal in Paris to fight climate change in a new spur for technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Klemetsrud incinerator emits more than 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, or 0.6 per cent of Norway's man-made emissions. Carbon dioxide is the main gas blamed for stoking rising temperatures and more droughts, floods and rising seas.

The test plant, in five containers feeding exhaust gases through a series of pipes and filters, will capture carbon dioxide at a rate equivalent to 2,000 tonnes a year until the end of April. And if it works, a full-scale carbon capture plant could be built by 2020, officials said. Carbon dioxide could then be shipped to the North Sea and injected into oil and gas fields to help boost pressure and raise production.

A general view of the Klemetsrud incinerator in Oslo, Norway, on 25 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We see potential in this market across the world," said Valborg Lundegaard, head of Aker Solutions' engineering business which runs the test. She said it was the first of its kind worldwide for a waste-to-energy plant.

Officials declined to discuss costs but said the price of emitting carbon dioxide in the European Union emissions trading market would have to be far above a current 6 euros ($6.50) per tonne for the technology to be feasible at scale.

About 60 per cent of the rubbish burnt at Klemetsrud is of biological origin — from waste wood to food. That means that capturing emissions would be a step to extract carbon from a natural cycle in so-called "negative emissions".

"It won't be possible to achieve goals set in the Paris agreement without wide use of negative emissions," said Frederic Hauge, head of environmental group Bellona.

A 2015 report by the Australia-based Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute said there are just 15 big CCS projects in operation worldwide, including a coal-fired power plant run by Canada's Saskatchewan Power[SSPOW.UL].—*Reuters*

Chinese archaeologists to explore the land of the Pharaohs

BEIJING — Chinese archaeologists are expected to dig in Egypt for the first time, as authorities of the two nations are in discussion of a cultural cooperation project.

Institute of Archaeology under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) will collaborate with Egyptian experts to carry out archaeological excavations, cultural relics protection, and safety monitoring and control in key sites in Egypt, Wang Wei, director of the institute, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview after a week-long visit to Egypt this month.

The institute will also train Egyptian experts in protecting archaeological discoveries.

"This will be the very first time that two of the four ancient civilizations join hands in archaeology — it could be a milestone in the history of bilateral cultural exchanges," said Wang.

"Working in Egypt, one of the oldest civilizations in the world, is a dream and an honor for most archaeologists," he said. "We will likely start with the Egyptian temples."

Wang paid tribute to Egypt's ancient civilization and profound cultural heritage, with its long history, huge scale, and the high level of civilisation.

"Egypt has conducted over 200 excavation and cultural-relics protection projects with foreign institutions," he said. "But none of them with China."

During the visit, he led a CASS delegation in meeting with Professor Khaled El-Enany, general director of the Egyptian Museum and leading archaeologist with Cairo University.

"We hit it off instantly and reached the agreement on cooperation," he said.

Mamdouh Eldamaty, Egypt's Minister of Antiquities, added his support. "I welcome and appreciate cooperation with your Institute, to enhance the relationship between Egypt and China," he wrote in an e-mail to Wang.

Chinese archaeological teams own the world's leading three-dimensional remote sensing and three-dimensional imaging technology, as well as advanced indoor testing and analysis techniques, said Wang.

China also has rich excavation and research experience with large-scale historical sites, like big cities and palaces, which could help Egypt.

"It's totally different excavating, researching and protecting an ancient city and a small village," Wang said.

As two ancient civilisations, China and Egypt deeply respected history. "We also face the similar dilemma of social development and maintaining traditional cultures," Wang said.

"All these factors push us together and extend civilisation," he said.—*Xinhua*

Thailand quarantines 32 people after second MERS case confirmed

BANGKOK — Thailand has quarantined 32 people as it seeks to prevent the spread of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) after a second case of the virus was detected on Friday, a health ministry official said on Monday.

The virus was found in a 71-year-old Omani man traveling to Bangkok. His son, taxi drivers, hotel staff and passengers on the same plane are among those quarantined for two weeks, Amnuay Gajeena, director-general of Thailand's Disease Control Department, told reporters. Another eight have been identified and will also be quarantined, he said.

"We're still doing an in-depth investigation, so we might be able to bring more people in," Amnuay told Reuters.

The Omani man has a low fever, cough and quickened breathing, Amnuay said.

Airline and hotel shares were little changed on Monday, in contrast to the sharp falls in June when the first case was discovered.

The man diagnosed with the virus in that case was also from Oman. The 75-year-old businessman survived the disease.

MERS was first identified in humans in Saudi Arabia in 2012 and the majority of cases have been in the Middle East.

Thailand's tourism industry would not be affected by the latest MERS case, Tourism Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul told Reuters.

"We think we have the situation under control," she said. "We're confident this will not affect tourism in Thailand."

Tourism accounts for 10 per cent of GDP, and Thailand expects a record number of international visitors in 2016 — some 32 million, up from 29.88 million in 2015.

The World Health Organisation said in its latest update on 7 January it has been notified of 1,626 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS from 26 countries, and at least 586 related deaths. MERS is caused by a coronavirus from the same family as the one that triggered China's deadly 2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).—*Reuters*

South Sudan needs arms embargo; leaders killing civilians

UNITED NATIONS —The United Nations Security Council should place an arms embargo on South Sudan, while the oil-rich country's President Salva Kiir and a rebel leader qualify to be sanctioned over atrocities in a two-year civil war, UN sanctions monitors said in an annual report.

The confidential report by a UN panel that monitors the conflict in South Sudan for the Security Council stated that Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar are still completely in charge of their forces and are therefore directly to blame for killing civilians and other actions that warrant sanctions. A copy of the report was seen by Reuters on Monday.

The 15-member Security Council has long-threatened to impose an arms embargo, but veto power Russia, backed by council member Angola, has been reluctant to support such an action. Russia's UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said on Monday he was concerned that an arms embargo would be one-sided because it would be easier to enforce on the government.

Jikany Nuer White Army fighters holds their weapons in Upper Nile State, South Sudan on 10 February 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

The panel asked the council to blacklist "high-level decision makers responsible for the actions and policies that threaten the peace, security and stability of the country."

The names of the individuals the panel recommend for sanctions in the form of an international travel ban and asset freeze were not included in the body of the report. But a diplomat familiar with the contents told Reuters that a highly confidential annex calls for blacklisting both Kiir and Machar.

A political dispute between Kiir and Machar, who was once Kiir's deputy, sparked the civil war. But it has widened and reopened ethnic fault lines between Kiir's Dinka and Machar's Nuer people. More than 10,000 people have been killed.

The panel wrote that "there is clear and convincing evidence that most of the acts of violence committed during the war, including the targeting of civilians ... have been directed by or undertaken with the knowledge of senior individuals at the highest levels of the government and within the opposition."

However, they said the government appears to have been responsible for a larger share of the bloodshed in the country in 2015.

"While civilians have been and continue to be targeted by both sides, including because of their tribal affiliation, the panel has determined that, in contrast to 2014, the government has been responsible for the vast majority of human rights violations committed in South Sudan (since March 2015)," the UN's panel coordinator, Payton Knopf, told the Security Council sanctions committee on 14 January, according to prepared remarks circulated to council members.

The South Sudan mission to the United Nations in New York was not immediately available to comment on the report.

UN peacekeepers in South Sudan are also "regularly attacked, harassed, detained, intimidated and threatened," the monitors said in the report.

The conflict in South Sudan, whose 2011 secession from Sudan had long enjoyed the support of the United States, has torn apart the world's youngest country. The UN panel reported that some 2.3 million people have been displaced since war broke out in December 2013, while some 3.9 million face severe food shortages.

The UN report described how Kiir's government bought at least four Mi-24 attack helicopters in 2014 from a private Ukrainian company at a cost of nearly $43 million.

"They have been vital in providing an important advantage in military operations, have facilitated the expansion of the war and have emboldened those in the government who are seeking a military solution to the conflict at the expense of the peace process," according to the report. Knopf told the council that Machar's rebels were trying to "acquire shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles to counter the threat of attack helicopters, specifically citing the need to continue and indeed escalate the fighting."—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JI XIANG SONG VOY NO (24)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JI XIANG SONG VOY NO (24) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-2 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIANCO DAN VOY NO (079)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIANCO DAN VOY NO (079) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INNWA STAR VOY NO (002W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY NO (002W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2016 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CONFIDENCEOCEAN VOY NO (1511)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CONFIDENCE-OCEAN VOY NO (1511) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD.
Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (153N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (153N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO (0003)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO (0003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2016 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

Washington faces days of cleanup after epic blizzard

A man carries a shovel down 108th street in the Richmond Hill section of the Queens borough of New York on 25 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK — Washington will need several more days to return to normal after a weekend blizzard dropped more than 2 feet (60 cm) of snow along the US East Coast, likely causing billions of dollars in damage and killing more than 30 people.

The US capital was at a standstill, with federal government offices to be closed again on Tuesday, schools in the district and surrounding suburbs shut until at least Wednesday, and the US House of Representatives canceling all votes until next week.

Washington's mayor, Muriel Bowser, said city public schools would remain closed on Tuesday but that city government offices would reopen. She urged people to use mass transit rather than trying to drive and park on the city's snow-clogged roads.

"We knew that we would have ... several days of cleanup ahead of us," Bowser told reporters. "Know that we're going to be dealing with snow all of this week."

Officials reported at least 36 storm-related deaths, including traffic accidents and heart attacks while shoveling snow in Washington, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and Virginia. The dead included a North Carolina man who was shot and killed when he saw a motorist who had run off the road in the storm and attempted to help him. The motorist remained jailed on murder charges on Monday.

Risk Management Solutions meteorologist Jeff Waters said he could not provide specific damage estimates yet, but said the storm "could rank as one of the more significant events in recent history."

He said comparable historical storms would include the Blizzard of 1996, which caused approximately $1.5 billion in economic losses and $740 million insured losses at the time.

Reinsurance broker Aon Benfield said on Monday the storm likely caused billions of dollars in economic losses, including damage to buildings and lost business from closures.

Officials said all but one line on Washington's second-busiest subway system would resume service on Tuesday and bus services would be expanded.

High snowbanks at street corners made travel within Washington difficult for pedestrians.

"The hardest part was getting the stroller through the unclean sidewalks," said Isam Qahwash, a 41-year-old scientist from Princeton, New Jersey, as he carried his 14-month-old son in a stroller across a downtown street. "It seems like they move really slow cleaning the snow here."

Even with federal government offices officially closed, the Supreme Court was open for business, scheduled to issue rulings and act on pending appeals from the snowbound courthouse across from the US Capitol building.

Washington officials said the city has applied for federal disaster relief to help pay for the snowstorm's costs, which they did not estimate. Ten public schools around the city opened to provide breakfast and lunch to low-income children who typically receive free meals at school, officials said.—*Reuters*

Rome train station briefly evacuated for security alert

ROME — Police briefly evacuated Italy's main railway station on Monday after reports of a man with a gun in the building in central Rome.

There were no reports of any shots being fired and state broadcaster RAI later said a man had been stopped with a toy gun at a different train station in the city.

Normal service at the main station was halted for 27 minutes and the platforms were evacuated, railway operator Ferrovie dello Stato said on its news website and Twitter feed. Police did not say whether anyone had been arrested there.

Rome is on high security alert because of a 48-hour visit to the city by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

The Iranian delegation was attending an event far from the station at the time of the alert.

Along with many other European countries, Rome raised its security alert last year after gun and bomb attacks killed 130 in Paris. No specific threat to Italy has been officially reported.—*Reuters*

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KT & G Corporation, a company incorporated in Republic of Korea and having its registered office at 71, Beotkkot-gil, Daedeok-gu, Daejeon, Republic of Korea is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

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Registration No. 4/4886/2002(10.9.2002)

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All in respect of "Tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, cigar paper, tobacco pipes, cigarette filters, cigarette case (not of precious metal); tobacco pouches, lighters for smokers; matches; pipe cleaners for tobacco pipes, ashtrays (not of precious metal) for smokers; cigar cutters; all included" in **International Class 34**.

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Daw La Min May, *H.G.P*
For **KT & G Corporation**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre(UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Date **27 January 2016** **lmm@kcyangon.com**

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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In respect of "canned tuna and fresh raw frozen tuna products" in **International Class 29**.

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For **RD Tuna Canners Limited.**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,**
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Date **27 January 2016** **yma@kcyangon.com**

Models present creations by Italian designer Donatella Versace as part of her Haute Couture Spring/Summer 2016 fashion show for Atelier Versace in Paris on 24 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Designers show latest luxury creations at Paris haute couture

WITH smart outfits and sweeping evening gowns, designers showcase their luxury creations at the Paris haute couture fashion shows this week.

From France's Chanel to Italy's Versace, more than 20 fashion houses will show their spring-summer 2016 haute couture collections, their target some of the world's wealthiest women.

On Monday, Dior presented its first haute couture show since designer Raf Simons left in October, with a collection put together by the brand's inhouse team and described as being for the rushing modern woman.

Referring to founding designer Christian Dior, who the brand said was "a superstitious man with absolute faith in his lucky star", the collection was full of symbols and lucky charms on clothes or necklaces.

The show began with shoulder-baring designs and soon evolved into outfits made of contrasting cuts and textures, rich in embroidery on tops, skirts as well as transparent chiffon dresses. Dior's trademark bar jacket was given a masculine look while coat versions showed off shoulders.

The label has yet to announce a successor to Simons, who left after some three years to develop his own label.

"Dior is a permanently moving house ... There has never been a standstill, it's a permanently moving train and from one designer to the other, we can even see some acceleration," Chief Executive Sidney Toledano told Reuters.

"So I am pretty confident about the future."

Atelier Versace kicked off the shows on Sunday with a luxury collection inspired by sporty chic.

Models strutted down the catwalk in figure-hugging designs, namely gowns, slashed at thigh, draped at the back or cut along the body and tied together with ropes of Swarovski crystals.

Designer Donatella Versace opened the show, dubbed "Athletic Couture" in a palette of white — bomber jackets and trouser or skirt combinations as well as short dresses — decorated with fluorescent yellow or orange straps. Colours then turned to electric blue, orange and black. Versace continued the cut and tied together look, described as "as if exploded, then held together with extravagant knots of Swarovski ropes", on tuxedos, baring arms and sides.

The looks were accessorised with sandals with straps knotted at the ankle, some sparkling. "This is a collection for all women who walk their own path," Versace said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Ian McKellen to host London bus tours for Shakespeare film season

LONDON — Having tackled Shakespeare's works on stage and screen, Ian McKellen will host bus tours of locations used in his movie adaptation of "Richard III" as part of a film programme marking 400 years since the playwright's death.

The 76-year-old McKellen, who has starred in numerous Shakespeare adaptations, will take fans to London's St Pancras station and Battersea power station, locations used in the 1995 film in which he played the tyrant king in a 1930s setting.

The tours are part of the British Film Institute's "BFI Presents Shakespeare on Film" program, which was launched by McKellen on Monday and will feature screenings of movie adaptations of The Bard's celebrated works.

Actor Ian McKellen. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I thought it might be fun to take a bus ride around those buildings and say, 'Look, that's where we were', and then the bus show extracts from the film," McKellen told Reuters.

"It's a little idea that I've long treasured."

The BFI will host events looking at how filmmakers have been influenced by Shakespeare works such as "Romeo and Juliet", "Hamlet", "Henry V" and "Macbeth" and a programme of 18 British Shakespeare movies is to tour 110 countries.

The program at London's BFI Southbank launches on 31 March, just a few weeks before theater fans mark 400 years since Shakespeare's death on 23 April, 1616.

"The beauty of Shakespeare is that he was so perceptive about human nature. He was so interested in the whole range of people from the top of society to the bottom and everything in between," McKellen said.

"He was so accurate in understanding our emotions ... and our motives for doing things, that he goes on being relevant."—*Reuters*

Panic! At the Disco holds off Adele for Billboard 200 top spot

LOS ANGELES — Pop-rockers Panic! At the Disco scored its first chart-topping album on the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart, keeping British singer Adele's hit record "25" at bay.

"Death of a Bachelor," the fifth studio album from Panic! At The Disco, sold 190,000 units, including 17 million online streams, for the week ending 21 January, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Adele's "25" sold another 147,000 units in the past week and held onto No.2 on the chart, while Justin Bieber's "Purpose" also remained steady at No.3 with 91,000 units sold.

Last week's chart-topper, late singer David Bowie's "Blackstar," dropped to No.4 this week. The only other new entry to crack the top 10 this week was the latest installation of the "Kidz Bop Kids" series, featuring child-friendly versions of hit pop songs, at No.6.

The weekly Billboard 200 album chart compiles its list using physical and digital sales figures from albums, songs and online streams.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, Bieber's "Love Yourself" held steady at No.1 with 139,000 downloads.—*Reuters*

Banksy's London 'Les Mis' mural attacks conditions in Calais camp

LONDON — A mural by British graffiti artist Banksy highlighting the alleged use of tear gas on migrants from the "jungle" camp in Calais has appeared on a hoarding near the French embassy in London.

The stencilled image mimics the logo of the musical "Les Miserables" but in Banksy's depiction the character Cosette is engulfed by clouds of gas.

A bar code links to YouTube footage that claims to show police raids on the camp earlier in January.

The artist, whose identity has never been confirmed, last month painted a mural of late Apple founder Steve Jobs as a refugee on a wall at the Calais camp, referencing Jobs' heritage as the son of a migrant from Syria to the United States.

Other works in the French town that homes thousands of migrants from the Middle East and Africa who want to enter Britain also appeared on Banksy's website.—*Reuters*

People photograph a new graffiti mural attributed to Banksy, opposite the French embassy in London, Britain on 25 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rainbow Bridge walkways offer view of new and old Tokyo

TOKYO — The Rainbow Bridge in Tokyo Bay is a symbol of the Japanese capital, but it is less known that the walkways of the suspension bridge offer a great view of the bay fringed by skyscrapers, including an island fortress built in the 19th century to counter Americans forcing Japan to open up.

The bridge has a two-deck structure and the walkways are on the lower deck, along with the Yurikamome unmanned train system. The upper deck carries a portion of the Shuto Expressway.

Shibaura Anchorage, about five minutes' walk from Shibaura Futo Station on Yurikamome, is the entrance to the walkways, which are free of charge and open from 9am to 9pm between April and October and 10am to 6pm between November and March.

People jog, admire the view and take pictures of landmarks such as Tokyo Tower and the Roppongi Hills complex from the walkways, running on the north and south sides of the bridge.

In the central parts, the walkways are about 50 to 60 metres above sea level.

Pedestrians can also see areas with signs of a changing Tokyo. Ariake is slated for hosting several competitions in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The new Toyosu fish market will open in November this year after it replaces the aging Tsukiji market.

Harumi Passenger Ship Terminal is also visible from the 1.7-kilometre walkways.

The athletes' village will be built in the area for the 2020 Games.

Tokyo Skytree, the world's tallest broadcasting tower at 634 metres, can be seen hemmed in by skyscrapers.

Airplanes depart from Haneda airport and cranes tower in Oi Wharf.

The south side of the walkways offers the view of the Odaiba tourist area as well as the Fuji Television headquarters. But in between the glittery districts and the bridge lies a small manmade island, Daisan (No. 3) Daiba, constructed in 1854 by the feudal government of Japan.

The previous year, US Navy Commodore Matthew Perry's Black Ships arrived, urging Japan to ditch its isolationist policy and open its ports to trade with Americans.

In an effort to protect Edo, which was how Tokyo was known at the time, from potential attack by Perry, a number of island fortresses were quickly built in the bay, including Daisan Daiba, or "No.3 Battery," as cannon batteries were placed on the islands. The walkways will be closed on every third Monday and on days of strong winds.—*Kyodo News*

Merkel opens exhibition of Holocaust art in Berlin

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel opened the biggest exhibition of Holocaust art outside Israel in Berlin on Monday, after pledging to take concerns about rising anti-Semitism seriously.

The "Art from the Holocaust" show features 100 works from Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust memorial centre, which were created by Jewish inmates at concentration camps, labour camps and ghettos during the Nazi time.

Of the 50 artists featured in the exhibition, 24 were killed by the Nazis.

"The million of individual stories during the Shoah remain deeply rooted in our national conscience," Merkel said at the opening of the show at the German Historical Museum, referring to the Hebrew word for the Holocaust.

An influx of 1.1 million asylum seekers to Germany last year, many fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, has raised fears among the country's Jewish community that anti-Semitism could rise.

Merkel said in her weekly podcast on Saturday that these concerns were to be taken seriously and said it was important to educate young people, especially those from countries where hatred towards Jews is widespread, in order to combat anti-Semitism.

Marian Tusk, who spent time in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald camps and survived two death marches, told Reuters he appreciated Germany's efforts to deal with its past.

"What most interests me is to what extent pieces of art could be also historic eye witnesses," said 87-year-old Tusk, who was one of just four members of his extended family of 40 to survive the Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews were killed.

Christoph Heubner, executive president of the international Auschwitz committee, called Yad Vashem's decision to host the exhibition in Germany of all places a "very symbolic move".

"After all, it was in Berlin where all these crimes were planned and prepared and displaying the artwork in Germany's historic museum shows that they are an immediate part of German history," Heubner told Reuters by telephone.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

(27-1-2016 07:00 am~ 28-1-2016 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-4)
07:43	Am	Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Horse Cart Driver
08:36	Am	Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Bollywood Actress "Laila Khan" (Born &Raised in Myanmar) (Part-II)
09:49	Am	Myanmar Traditional Bullock-Cart & Equestrian Racing
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Pet Fish Biz
10:39	Am	Insight Myanmar "Role of MNHRC" (Episode-II)

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Visit To San-Taw-Shin Kyike-Hti-Yo Pagoda
07:42	Pm	Natural Mineral Water
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3) The Sphinx Of Egypt And The Manousiha Of Myanmar
08:40	Pm	Up Against The Tide

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday 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 News Channel in Brief

(27-1-2016, Wednesday)

6:00 am
- Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am
- Money Talk Myanmar

9:35 am
- Science and Technology Programme

10:35 am
- Meet The Successful

11:35 am
- MRTV Education

12:50 pm
- Teleplay (Part-2)

1:00 pm
- TV Drama Series

1:45 pm
- TV Drama Series

2:35 pm
- Myanmar Traditional Boxing

3:35 pm
- Money Talk Myanmar

4:35 pm
- Football Magazine

5:35 pm
- World Cultural Herritage Sites in Japan (Kyoto & Nara)

6:35 pm
- Real Story Real Movie

7:15 pm
- TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
- News / International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- TV Drama Series
- Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

SPORT

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Radwanska, Williams to face off in Australian Open semi-final

MELBOURNE — Agnieszka Radwanska has won her way through to her second Australian Open semi-final on Tuesday, but will have Serena Williams to contend with after the world No. 1 also breezed through the quarterfinal stage of the tournament.

The No. 4 seed Radwanska was relentless in her 6-1, 6-3 win, brushing aside No. 10 seed Carla Suarez Navarro in just one hour and 22 minutes on center court.

Radwanska, who incidentally lost to Williams in her only Grand Slam final berth back in 2012, said her focus was now on making her first Australian Open final.

She said her victory at the end-of-year WTA tournament in Singapore last year has filled her with confidence heading into matches with top players such as Williams.

"In hindsight, that win (against top players) give me more confidence," she told the press. "But this is a new season, new Grand Slam; you're starting over again."

Following Radwanska's straightforward victory, Williams was just as clinical in her 6-4, 6-1 win over No. 5 seed Maria Sharapova.

In what was the pair's 21st meeting on the tour, Sharapova took an early 2-0 lead in the match, but was unable to consolidate; the world No. 1 battled strongly to regain parity and then run away with a hard-fought, hour-long first set.

Williams then found another gear, easily closing out the match 6-1. The American said despite having won the previous 17 matches against Sharapova, the 18th straight win was full of fight, and the scoreline wasn't indicative of the struggle on court.

"It was super intense. She is an incredibly intense, focused player," Williams said of Sharapova post-match.

"When you're playing someone like that you have to come out with your own fire and intensity."

Sharapova admitted she was unable to capitalize on her early break of serve in the first set, and said Williams was simply too good in the second.

"I thought she played explosively," Sharapova said in her press conference.

"She played a really good second set, returned well and really got me on the back foot."

The world No. 1 Williams, who hasn't played Radwanska since 2013, said the 4th seeded Pole was a significant roadblock on her chase for a seventh Australian Open title.

"(Radwanska) is a great defender and I think it will be a great match. I'm going to do my best, I have nothing to lose," Williams said on Tuesday.

The pair will face off in their semi-final in Melbourne on Thursday.—*Xinhua*

Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska serves during her quarter-final match against Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro. PHOTO: REUTERS

Van Gaal made no offer to quit Manchester United — club sources

PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Louis van Gaal did not offer to resign after watching his team's latest home defeat at the hands of Southampton at the weekend, sources close to Manchester United told Reuters yesterday.

Britain's *Guardian* newspaper earlier reported that the club's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward had persuaded the Dutchman to stay following the 1-0 defeat which resulted in fans booing the team and Van Gaal off the pitch.—*Reuters*

Central American group backs Infantino for FIFA president

MIAMI — The Central American Football Union (UNCAF), with seven votes in next month's FIFA presidential election, have announced their support for Gianni Infantino.

Infantino is currently general secretary of European football body UEFA and one of the frontrunners in the election to replace disgraced fellow-Swiss Sepp Blatter, which will be held on 26 February.

UNCAF is part of the CONCACAF confederation and in a letter provided to Reuters on Monday, the presidents of the seven national federations in the region expressed their support for Infantino.

The statement was signed by the presidents of the federations for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala, Belize and Nicaragua, along with UNCAF president Rafael Tinocco.

"I'm delighted to have received the endorsement of all the seven federations of UNCAF," Infantino said in a statement.

"This support adds to the ones I've been receiving from all over the world and encourages me to keep working hard, explaining in detail my proposals to as many federations as possible."

Swiss Infantino is currently in Paraguay meeting with officials of the South American confederation CONMEBOL.

Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan, Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Sheikh Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, former FIFA deputy general secretary Jerome Champagne of France and South African businessman and politician Tokyo Sexwale are also standing in the vote.

Infantino, 45, entered the race to succeed Blatter after UEFA's French head Michel Platini was suspended pending an ethics investigation in October and then banned for eight years from all football activities.

FIFA is going through the worst graft scandal in its history.

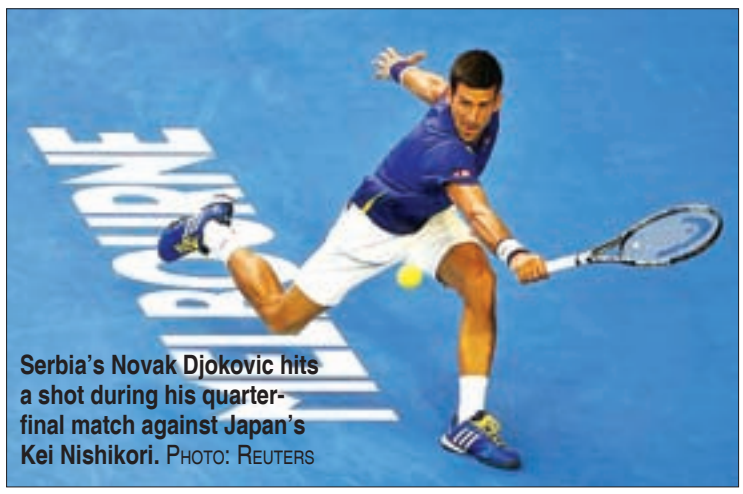
Forty-one individuals, many of them national association presidents, and entities have been indicted in the United States for bribery, money laundering and wire fraud since May.—*Reuters*

Djokovic eases past Nishikori to set up Federer showdown

MELBOURNE — Defending champion Novak Djokovic issued a chilling warning to his Australian Open challengers on Tuesday by storming to a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 victory over seventh seed Kei Nishikori to set up a blockbuster semi-final against Roger Federer who won against Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 7-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The world number one was far from his imperious best and struggled on serve but was content to allow his Japanese opponent to fall on his own sword with 54 unforced errors under the Rod Laver Arena floodlights.

Nishikori broke the Serb twice in the third set and edged 3-1 ahead but was unable to capitalise on his own serve and threw his racquet onto the court in a rare show of frustration. Djokovic fired a sizzling cross-court backhand winner to close out the match and will make his sixth appearance in the last four at Melbourne Park, having avenged his loss to Nishikori in the 2014 US Open semi-finals. —*Reuters*



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a shot during his quarter-final match against Japan's Kei Nishikori. PHOTO: REUTERS

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