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# WE'RE BACK IN BUSINESS

## Biluchaung Hydropower Station returns to full energy output

THE 54-year-old Biluchaung Hydropower Station in Kayah State is back in operation, restoring its original strength of generating 168 megawatts following completion of its all-round rehabilitation project.

The hydropower station celebrated the partial completion of the first stage in which three machines were rehabilitated last year in February under the all-round rehabilitation project with the use of 6.6 billion yen of Japan's grant aid.

The first stage of rehabilitation project included maintenance and replacement of turbines, generators, penstocks and 52 related parts.

Following completion of the second stage for rehabilitation of remaining three machines began at the start of the previous rainy season, all six machines with installed capacity of 28 megawatts each have now been rehabilitated.

Myanmar has a total of 5,235 megawatts of electricity from hydropower plants, natural gas-fired power plants, diesel-fired power plants and coal-fired power plants in 2015-2016, up 1822 megawatts from 3413 megawatts in 2010-2011 over the past five years, seeing 34 per cent electric power coverage across the country.

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Biluchaung Hydro Power Station.  
Photo: THAN OO (LAYMYATHNAR)

## Research on ancient Pyu sites to continue despite end of excavations

ARCHAEOLOGICAL excavations of three ancient Pyu cities will officially come to a halt this month with the end of the current 2015-16 fiscal year, but a branch of the World Heritage Department has made it known that research on the sites will continue.

The ancient city of Hanlin, located in the Sagaing Region township of Wetlet; the ancient city of Beikthano, located in the Magwe Region township of Taung Twin Gyi; and the ancient city of Sri Ksetra, located in the Bago Region township of Pyay, are among the most prominent remnants of the ancient Pyu civilisation.

Discoveries have been made



The ornaments and utensils made of stone, bronze, iron, gold and earth excavated from the ancient cities show that the Pyu people were possessed with high professional artistic skills that are now extinct. PHOTO: PRIVATE COLLECTION

in each of the archaeological sites since excavation activities began in February this year. These finds include palace walls and entrances in Hanlin and Sri Ksetra, while religious edifices of Pyu cultur-

al significance were discovered in the vicinity of the royal lake within the site of Beikthano.

U Than Zaw Oo, director of the Myanmar branch of the World Heritage Department, said

these findings will be presented to the Ministry of Culture.

"Buildings that are believed to have been used for religious events and rituals were unearthed near the royal lake within the

ancient Beikthano city. We will conduct research as to whether [the buildings] show evidence or proof of Pyu cultural heritage," he said.

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## Malfunctioning generator causes blaze in Kyunsu Township, leaves one dead

A MALFUNCTIONING generator caused a fire in Taungpyo village in Kyunsu Township, Taninthayi Region, destroying 59 houses and claiming one life on Tuesday.

More than 50 auxiliary fire-fighters and villagers responded to fire at a house owned by U Ar

Zi where a malfunctioning generator is believed to have caused the fire.

The fire was brought under control at about 12.30 pm.

The village's only access to water is 35 miles away in Kyunsu Township. —*Yan Naing (Kyunsu IPRD)*



Flame engulfed 59 houses in Taungpyo Village. PHOTO: YAN NAING

## Local residents call for removal of landmines in Kutkai

RESIDENTS of Hopone Village, located in Kutkai Township, northern Shan State, have demanded that the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Defence Services), the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Taang National Liberation Army (TNLA) remove landmines planted in their vicinity.

An official letter of request was sent on 25 February by local residents calling for the removal of landmines planted around Hopone Village in the aftermath of armed conflict that broke out in the area between the Tatmadaw, the KIA and the TNLA in January 2016.

"We fled the fighting that erupted near our village. My husband stepped on a land mine on 13 February while out searching for banana plant trunks. Both of his legs were blown off before he passed away on the way to the Muse hospital," said Daw Gyar Taung of Hopone village.

Over 400 hundred people live in Hopone Village, which is made up of 43 households, but many have moved to neighbouring areas because of the village's proximity to landmines.

In addition to the release of the demand for the removal of the landmines, educational awareness on the dangers of landmines is currently being offered to local residents, said Aik Zat Aung, director of the Human Rights and Legal Department.

Conflict between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups has been flaring up near Hopone Village since 2014.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



IDPs from a camp in Kyaukme return home. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## IDP camp closed in Kyaukme

A CAMP opened at Wailuwun monastery in Kyaukme Township was closed as internally-displaced persons who were forced to flee clashes returned home, according to local sources.

Though one was closed, 20 camps remain in the township, accommodating 2,725 people as of Tuesday.

"We need financial assistance to continue to help those people," said U Tin Win, chair of the township supporting committee.

The internally-displaced per-

sons are from Tot Hsan and Mong Ngot villages, 40-mile away from Kyaukme.

The supporting committee said that people who returned home were provided with K10,000 each and rice while K30,000 is set to be offered to each monk.

According to a local from Kyaukme, most IDPs want to go back home as the tea harvests begins but dare not go home with uncertainty as to the situation. —*Aung Thant Khaing*

## Yangon factory owners charged with violation of labour laws

A TOTAL of 41 businessmen were charged with violation of labour laws between January 2015 and January 2016, according to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security.

U Win Shein, director general of the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department, said his department and the Department of Labour Relations have charged factory owners with violation of labour laws and failures to comply with orders of the Dispute Settlement Arbitration Council.

According to the depart-

ments, a maximum fine of K1 million (US\$808) has been set for violating labour laws, and 16 cases remain undecided.

U Aung Lin, a member of a labour rights group, said the fine is not effective. "We welcome the ministry's action against violators, but the penalty is not as effective as they think. We would like to see violators receive fines and prison sentences." Owners of garment factories and shoe factories in Yangon's industrial zones are among those who are charged with violation of labour laws.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

## MMU graduates win Royal Haskoning DHV's internship award

NETHERLANDS-based Royal HaskoningDHV presented internship awards to two graduates from Port & Harbour Engineering Department of Myanmar Maritime University on 29 February.

The internship award presentation ceremony was held at the university, attended by the country manager of company, rector, pro rector and heads of departments of the university.

It was the third time for Myanmar students to win the company's internship award. Since 2014, the Myanmar students have been awarded internship to receive

training at Maritime and Waterway Department of the company in Viet Nam for six month.

Ma Kyawt Kay Khine and Ma Hnin Oo Wai were winners of internship awards for 2014-2015 academic year. Royal Haskoning-DHV, an international consulting and engineering company, established its presence in Myanmar in 1986, with the release of a report on sustainability and effective utilization of Ayeyawady River.

Its branch office was opened as of January, 2014, with an appointment of a country manager, engineers and staffs.

## Scout Camp open at Mt-Popa

THE opening of the fourth scout camp was held at Mt-Popa in Kyauktada Township, Mandalay Region yesterday.

In his opening address, Chief Minister U Ye Myint called on scouts to strive to become good and able citizens, keeping the motto of "Once a scout, always a scout" in mind.

During their stay at the 4th scout camp at Mt-Popa, 48 teachers, 438 boy and girl scouts from basic education schools and 62 young scouts from colleges and universities will be given lectures and scouting activities. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Scouts gather in Mt. Popa. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LATT

## Korean jumps to death off Ocean Centre

A Korean jumped to his death off the tenth floor of the Ocean Centre building in Mayangon township, Yangon Region, yesterday, local police said.

Mr Kim Hyo Gun, 35, had a company open at Room No.10/09 in the building, with police saying that he entered the country on a business visa, whose life was from 20 January to 30 March.

Police investigation revealed that he left a will written in Korean. —*Zawgyi (Pannita)*

# SG Min Aung Hlaing meets outgoing US Ambassador



Mr. Derek Mitchell, United States Ambassador to Myanmar. PHOTO: MYAWADY



Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the United States Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchell who had completed his tour of duty of the country at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall of Yangon Re-

gional Command yesterday.

During the call, further co-operation in bilateral relations between the two armed forces was discussed.

Also present were Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint who is also

Acting Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Lt-Gen Tin Aung San, Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, US Defense Attaché Colonel James McAden and officials.—Myawady

Authorities are making efforts for proper flow in the Ayeyawady River.

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING



## River dredging operation in Katha Township slated for completion by this March

THE current dredging operation to return proper flow to the Ayeyawady River near Katha Township is slated for completion at the end of this month, according to Water Resources Utilisations Department in Mandalay.

The department has been

dredging sandbanks in the river to ensure the safe mooring of vessels at Katha jetty since last month, said U Toe Aung Lin, assistant director of the department.

According to the department, it is set to take one month for completion of dredging oper-

ation expected to cost K70 million.

Upon completion, there will be swift flow of commodities via waterway which is the cheapest mode of transport in the region, said a local merchant in Katha Township.—Aung Thant Khaing

## Biluchaung Hydropower Station returns . . .

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According to sources, all townships in Kayah State have electricity. The last Maese Township was electrified as of 2015-2016 FY.

During this fiscal year, elec-

tricity has reached 41 of 114 villages while works are underway to electrify the remaining 73 villages in Kayah State where 142 of 511 villages enjoy electricity.

According to the Ministry of Electric Power, the number

of villages with access to electricity will total 256 at the end of this fiscal year in the state which is expected to see 90 per cent electric power coverage in the years to come.—Than Oo(Laymyathnar)

## President U Thein Sein felicitates Bulgarian counterpart

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2016.—Myanmar News Agency

## President felicitates Bulgarian PM

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Boyko Borisov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2016.—Myanmar News Agency

## FM felicitates Bulgarian counterpart

U WUNNA MAUNG LWIN, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Daniel Mitov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2016.—Myanmar News Agency

## Research on ancient Pyu sites to continue despite end of excavations

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The aforementioned excavation activities have been carried out since February with a government budget of K80 million, provided through the Ministry of Culture. Archaeologists are now working to date the findings.

From 2014 to 2016, a total of 40 ancient mounds were unearthed at the site of the Hanlin ancient city, and 50 were excavated at Beikthano. A total of 63 digs have been conducted at Sri Kestra.

“Archaeologists surveyed the area using maps drawn up during the British colonial period in 1940, using the maps as guides for where to excavate. But the maps weren't able to reveal everything. The locations of the palace walls could only be realised using modern, technological equipment,” added U Than Zaw Oo.

The excavations have been carried out as part of a five-year cultural heritage plan that began in 2014 and will run until 2018.—Myitmakha News Agency

## Union Minister meets US ambassador to Myanmar

HOME Affairs Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko met Mr Derek Mitchell, Ambassador of the United States to Myanmar, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed ways to enhance greater cooperation in the future as part of improving bilateral relations.—Myanmar News Agency



Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko holds talks with Mr Derek Mitchell, outgoing Ambassador of the United States. PHOTO: MNA

## Crime NEWS

# Explosive device found near railway station



A timebomb which is found near the mileposts 509/13-14 in Hsipaw.  
PHOTO: SAI (THI PAW)

A TIMEBOMB was found by U Aung Win and U Htay Win, gate-keepers of the Hsipaw railway station near mileposts 509/13-14, in Hsipaw, Shan State (North) on 29 February as they cleared bush. Officials from the Township General Administration Department, the Fire Services Department, Myanmar Railways and the police arrived at the scene to remove the explosive.

They handed over the bomb to a local Garrison Engineering Battalion. According to a police investigation, the bomb was PVC, 8 inches in diameter and 5 inches in length, connected to a 9 volt battery. —Sai (Thi paw)

# Fire destroys a house in Thaton

A FIRE destroyed a house in Yetwinphyu village, Thaton township, Mon state on Tuesday. According to an investigation, the fire broke out in the home of one U Nyi Nyi Htway.

The fire was put out by firemen with the assistance of neighbours.

The police have filed charges against U Nyi Nyi Htway.—Khon (Win Pa)



Firefighters putting out the fire. PHOTO: KHON (WIN PA)

# Fire destroys seven houses in Taninthayi

A FIRE destroyed seven houses in Nyaung Pin Kwin (Eastern) village, Taninthayi township, Myeik District on Tuesday.

According to an investigation, Ma Wai Zin Nwe (Grade 10) was cooking when the fire broke out. The fire was brought under control after 40 minutes by firemen with the help of neighbours.

The police have filed charges against her father U Kyaw Naing, 42.—Nan Thar Yee-Htein Win (IPRD)



Flames of raging fire engulf the houses.

PHOTO: NAN THAR YEE- HTEIN WIN (IPRD)

# Methamphetamine and ammunition seized in Myawaddy

AUTHORITIES seized methamphetamine and ammunition from a house on Padamyar road, ward 5, Myawaddy town. Acting on a tip off, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from the Myanmar Police Force were searching the house owned by Saw Than Zaw Oo, 32 where they found a 9mm pistol, a number of bullets, a knife, 20 grams of methamphetamine and a vehicle.

When interrogated, Saw Than Zaw Oo said that he had bought the methamphetamine from one Daw Nan Myint Sein, 40. Members of the police searched the house of Daw Nan Myint Sein and found 387 yabba pills, a gun and 2.5grams of methamphetamine. Police have filed charges against them under the anti-Narcotic and psychotropic substances law.—Tin Win Hlain (Kawkareik)

# Fire destroys over 100 houses in Hpyauk Seikkon village

A FIRE devoured over 100 houses in Hpyauk Seikkon village, Taungdwingyi township, Magway on 29 February. According to an investigation the fire broke out when U Min Min,

29, left his kitchen fire unattended. The fire was put out by firemen with 25 fire engines and the help of neighbours. The police have filed charges against U Min Min.—MMAL (085)



Smoke billows from burning houses. PHOTO: MMAL (085)

# Yabba and heroin seized Fire destroys a house in Kanbalu

AN anti-drug squad seized yabba at a house in Paung Sein village, Hpa-an township, on 28 February. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched a house owned by ojne Ma Nauk Tha and found 168 yabba pills. Police further arrested one Ma Akha Lein alias Nan Ma Kyi alias Ma Kyi, who was

selling the drugs.

Similarly, members of the police discovered 7.5 grams of heroin, 238 yabba pills from one Aik Yee and Aik Nyi near Ngun In village, Nan Kham township. Police have filed charges against them under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—Myanmar Police Force

# Man charged for bike theft

POLICE have filed charges against a man on suspicion of motorcycle theft as he failed to produce documents proving that the bike he was stopped on belonged to him.

When interrogated, Phyo

Thura, 19 admitted to stealing it at the corner of 35 and 89 streets, near Sidaw Hein teashop, Mandalay on 28 February. The local police have filed charges against him.—Ko Ye

A FIRE destroyed a house in ward 1, Kanbalu town, Sagaing region on Tuesday. According to an investigation, the fire broke out when U Chaw, 31, offered candle lights to Buddha in his home. The fire was put out by firemen with the assistance of neighbours. The police station has filed charges against Daw Myint Myint Than, 33 the hostess.—Aung Win Nyein (Kanbalu)

# LOCAL Business



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe holds talks with Thailand's Energy Minister General Anantaporn Kanjanarat at the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

## Myanmar, Thailand discuss promotion of electricity supply

A DELEGATION led by Thailand's Energy Minister General Anantaporn Kanjanarat arrived in Yangon yesterday to attend a bilateral meeting on electric power.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe met the Thailand's delegation at the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation in the afternoon of the same day.

At the call, the union minister spoke of the Mongtong hydropower project to be jointly conducted by Myanmar, Thailand and China, stressing that the project should come under discus-

sion at the bilateral meeting.

The two ministers discussed the enhancement of electricity supply and the effective use of water resources for power projects.

At the same venue, a meeting also occurred between Thailand's Permanent Secretary of Energy Dr Areepong Phucha-um and Myanmar's Permanent Secretary of Electric Power U Htein Lwin. The meeting focused on action plans for the implementation of policies agreed at the ministerial-level meeting.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Kyauk Phyu waste incinerator project on verge of completion

A K40 million project for the construction of an incinerator in the Rakhine State township of Kyauk Phyu, to easily dispose of waste by method of combustion, is on the verge of completion.

"Construction is nearly finished. We're just waiting on the principal piece of machinery, which has arrived in Yangon after being ordered from abroad. We will begin a trial run of the machinery once it arrives with us on 28 February," said U Maung Maung Aung, chair of the North Star charity group.

Construction of the aforementioned incinerator began un-

der the supervision of the North Star charity group at the start of January last year in the vicinity of the Kyauk Phyu cemetery, according to the charity.

The average daily amount of waste emitted within the perimeters of the municipality, of between 1.5 and 2 tonnes, will be collected and incinerated by the Kyauk Phyu municipal development committee, they have made it known.

"The town [of Kyauk Phyu] is made up of ten wards. Rubbish tax is only paid in some wards. Waste discarded in those wards that rubbish trucks don't frequent stains the dignity of the

town and uglifies it's appearance. Now, all the rubbish can be taken to the incinerator and set ablaze," said a government civil servant of the Kyauk Phyu development committee.

Although the town of Kyauk Phyu is recognized as Rakhine State's second capital, narrow streets and a lack of maintenance or restoration efforts has caused difficulties for rubbish collection trucks to navigate all parts of the town, resulting in some wards of the town being left out, contributing towards the unregulated disposal of waste, according to local residents.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## LUKOIL launches products in Myanmar

THE Russia-based LUKOIL oil company will begin selling lubricants in Myanmar this month. The lubricants will be imported via Dubai.

The LUKOIL company has appointed Dubai-based Commodity Connect, a sister company of Bay Line Shipping, as their official Myanmar sales agent, which will take care of the importation of the lubricants from Dubai.

"We've studied the automotive and industrial market here in Myanmar. Dependent upon the market, our brand could bring about between a 5 and 10 percent increase in sales to the market," said LUKOIL sales director Joginder Singh Dahiya.

LUKOIL lubricants for buses, motorcycles, diesel engines, hydraulics, seafaring engines, industrial machines, turbines and breaks will be distributed in Myanmar af-

ter the imports begin.

LUKOIL will apply a 15 percent discount to all purchases of LUKOIL products during the initial phase of distribution, according to the company's market distributor. LUKOIL is one of the world's largest vertically-integrated oil and gas companies. In 2013, its turnover was over US\$140 billion, and has 150,000 employees globally, with over 6,500 service stations, exploration and marketing activities in over 40 countries around the world.

Aside from LUKOIL, only one lubricant brand is officially available in Myanmar—the Thailand-based PTT company. However, according to the engine lubricants market, the market also includes a number of unofficial lubricants which make their way into the country across its land borders.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## China Three Gorges Corporation signed MoA for first wind power project in Myanmar

THE China Three Gorges Corporation signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the development of Chaungtha Wind Farm Project in Ayeyawady Region with Ministry of Electric Power of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw recently.

The MoA signing ceremony on 29th February was hosted by U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Electric Power, Mr Lu Guojun, Assistant President of China Three Gorges Corporation and Chairman of China Three Gorges International Corporation, and U Aye Hsan, Director General of Department of Electric Power Planning represented both parties and signed the MOA.

Representatives of the Chi-

nese Embassy of the Republic of Union of Myanmar and main senior officials of the Ministry of Electric Power of Myanmar attended and witnessed the signing ceremony.

The Chaungtha Wind Farm Project is the first wind power project promoted by the Myanmar government, which has been recommended by the Chinese and Myanmar governments to be the demonstration project for electric power cooperation between China and Myanmar.

The project is located in the Patheingyi area of Ayeyawady Region with the installed capacity of 30 MW for the first batch of development. The project will enrich energy organisation in Myanmar and

party solve the electricity demand of local residents.

In August of 2012 the China Three Gorges Corporation invested and signed a MoU for the development of wind power projects in Chin State, Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region and Yangon Region with the Ministry of Electric Power.

Thereafter the China Three Gorges Corporation completed preliminary planning report of wind power projects in the above four states and feasibility study report of Chaungtha Wind Farm Project. The China Three Gorges Corporation obtained prior development rights in the above four states, among which Chaungtha Win Farm Project is the first invested project.—*GNLM*

## Myanmar records trade deficit for four years in succession

A TRADE deficit has been reported in Myanmar for four years in succession as the value of exports fell more than the value of imports, according to an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

The country remains locked into a trade deficit this fiscal year, said Director U Win Myint of the ministry.

Myanmar has been running persistent trade deficits as imports have increased more than exports since 2012, said the director, adding that the country's trade deficit is expected to continue as it is a developing country.

Myanmar imported \$13670.436 worth of goods until

this January while only exporting \$8768.972, running a deficit of US\$4901.464million for the fiscal year 2015-2016.

"Necessary measures are being taken as strategy implementation in the export sector is needed for export promotion," said the director, pointing out the impact of volatility of export prices and declining exports from the country's private sector.

According to the ministry, there has been a drop of \$1.3 billion for the 2015-2016 FY compared to previous fiscal years in the export of agricultural output, mineral resources, manufactured goods and others.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

## Myanmar's Yangon Stock Exchange to start trading this month



A security stands at the Yangon Stock Exchange center during the opening ceremony of the Yangon Stock Exchange center in Yangon, Myanmar, on 9 December 2015. Myanmar's first-ever stock exchange began operation in Yangon on Wednesday with six local listed companies and Myanmar investors initially selected to act as players in the stock exchange market. PHOTO: XINHUA

YANGON — Securities trading on Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) may start in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of this month, said Maung Maung Thein, President of Myanmar's Securities and Exchange Commission (SECM) yesterday.

YSX was launched last December with 6 listed companies, 2 securities companies and 1 fund settlement bank, although it has not been ready for trading.

Over the last two months, SECM gave securities licenses for 3 more companies and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of this month, YSX will start

its trading process with 1 listed company which already prepared for that operation and 5 securities companies, Maung Maung Thein told Xinhua in a telephone interview. He made no disclosure on which listed company will start up the operation, adding that other listed companies will join the trading process, subject to their readiness.

YSX is in preparation for the process of ICT system for its trading platform, Maung Maung Thein revealed. KBZ Bank, Myanmar's biggest local bank, will

serve as the fund settlement bank. Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited voiced readiness to participate in the initial trading period of YSX, President of MTSH U Win Aung also told Xinhua. Under an agreement signed on 23 December 2014, YSX is owned by Tokyo Stock Exchange and Daiwa Securities Group by 49 per cent, while the state-owned Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB) 51 per cent. If YSX's presence is at larger stage, foreign investors will be allowed to invest, according to SECM.—Xinhua

## Bangladesh customs seizes 1000 bank cards amid recent ATM fraud

DHAKA — Customs officials at Bangladesh's main airport in capital Dhaka yesterday seized 1,000 bank cards from a luggage.

Senior Customs official Riyadhul Islam told journalists that the luggage was found on Wednesday at the airport's Cargo Village.

"We've searched the luggage and found 1,000 ATM cards," he said, adding that they are trying to ascertain where the luggage reaching the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka came from.

No one was arrested in connection with the seizure of the ATM cards.

The seizure of the cards from the unclaimed luggage came about a week after four people including a foreigner, who has been confirmed as a German national, allegedly involved in an ATM skimming scam have been arrested in Dhaka.

Some 36 subscribers have found their money was stolen from their bank accounts by

the skimming card gang since January.

Footage captured in the closed-circuit television cameras of ATM booths showed a man who appeared to be a white-skin foreigner attached devices to the ATM booth of a bank.

The ATM card fraud in Bangladesh have forced almost all the 56 banks to take precautionary measures, including temporarily shutting down transactions through the national payment switch (NPS), to safeguard the interests of clients.

Some 10 million cards are used in some 7,000 booths in Bangladesh.

Sources said the offenders have stolen information of some 1200 cards to withdraw money by creating duplicates.

The Bangladesh Bank has already instructed all banks to install anti-skimming devices, monitor the surveillance footage, and disallow third parties from repairing the machines.—Xinhua

### THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Thai junta's intimidation of academics reveals insecurity — rights group

BANGKOK — Thailand's junta is intensifying intimidation of academics who criticise the generals efforts to stay in power by sending army officers to their homes, a Thai rights group said yesterday.

Since the military seized power nearly two years ago, at least 77 academics have been harassed at home by officers advising them to adjust their critical mindset or ordered to attend camps for indoctrination, according to Thai Lawyers for Human Rights.

Those who attend the camps are usually released within a couple of days.

At least five academics have been forced into exile, said Poonsuk Poonsukcharoen, a member of the lawyers group, which provides legal aid and monitors rights violations in Thailand and is influential with international NGOs, the European Union and other foreign governments.

"With legitimacy stretching thin and achievements falling flat, the junta feels the pressure to silence critics to maintain its power," Poonsuk told Reuters.

The country's generals have struggled to revive Southeast Asia's second-largest economy after ousting a democratically elected government in 2014 to end months of political unrest that was damaging business.

There have been scattered protests against military rule, but they were quickly quelled by troops and police.

Some Thais welcomed the coup after months of anti-government street protests, but critics accuse the military of delaying a return to democracy by pushing back the date for elections.

Rights groups say the junta has used authoritarian methods to systematically repress rights and muzzle critics.

In a 24 February report, Amnesty International said Thailand had dismissed international calls not to silence dissent.

Last week, self-exiled prominent Thai academic Pavin Chachavalponpun took to social media to accuse the junta of intimidating his family in Thailand.

"To hunt me is already unacceptable. But for them to go

after my family is really too much," he told Reuters via Skype.

"This has to be the junta's most daring move yet," said Pavin who gives lectures abroad on the Thai monarchy, a sensitive subject that cannot openly be discussed in Thailand because of draconian royal insult laws.

Junta spokesman Colonel Winthai Suvaree denied that the military is pursuing academics with greater zeal and told Reuters he was unaware of any intimidation of Pavin's family.

Authorities issued an arrest warrant for Pavin in June 2014, one month after the coup, for ignoring a junta summons to attend a military 'attitude adjustment' session while abroad.

His passport was revoked the following month. The junta's pursuit of academics highlights its growing insecurity, said Kan Yuenyong, an analyst at Siam Intelligence Unit think-tank. "The military sees academics as a mouthpiece whose messages carry big significance," said Kan. "Their criticism can do a lot to undermine the junta's legitimacy." —Reuters

## India gives priority to action against terror over talks with Pakistan

NEW DELHI — Toughening its stand, India made it clear yesterday that it would give always priority to action against terror over talks with Pakistan.

"In the aftermath of a terror attack, if you ask me what will you give priority to, the terror attack or a dialogue, I think the answer is obvious," said Indian Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar.

The Foreign Secretary's remarks came in the wake of Pakistan indicating that it might hand over the Pathankot air base terror attacks mastermind, Jaish-e-Mohammed militant outfit chief Masood Azhar, to India only after a thorough probe by Islamabad. "First of all, we have to investigate ourselves and (find out) what it is... if he (Masood) does something (wrong) we would move against (him)," Sartaj Aziz, the Foreign Affairs Advisor to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, had said Tuesday.

In fact, the Foreign Secretary-level talks between the two countries have been in a limbo since the terror attacks on the Indian Air Force base in January.—Xinhua

# North Korea slams UN Human Rights Council, threatens boycott

GENEVA — North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong on Tuesday blasted the UN Human Rights Council for increasingly politicizing the country's rights record, threatening to boycott sessions and defy resolutions.

In a speech delivered at the council's regular session, Ri said that "widespread politicization, selectivity and double standards" had worsened in the body since he addressed the body last year.

While North Korea was criticised by the council's Commission of Inquiry for "systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations" in a report, the foreign minister said the country is guilty of "no such deplorable" ongoing infringements as gun-related violence claiming many lives each year in the United States.

"There are no extra large-scale crimes against humanity and heinous human rights



North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong (C) attending a regional security forum of ASEAN ministers in Kuala Lumpur. Ri blasted the UN Human Rights Council at its regular session on 1 March 2016 for increasingly politicizing North Korea's rights record, threatening to boycott sessions and defy resolutions.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

violations such as Japan has committed, including by massacring millions of innocent civilians during World War II," he added.

He slammed what he called the council's double standards, saying that those violations by other countries have neither been given attention nor addressed, while North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, has been severely criticised.

"We shall no longer participate in international sessions singling out the human rights situation of the DPRK for mere political attack," Ri said, adding that resolutions to be adopted against the country will be a proof of partiality.

"Whether or not such resolutions are to be put to a vote will be none of our business and we will never, ever be bound by them," he said. —Kyodo News

## Warrantless GPS tracking of suspects by police not illegal: court

OSAKA — Police did not break the law by installing GPS tracking devices in the cars of suspected criminals without obtaining warrants, the Osaka High Court said yesterday.

There was "no major illegality" in the police action, the appeals court said as it reversed an Osaka District Court judgment last July that said the investigation was "illegal," and upheld a sentence of five and a half years in prison for a 44-year-old man.

The man from Osaka Prefecture was arrested in December 2013 on suspicion of stealing cars and other items mainly in the Kansai region in western Japan between 2012 and 2013, according to the ruling.

The defendant initially pleaded guilty but later appealed on the grounds that the gathering of evidence without a warrant was illegal. The lower court ex-

cluded from evidence the information gathered in the warrantless investigation. According to hearings in the lower court, five prefectural police departments — Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nagasaki and Kumamoto — installed GPS devices in 19 cars, including the defendant's, for about half a year for investigation purposes without obtaining warrants.

In the appeal trial, lawyers for the defendant argued that "the level of illegality was extremely high because investigation through GPS should not be carried out without legislation." Japan's Criminal Procedure Law has no provisions directly referring to GPS operations.

Prosecutors, meanwhile, insisted warrants were not needed as GPS terminals simply provided information that was available to the public. —Kyodo News

## Indian left-wing Naxalite rebels kill 10 villagers for informing police

NEW DELHI — Indian police claimed yesterday that the left-wing Naxalite rebels have killed at least 10 villagers in the central state of Chhattisgarh in the last couple of days.

"The rebels have killed 10 villagers in the Abhujmad area in the state's Narayanpur district, suspecting them to be police informers," a senior police official said, on condition of anonymity.

A large number of securi-

ty forces have been rushed to the area to prevent any kind of massacre by the left-wing rebels, he said.

The security forces have also been asked to be alert while venturing into the forested areas of the district as the Naxalites could set up traps to kill them, the official said.

Local residents often become victims of Naxalite terror, apart from security forces who are the real targets of the rebels. —Xinhua

## One Chinese worker killed in Laos 'militant' attack — Xinhua

BEIJING — One Chinese national was killed and three wounded in a "militant" attack in Laos, state media said yesterday, in what was at least the second confirmed attack in the country involving Chinese workers this year.

China's consulate in Luang Prabang province confirmed Tuesday's attack, "which was aimed at a shed of a Chinese-invested company", the official Xinhua news agency said.

The wounded workers were sent to a hospital and regional security forces were "sent to wipe

out the militants", Xinhua said.

The report did not give further details and it was unclear if the Chinese workers were intentionally targeted.

Xinhua said another attack occurred around the same time in the region targeting a bus and a pickup truck in which at least five people from Laos were injured.

In late January, two Chinese nationals were killed and another wounded in a suspected bomb blast in Laos. That incident occurred in the remote Xaysomboun region, which has been plagued

by sporadic conflict between the government and ethnic Hmong militants for years. It's not uncommon for bandits to operate in the country's countryside. Chinese workers have increasingly come under attack as China's firms expand operations abroad, often in politically unstable places.

In November, three executives from a Chinese state-run railway firm were killed when militants attacked a hotel in Mali, which highlighted China's limited means to respond to threats abroad. —Reuters

## Philippine officials say China blocking access to disputed South China Sea atoll

MANILA — China has stationed several ships near a disputed atoll in the South China Sea, preventing Filipino fishermen from accessing traditional fishing grounds and raising tensions in the volatile region, Philippine officials said yesterday.

China had deployed up to seven ships to Quirino Atoll, also known as Jackson Atoll, said Eugenio Bito-onon Jr, the mayor of nearby Pagasa Island in the Spratly Islands. The Spratlys are the most contested archipelago in the South China Sea, a resource-rich region and critical shipping lane linking North Asia to Europe, South Asia and the Middle East.

"This is very alarming, Quirino is on our path when we travel from Palawan to Pagasa. It is halfway and we normally stop there to rest," Bito-onon Jr told Reuters.

"I feel something different. The Chinese are trying to choke us

by putting an imaginary checkpoint there. It is a clear violation of our right to travel, impeding freedom of navigation," he said.

Fishermen told the mayor one Filipino boat had run aground in the area and was still there but was not being harassed by the Chinese vessels. The Philippine military said it was trying to verify the presence of Chinese ships near Jackson Atoll, where a Chinese warship allegedly fired warning shots at Filipino fishermen in 2011.

"We know there are Chinese ships moving around the Spratly area," spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla told Reuters. "There are also ships around Second Thomas Shoal, so we want to make sure if the presence is permanent." Second Thomas Shoal is where the Philippine navy has been occupying and reinforcing a rusting ship that it ran aground in 1999 to bolster its claims to the disputed

reef. In Beijing, a foreign ministry spokesman said China had sent vessels to Jackson Atoll to tow the grounded ship and that they had since left the surrounding waters.

A military source from Palawan said a surveillance plane had seen four to five ships in the vicinity of Jackson Atoll last week. The source could not say if the ships were passing through or permanently stationed there because the area is close to Mischief Reef, where China is building an artificial island.

"There are no indications China will build structures or develop it into an island," said the source, who was not authorised to speak to the media about the South China Sea. *The Philippines Star* newspaper, which earlier reported the story, quoted an unidentified fisherman as saying Chinese boats chased them away when they tried to enter the area last week. —Reuters

## OPINION

## Don't miss the point

Kyaw Thura

**A**FTER half a decade of piecemeal progress, many an outstanding issue remains to be solved amid mounting sporadic clashes between ethnic armed groups. As is known to all, our country is just emerging from the painful days of international sanctions imposed upon the junta. At this crucial juncture, all the decision makers and the people must be smart enough to be alert to the problem of the

disintegration of national sovereign power.

As a welcome diversion, the recent unexpected news filled the whole country with eager anticipation. The Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) announced on Tuesday that it preponed the presidential nominations to 10 March, a week earlier than the previous date set on 17 March. It is safe to interpret the election outcome as a litmus test of the level of public support for the National League for Democracy, which secured over 60% of parliamentary seats in the country's historic elections on 8 November last year.

On mature reflection, the time is ripe enough for the government, the parliament, the defense services and the people to open a new chapter in the country's history by enhancing domestic abilities and grasping international opportunities. The problem facing us all today is not about

who should rule the country but who can best serve the interests of the people and the country as a whole. A reasonable compromise is the key to a successful negotiation. After all, a compromise solution to the choice of the supreme leader is the pivot of national development.

## Write for us

*We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [khinmaungaye@hotmail@gmail.com](mailto:khinmaungaye@hotmail@gmail.com) with your name and title.*

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

## The Nordic countries unite in Myanmar

**T**HE four Nordic countries have been working under the same roof in Yangon since 2012. What started as a practical arrangement has now developed into an innovative pilot project for Nordic cooperation globally. In order to celebrate the strong collaboration between the Nordic countries in Myanmar, and the move to our new premises, an Open House event will be held at the Nordic House on 3 March.

While Nordic embassies are physically located together in other countries such as Berlin, Dhaka and Kabul, the Nordic House in Yangon represents the most ambitious Nordic cooperation so far. In Yangon, we not only share common office space, but also common administration. This allows us to collaborate closely and to offer a comprehensive platform of support to the people of Myanmar.

The Nordic countries have for many years had a close collaboration, with the view to maintain peace and strengthen integration in the Nordic region. A visible example of this collaboration is the establishment in 1971 of the Nordic Council of Ministers, a regional intergovernmental organisation with this specific purpose.

What we like to refer to as the "Nordic model" is a society that is deeply rooted in democracy and respect for human rights. That hu-

man rights are engrained in the social and political fabric of the Nordic societies is also one of the main reasons behind our strong democratic systems and prosperity.

More specifically, the Nordic model is built on a tradition characterised by the rule of law, active civic movements and strong civil society organisations, freedom of expression, equality, and solidarity. As well-established democracies, we share a tradition of involving our grassroots and of fostering a strong culture of social engagement, participation, accountability and transparency when it comes to political decision-making.

Importantly, the Nordic countries are built on strong welfare systems and on clean and transparent governments. This has been confirmed in various global rankings, such as Transparency International's Anticorruption Index.

The Nordic support to the people of Myanmar dates back several decades, most notably in our support to civil society and to democratization efforts. We share the belief that peace and reconciliation are essential prerequisites for development and prosperity. Therefore we are strongly committed to support all stakeholders in the on-going peace process. A key issue in this regard will be that the different needs and interests of women and girls, men and boys



are taken into account in the peace process, and that women are able to participate to a greater extent and on equal terms.

Our support to Myanmar is directed to many areas, including poverty reduction, improved access to education and health, strengthening the civil society and independent media, enhancing environmental sustainability as well as promoting job creation. And, as gender equality is a central and crosscutting feature in all four countries' support to Myanmar, we will continue to promote this agenda in all spheres of our relations together with our Myanmar partners.

Nordic companies have in recent years established a signifi-

cant presence in Myanmar, even taking on leading roles in sectors such as telecommunication, energy, textiles, beverage and food products, and shipping.

These businesses are vital in ensuring long-term, sustainable poverty eradication through creating value and broadly based wealth, tax revenues and productive jobs. Inherent in this role is also the responsibility of implementing sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility, principles that form a common denominator for the Nordic business community.

The Nordic countries look forward to work closely together with all our partners in Myanmar in supporting the on-going re-

form and democratization process in the country. We wish to see Myanmar succeed in becoming a peaceful and democratic society with equitable, sustainable and inclusive growth that promotes human rights for all people.

## Written by:

*H.E. Peter Lysholt Hansen, Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar*

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## The History of the Sandaw Shin Pagoda Situated in Pauk Taw Township of Rakhine State

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

The Sandaw Shin Pagoda stands gracefully on a low hill named 'Nilapabbata' at the southernmost edge of Myengu Island, one of Cheduba Islands, off the Rakhine coast in Pauk Taw Township. As the hill rises sheer from the sea-beach, the pagoda terrace at its top overlooks the vast expanse of the blue water extending as far in all directions as the eyes can reach. Therefore, the pilgrims who enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the sea from the pagoda will

surely feel a strange sense of vastness and openness of the limitless sky and sea. To reach the pagoda, the people from Sittway will first have to take a three-hour boat-ride in crossing the mouth of the Kalandan River dotted with some islets wooded with groves of greenery coconut palms, studied with stratified rocks and fringed with silvery sands, then to land at the Soe Mee Kyi Port on the northern side of the island and finally to take a two-mile mountain-crossing to the hill topped with the pagoda, feasting their

eyes upon the countrified scenery on the way.

This pagoda is rife with legendary accounts of the enshrinement of the Buddha's hair relics. One legendary account claims that, in 123rd year of the Maha Era, at the mental invitation of king Candasuriya, the then ruler of Dhannavati, the Buddha, accompanied by his 500 disciples, journeyed to Rakhine from Majjhimadesa through the sky in a celestial chariot decorated with the tiered-roof created by the Sakka. The Buddha first took a

stand at the top of the Selagiri Mountain on the bank of the Gacchapanadi which is today called 'Kalandan' River. While thus standing on the mountain, he, pointing towards the direction where the Myengu Island is, prophesied thus, 'I will proceed to Dvaravati (Thandwe) from this Dhannavati. While on the way there, I will come down to make a brief stop at the top of the Nilapabbata Mountain. Then I will have a pagoda built and two hair relics of mine enshrined in it. The pagoda will subsequently come

to be known as the Sandaw Shin Pagoda..."

After the casting of the Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image at the plea of King Candasuriya for the public devotion on his behalf, the Buddha, as had prophesied, continued on his journey to Dvaravati. When he came to the mouth of the Gacchapanadi where it empties into the ocean, the surface of the ocean became extraordinarily rough with big waves. Due to this strange event, eight celestial serpents (Nagas)

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## Falling prices halt watermelon exports to China



Watermelons . PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU (MDY)

WATERMELON growers on alluvial lands on the Ayeyawady river, TadaOo Township, Meikhtila plains, and Tatkon Township in Mandalay Region have halted the export of watermelons to China because of the Chinese RMB (Renminbi) falling in value.

After harvesting the Monsoon paddy, farmers begin to grow the watermelons around mid-November so they can sell the fruits in January.

Farmers invest about K1 million per acre for hybrid watermelon seeds, furrow ploughing, irrigation and labour charges.

After the Chinese Lunar New Year in the second week of February, as a result of declining in demand from China and the falling price of the fruit, farmers halted watermelon exports.

The farmers have sold their produce on stalls along the Yangon-Mandalay highway for between K500 and K1500.—*Maung Pyi Thu (MDy)*

## The History of the Sandaw Shin Pagoda Situated in Pauk Taw Township of Rakhine State

>> From page 8

headed by Jeyyasena Naga knew about the arrival of the Buddha at the Nilapabbata Mountain. He invited the Buddha and his followers for alms-meal. After partaking of the meal, the Buddha went down the mountain and left his foot-prints (padas) on a rock at its base. At that instant, the earth quivered vehemently and extremely big waves rose high in the ocean. Then the Buddha presented his two hair relics to the Jeyyasena Naga and then went on with his itinerary southwards. The celestial serpents built a small stone stupa with the enshrinement of the hair relics. At the news of Buddha's presenting the hair relics to celestial serpents, King Candasuriya went down pompously to the Myengu Island in his royal barge in full regalia. When the Jeyyasena Naga heard of his coming, he caused the ocean-surface and the wind to be calm. When the king found the stupa of Nagas too small, he enlarged it in the form of his crown with the assistance of many sculptors. Then he celebrated a pagoda festival on a grand scale and made a solemn wish, paying obeisance to the pagoda. Lo! The newly enlarged pagoda rose to the eight-toddy-palm height into the air, emitting dazzling rays continuously in different directions. All the audience present at the pagoda festival could not help but pay homage to the pagoda in awe and adoration.

Another legendary account relates that when Tapussa and Bhalika of Ramannadesa returned from Majjhimadesa, bringing with them eight hair relics of the Buddha, they went down the Damoeda River and the Bhugli River and crossed the ocean. When they arrived at the Ajjhata town in Jetthadipa Island (Cheduba Island), they anchored near the beach for the night. The Myosa (the officer of the town in fief), having known that they brought with them the Buddha's hair relics, claimed two relics from them as duty on their

goods. After the Myosa had venerated them for twenty years, he handed them over to King Candasuriya when the Buddha arrived in Dhannavati for casting the Maha Myatmuni Image. The king had the Sandaw Shin Pagoda built and the two hair relics deposited only then.

Since its construction, the Sandaw Shin Pagoda had been renovated five times- by King Candasuriya in Dhannavati Period, King Maha Suriya Candra in Vesali Period, Soe Mee Kyi, Chief Queen of King Min Phalaung in Mrauk Oo Period, Dei Wungyi Aung Kyaw Shee in 1834 and U Maung Tha Zan in 1897 respectively. Thus the island became dotted with more religious edifices with passage of time. The present height of his pagoda is 42 cubits and its circumference at the base 148 cubits.

Myengu Island is associated with a peculiar belief claiming that the Sandaw Shin Gyun Shin-ma (Female Guardian Spirit of the Sandaw Shin Island) does not like the pilgrims to eat meat, drink alcohol and use harsh speech on the island. If they happen to do so, they will face some pieces of misfortune- shipwrecks, violent deaths, etc on their return journeys. Therefore, everyone practises vegetarianism during the pilgrimage on this island.

The Sandaw Shin Pagoda Festival is held annually for five days, starting from the 11th waxing day of Nattaw up to the full-moon day. During the festive days, the whole island is packed not only with the pilgrims from the whole Rakhine State but some foreign tourists also. As the number of the pilgrims increases from year to year, it has today reached over 300,000 each year. The fund-raising Committee (Yangon) for the Sandaw Shin Pagoda was founded in October 2008 to renovate it and to manage the general affairs during the festive days.

As the rhyme "...Thazin

pankhaing tamyaing myaing, Rakhine mhar Phayabaung(...Royal orchid in bundles blossom abundantly... This is the total number of pagodas in Rakhine..)" runs, Rakhine is teeming with pagodas of different sizes and shapes belonging to various periods. In the absence of preservation and renovation of the ancient pagodas, most of them have fallen into ruins and oblivion amongst the dense forests. But, today, due to multi-faceted border area development projects implemented by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, some ancient pagodas and other religious edifices have been re-discovered, exposed and renovated, exhibiting a wide array of their exquisite artistic workmanship of different Rakhine periods. Therefore, I as a Rakhine national would like to invite my dear readers to the Sandaw Shin Pagoda (whose pagoda festival is to be held within a few days to come) and other ancient Rakhine pagodas and temples. I am sure that your pilgrimage to Rakhine will offer you a chance to enjoy the breath-taking beauty of the seascapes and to study the age-long Theravada Rakhine tradition which has been flourishing undiminished and undisturbed in the crescent land of Rakhine since yore.

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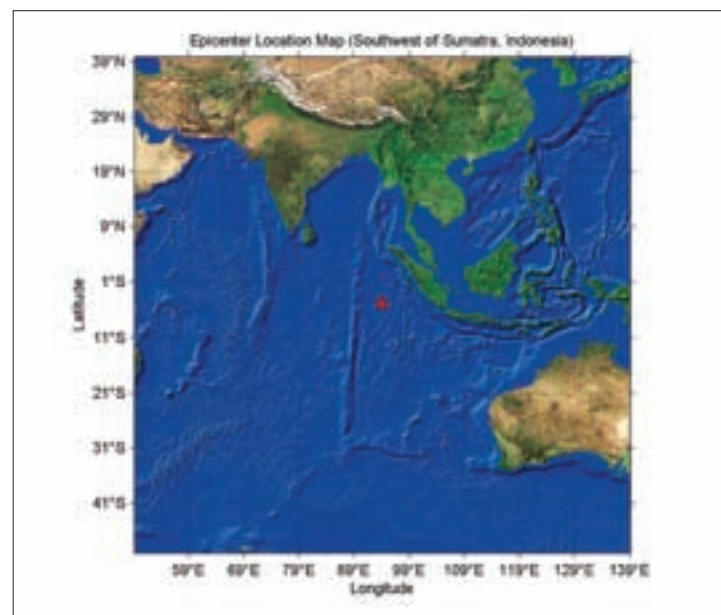
## Weather Bureau keeps monitoring Tsunami as earthquake hits Indonesia

FOLLOWING a massive earthquake in Indonesia, Myanmar Earthquake Committee has alerted itself on possible Tsunami waves in coastal areas of Myanmar.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department is closely working together with meteorological bureaus of Indonesia and Australia, keeping on watch the situation in order to issue warn-

ings timely said an official of the department to the Myanmar News Agency yesterday.

A massive quake struck on Wednesday off the Indonesian island of Sumatra, a region devastated by the 2004 Indian Ocean quake and tsunami, but initial fears of another region-wide disaster faded as tsunami warnings were canceled.—*Myanmar News Agency*



## Bicycle shops in Rakhine State close up shop as sales dwindle

DWINDLING sales of bicycle shops in Rakhine State, which sell a variety of foreign cycles from countries such as China, Japan and Thailand, has forced some to close up shop for good, according to bicycle shops owners in the region.

The proliferation of people in Rakhine State's urban centres using cars and three-wheeled motor vehicles, combined with abounding numbers of unlicensed motorbikes, forced over twenty bicycle shops in five towns across the State, including Sittwe and Kyauk Phyu, to shut down their businesses for lack of sales.

"There used to be over twenty bicycle shops in Sittwe back in 2010. One was able to purchase a cycle for just K40,000 because of few sales, but a lack of buyers these days hasn't allowed the bicycle selling business to be financially viable anymore. As such, those bicycle shops have either shut up shop or changed their type of business. Only about five cycle shops remain today," said U Hla Aung, a bicycle shopkeeper from Sittwe.

A Chinese, Japan or Thai

produced bicycle in the Rakhine State bicycle market fetch in price between K80,000-K120,000 dependent on model, while used models go for approximately K60,000-K80,000. However, last year saw the price of some cycles drop as low as K40,000, according to bicycle shops.

"It not a good situation for the bike world in the urban landscape anymore. Apart for school children, people aren't really buying bicycles. We've got over a hundred cycles at our place that we can't move. We're having to go out into the countryside to try and sell of our remaining cycles in order to make back our initial investment," said U Khin Maung Ri, a bicycle shopkeeper from Kyauk Phyu.

Bicycle shopkeepers often lament the fact that in the years before the turn of the new millennium, those who drove motorcycles in the rural areas outside of Rakhine State's main urban centres were limited to the heads of some government departments and businessmen, the number of motorcycles amounting to less than a hundred.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

# Trump, Clinton capture key wins on US Super Tuesday



A combination photo shows Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump (L) in Palm Beach, Florida and Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton (R) in Miami, Florida at their respective Super Tuesday primaries campaign events on 1 March 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MIAMI — Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton rolled up a series of wins on Tuesday, as the two presidential front-runners took a step toward capturing their parties' nominations on the 2016 campaign's biggest day of state-by-state primary contests.

Trump and Clinton turned their sights on each other after their Super Tuesday wins, with Trump promising to "go after" Clinton and the former secretary of state decrying what she called Trump's divisive rhetoric.

US networks projected Trump won six and Clinton seven states on Super Tuesday, when 12 states were voting. Trump won Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Vermont and Virginia, while Clinton won Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

Trump's rival Ted Cruz, a US senator from Texas, won his home state and neighbouring Oklahoma, bolstering his argument he had the best chance to stop the controversial Trump. US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, favourite of the Republican establishment, was projected the

winner in Minnesota, his first victory.

Clinton's rival Bernie Sanders, a democratic socialist US senator from Vermont, also won his home state along with Colorado, Minnesota and Oklahoma and vowed to pursue the battle for the nomination in the 35 states that had yet to vote.

Super Tuesday was the biggest single day of state-by-state contests to select party nominees for the 8 November election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama.

Opinion polls heading into the voting had shown Trump leading in most of the 11 Republican contests up for grabs, raising the possibility of a big night that would intensify worries among Republican leaders who fear the billionaire could inflict long-term damage on the party.

"I am a unifier," Trump told reporters in Palm Beach, Florida, dismissing concerns that his nomination would rip apart the party. "Once we get all this finished, I'm going after one person - Hillary Clinton."

The networks had yet to project a winner for Republicans in Alaska.

Clinton had Trump on her mind in her victory speech, although she never mentioned him by name.

"The stakes in this election have never been higher and the rhetoric we're hearing on the other side has never been lower," Clinton, 68, told supporters in Miami. "Trying to divide America between us and them is wrong, and we're not going to let it work."

Sanders won his home state of Vermont and Oklahoma, two of five states he was targeting for victory on Tuesday. He lost to Clinton in Massachusetts, another state he was hoping to win.

Sanders thanked cheering supporters in his hometown of Burlington, Vermont, and assailed the Republican front-runner.

"We are not going to let the Donald Trumps of the world divide us," said Sanders, 74, adding that he expected to pile up "hundreds" of convention delegates in voting on Tuesday.

Trump, 69, has worried many in the Republican establishment with proposals such as building a wall along the US southern border with Mexico, deporting 11 million illegal immigrants and slapping a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country.

Even as Trump advances, many Republican Party leaders do not support him and worry that he would be easily defeated in November if Clinton becomes the Democratic nominee.

Cruz told supporters at his victory party in Texas that Trump was a "Washington dealmaker, profane and vulgar, who has a lifelong pattern of using government power for personal gain."

The crossfire between Trump and establishment Republicans threatened to tear the party apart at a time when it will need to generate momentum behind a prospective nominee.—Reuters

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### China urges United States to not sensationalise South China Sea dispute

BEIJING — China's Foreign Ministry urged the United States yesterday not to sensationalize the South China Sea dispute after US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said Beijing's actions there would have consequences.

Carter on Tuesday warned China against "aggressive" actions in the South China Sea region, including the placement of surface-to-air missiles on a disputed island. —Reuters

### Rebic: 1,000 migrants stranded in Serbia

BELGRADE — Around 1,000 migrants are currently stranded in Serbia, with the same number of them waiting at the Serbia-Macedonia border to enter our country, Acting Police Director Vladimir Rebic said on Tuesday.

After an operational meeting of police directors and border police chiefs of Serbia, the Netherlands, Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia, Rebic told reporters that around 7,000 migrants were waiting at the Greece-Macedonia border, with many more in Greece heading to Western Europe.

Noting that one of the aims of Tuesday's meeting, in which there were no representatives of Greece and Germany, was to ensure a flow that would ease the pressure on the Greece-Macedonia border, Rebic underscored Serbia would not set up any fences, but rather protect the border in line with the existing regulations.—Tanjug

### Halted Kansai Electric reactor in cold shutdown for safety probe

FUKUI — Kansai Electric Power Co. has put a nuclear reactor at its Takahama plant in a state of cold shutdown to investigate why the automatic suspension of the unit was triggered earlier this week, the utility said yesterday.

The No. 4 reactor at the nuclear power plant in Fukui Prefecture on the Sea of Japan shut down automatically Monday, just three days after coming back online under Japan's stricter safety regulations following the 2011 Fukushima meltdowns.

An electrical current exceeding a preset level may have been detected by a monitoring device around a transformer of the reactor, triggering a safety mechanism upon the start of power generation, the company said Tuesday.—Kyodo News

### Two Palestinian teens shot dead after attacking Israeli in W.Bank

JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinian teens who had attacked an Israeli settler at his home in the occupied West Bank yesterday, the military said, as a wave of heightened violence entered its sixth month.

"There were two young guys, teenagers, terrorists, at my door, dressed in dark clothes and holding wooden clubs," the Israeli man, Roe Harel, from the Eli settlement near the Palestinian city of Nablus, told Army Radio.

He said the two began beating him before he managed to push them out of the house, and he also found a knife at the door.

Soldiers who rushed to the scene shot the two Palestinians, a military spokeswoman said. "Upon the significant threat to the people of the community, forces shot the attackers, resulting in their death," the military said in a statement.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said the two were both 17, from the adjacent village of Qaryout.—Reuters

## President Nikolic opens new athletics hall

BELGRADE — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic opened a newly-built athletics hall in Belgrade on Tuesday ahead of the first international indoor meet Serbia Open, describing it as a historic moment for our athletes and our country.

"There is no one like our athletes. They have won medals with our flag, singing our anthem, while in their own country they did not even have an athletics hall, not even for trainings," the president said.

It took six years to build this sports hall, he said, noting that it complies with all the standards of the International Association of Athletics Federations.

The opening ceremony brought together Minister of Sport Vanja Udovicic, President of the European Athletic Association Svein Arne Hansen, President of the Athletics Federation of Serbia Veselin Jevrosimovic, Mayor of Belgrade Sinisa Mali and tennis player Novak Djokovic.—Tanjug



Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic. PHOTO: TANJUG

# Osama called for Americans to rise up over climate change

WASHINGTON — Osama bin Laden wrote a letter calling on the American people to help President Barack Obama fight “catastrophic” climate change and “save humanity”, in the latest evidence of his worries about environmental issues, newly released documents show.

The letter was among materials that were seized in the 2 May, 2011, US raid on bin Laden’s hideout in Pakistan that killed the al Qaeda chief and which were released on Tuesday by the Obama administration.

The undated, unsigned letter “to the American people,” which US intelligence officials attributed to bin Laden, appeared to have been written shortly after Obama began his first term in 2009, based on the letter’s references to events.

Bin Laden’s preoccupation

with climate change also emerged as a theme in the first tranche of documents from the raid that was declassified in May 2015, as well as in an audio recording released via the al Jazeera network in January 2010.

In the rambling letter made public Tuesday, bin Laden blamed the 2007-8 US financial crisis on corporate control of capital and corporate lobbyists, and the US-led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He called on Americans to launch “a great revolution for freedom” to liberate the US president from those influences.

That would enable Obama to make “a rational decision to save humanity from the harmful gases that threaten its destiny,” bin Laden continued.

In a separate letter, bin Lad-

en urged a close aide to launch a media campaign for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 11 September, 2001, attacks that included a call for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Bin Laden contended that the world would be better off fighting climate change than waging what he claimed was a war against Islam.

“...the world should put its efforts into attempting to reduce the release of gases,” said the undated, unsigned letter to someone identified as Shaykh Mahmud that US intelligence officials said they believed was written by bin Laden.

“This is a struggle between two of the largest cultures on Earth, and it is in the shadow of catastrophic climate conditions.”—Reuters



A scan of a document written by Osama bin Laden (L) and translated into English (R) is shown in this image from the office of the director of national intelligence. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Afghan forces kill Indian consulate suicide attackers

JALALABAD — Afghan security forces killed yesterday a team of suicide bombers who targeted the Indian consulate in the eastern city of Jalalabad, following an attack in which at least six people were wounded, officials said.

The incident, coming just days after dozens of people were killed or wounded in suicide attacks in the capital, Kabul, and the eastern province of Kunar, casts doubt on efforts to revive a stalled peace process with the Taliban.

A bomb in a car driven by one of the attackers was detonated near the Indian consulate, shattering doors and windows and destroying at least eight cars as explosions and gunfire rocked the area, witnesses said.

Security forces in armoured

vehicles were seen moving to the scene, while civilians fled.

But the four attackers were killed before being able to enter the consulate compound, said At-tahullah Khugyani, a spokesman for the governor of Nangarhar Province.

“Their target was the Indian consulate, but our forces shot and killed them all before they reached their target,” he said.

The head of the public health department in Nangarhar, Najibullah Kamawal, said at least six people had been wounded in the attack.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, which followed a suicide attack on the nearby Pakistani consulate in January.

That attack was claimed by Islamic State, which has a growing presence in Nangarhar, the province of which Jalalabad is the capital.

In January, India’s consulate in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif was also attacked by insurgents.—Reuters



Afghan policemen take position during gunfire near the Indian consulate in Jalalabad, Afghanistan on 2 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Gulf Arab states label Hezbollah a terrorist organisation

DUBAI — The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council has designated Hezbollah a terrorist organisation, it said yesterday, ratcheting up pressure on the Iran-allied group that wields influence in Lebanon and plays a key role in the Syrian crisis.

Gulf Arab states imposed sanctions on Hezbollah members in 2013 in retaliation for the group’s intervention in Syria’s civil war in support of President Bashar al-Assad. And individual GCC countries — including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain — have labelled the group terrorists.

But the GCC Secretary-Gen-

eral, Abdullatif al-Zayani, in a statement issued in Riyadh, said that the GCC had now taken a collective decision on the group.

“As the militia continues its terrorist practices, the GCC states have decided to label it a terrorist organisation and will take the necessary measures to implement its decision in this regard based on anti-terrorism laws applied in the GCC and similar international laws,” the statement quoted Zayani as saying.

The decision came one day after a speech by Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah that Saudi Arabia had pushed Lebanon into a new phase of political

conflict by announcing it was suspending an aid package to the Lebanese army.

Nasrallah also stepped up criticism of Saudi Arabia, accusing it of directing car bombings in Lebanon, an arena for sectarian-tinged Iranian-Saudi rivalry that is escalating across the Middle East.

For his part, Zayani accused Hezbollah of committing hostile acts against GCC states, including recruiting young men to carry out “terrorist attacks, smuggling weapons and explosives, stirring up sedition and incitement to chaos and violence”.

Sunni-led Saudi Arabia, the

biggest member of the GCC, wields considerable influence in Lebanon through its backing for Sunni politician Saad al-Hariri, a former prime minister who said on Tuesday that “riots, road blocking and tyre burning” were attempts to provoke “chaos and discord”. “We should not be dragged to any attempt of this sort,” he said.

Tension between Hezbollah and Hariri spilled into armed conflict as recently as 2008, when a political dispute fuelled by Saudi-Iranian rivalry triggered a brief civil war. Nasrallah said there would be no repeat of that conflict.—Reuters

## Australia softens sanctions against Iran

SYDNEY — Australia followed major world powers by lifting sanctions on Iran yesterday, after confirmation from the United Nations that Tehran had taken steps required to curb its disputed nuclear programme.

Under changes announced by the Australian government, businesses will no longer need to seek approval for transactions of more than A\$20,000 (\$14,436) involving entities from Iran.

While Australia has suspended some of the sanctions imposed on Iran autonomously in 2008 because of the Islamic Republic’s nuclear programme, some non-nuclear sanctions remain in place, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said in a statement.

Sanctions still in force against Iran include restrictions on the transfer of proliferation sensitive goods, the arms and ballistic missiles embargoes and sanctions against some designated persons and entities. Australia’s anti-money laundering watchdog AUS-TRAC expects reporting entities to scrutinise all payments that are routed via third-party countries to Iran or North Korea, which is also subject to sanctions due to its nuclear programme.

AUSTRAC says all transactions to those two countries should be considered as “high risk.”

Iran has always denied its nuclear programme was aimed at obtaining an atomic bomb.

The United States and other countries formally lifted banking, steel, shipping and other sanctions on Iran in January, giving one of the world’s major oil producers access to international markets that it had been virtually shut out of for the past five years.—Reuters



Riders attend a spring horse racing event in Tsagaan Khutul in Mongolia, on 28 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Aid agencies brace for devastating Mongolian 'dzud' this winter

ULAANBAATAR — Global aid agencies are responding to a call for assistance by Mongolia as harsh winter weather raises fears for the safety and livelihoods of the country's traditional pastoralists, who have already been hit hard by a drought last year.

Dry weather has scorched most of Mongolia's wheat crop and now mass animal deaths due to a freezing winter, locally known as "dzud", are threatening more pain for the country, where farming accounts for about 13 per cent of the economy. The last dzud in 2009-2010 killed 9.7 million of the country's livestock, according to the National Emergency Agency of Mongolia.

While the government

has not yet declared the current winter a natural disaster, it has warned the situation could get worse. So far, a drop in temperatures to minus 55 Celsius (minus 67 Fahrenheit) has killed nearly 200,000 livestock.

The weather and grazing conditions are already worse than they were in the previous dzud, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said in a statement, citing the Mongolian Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

"Usually for the dzud, the most devastation is observed in March, April and May," Garid Enkhjin, national programme coordinator for the IFRC in Mongolia, told Reuters.

The IFRC said it has

launched an emergency appeal for 834,000 Swiss Francs (\$835,000) to assist 25,500 Mongolian herders, who are at risk of losing their livestock and livelihoods due to the extreme winter.

Currently, 80 per cent of Mongolia is under snow, making it difficult for nomadic families to travel along centuries-old pasture routes to find food for their livestock. Aggravating the situation is the fact that herders can live up to 50 kms (31 miles) from urban settlements and many are without cars.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has said it plans to provide trucks to get aid to families' doorsteps at some of the most-difficult-

to-reach areas.

"We want to relieve the burden of that last mile of distance to the most affected," Ben Hemingway, USAID's regional adviser, said on phone from Bangkok.

In the worst affected districts, sheep and other livestock have started dying. Many herders are trying to sell their animals while they are still alive, leading to an oversupply of livestock that has driven down market prices.

Although the death toll for animals so far is far less than in 2009, "the impact on the people is more or less the same", said Enkhjin. "Livelihoods will be impacted immediately and have devastating effects."—Reuters

## Apple lawyer, FBI director face off in Congress on iPhone encryption

WASHINGTON — FBI Director James Comey told a congressional panel on Tuesday that a final court ruling forcing Apple Inc (AAPL.O) to give the FBI data from an iPhone used by one of the San Bernardino shooters would be "potentially precedential" in other cases where the agency might request similar cooperation from technology companies.

The remarks were a slight change to Comey's statement last week that ordering Apple to unlock the

phone was "unlikely to be a trailblazer" for setting a precedent for other cases.

Tuesday's testimony from Comey and remarks before the same US House Judiciary Committee by Apple's general counsel, Bruce Sewell, brought to Congress a public fight between Apple and the government over the dueling interests of privacy and security that has so far only been heard in the courts.

On 16 February, a federal court in California instructed Apple to write spe-

cial software to unlock the iPhone 5c used by gunman Rizwan Farook, an order the company is contesting.

Sewell and Comey's remarks also clarified some areas where the two sides fundamentally disagree. Comey said the tool created for Farook's iPhone would not work on other models. But Sewell said the tool that Apple was being asked to create would work on any iPhone.

"This is not about the San Bernardino case. This is about the safety and secu-

city of every iPhone that is in use today," Sewell said.

Committee members seized on Comey's statement that the case could set a legal precedent allowing the agency access to any encrypted device. "Given... that Congress has explicitly denied you that authority so far, can you appreciate our frustration that this case appears to be little more than an end run around this committee?" asked the panel's ranking minority member, Michigan Representative John Conyers.—Reuters

## Parts of Great Barrier Reef face permanent destruction due to El Niño —scientists

SYDNEY — Parts of Australia's Great Barrier Reef face permanent destruction if the current El Niño, one of the strongest in two decades, does not ease this month, scientists said yesterday.

The El Niño is a result of a warming of the ocean in the western Pacific — ideal conditions for coral bleaching, where coral expels living algae, causing it to calcify. Coral can only survive within a narrow band of ocean temperature.

The scientists said areas of the Great Barrier Reef, a world heritage site, are experiencing the worst bleaching in 15 years. Coral around Lizard Island off the tropical city of Cairns has seen the most widespread bleaching, with 80 per cent of its coral bleached under unrelenting sunlight, Dr Anne Hoggett, director, Lizard Island Research Station told Reuters.

"Bleaching is a clear signal that living corals are under physiological stress. If that stress is bad enough for long enough, the corals can die," said Dr Russell Reichelt, chairman of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority said.

"What happens now will be entirely dependent on local weather conditions," said Reichelt.

Scientists said the Great

Barrier Reef needs a break in El Niño conditions within weeks if some coral areas are to survive.

The Australian Bureau of Meteorology's most recent forecast calls for a continuation of El Niño conditions.

This year will be the hottest on record and 2016 could be even hotter due to the El Niño weather pattern, the World Meteorological Organisation.

The Great Barrier Reef stretches 2,000 kms (1,200 miles) along Australia's northeast coast and is the world's largest living ecosystem. It brings in billions of dollars a year in tourism revenue. UNESCO's World Heritage Committee last May stopped short of placing the Great Barrier Reef on an "in danger" list, but the ruling raised long-term concerns about its future due to climate change.

While the El Niño is set to ease by the middle of 2016, according to the BOM, the weather system—which brings hot, dry conditions to Australia's east coast - is seen as foreshadowing the likely impact of future climate change.

"Coral is the canary in the mine," said Hoggett of the looming threat from climate change.—Reuters

### PATENT CAUTION NOTICE

Guangdong Esquel Textiles Co., Ltd, a company organized under the laws of China and having its principal office at Cangjiang Exports Processing Zone, Gaoming District, Foshan City, Guang-Dong, China is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Patent:-

### Wrinkle Free Garment and Method of Manufacture

Reg. Nos. 4/9426/2012&4/16764/2015

Used in respect of:-

A Method of manufacturing wrinkle-free garment seams and garments made therefrom comprises (a) placing a bonding element comprising a thermal adhesive between garment components; (b) stitching along a seam line; and (c) applying heat and/ or pressure to cause the adhesive to melt and flow along the seam to bond at least one garment component. The thermal adhesive has a melting point of higher than about 150° C., preferably in the range about 160° C. to about 190°C. Alternatively, a bonding element seam comprising any adhesive material and having a substantially U shape is used to make various seams, such as a yoke seam, a should seam, a side seam, a pocket seam, a hem button stay seam, a sleeve seam, a collar seam, etc. Wrinkle free garments, such as shirts, pants, blouses, skirts, etc. incorporating the seams are produced. Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said patent or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

AungNaing Moe, Advocate

Ong Minn U, Advocate

May Phyo Kin, H.G.P

For. Guangdong Esquel Textiles Co., Ltd.

Myanmar Global Law Firm

Ph:0973220023

Date: 3 March 2016

# Most nations in Americas have laws that can suppress journalism—report

NEW YORK — All but one nation in the Americas have criminal defamation laws that can be used against journalists to suppress freedom of expression, according to a report released yesterday.

Only Jamaica has entirely repealed laws that would permit journalists to be prosecuted for their reporting, according to the study released by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Two-thirds of the countries in North, Central and

South America routinely use such laws to silence dissent and keep information from their citizens, the report said.

“Despite the emerging consensus that criminal defamation laws violate international freedom of expression standards, the continued use of such provisions has deterred the aggressive reporting necessary for robust debate in a free and open society,” CPJ’s Carlos Lauria and Sara Rafsky wrote in the report.

“Even if infrequently applied, the continuing existence of these laws repre-

sents a lurking danger to free expression.”

Laws that can be used against journalists include defamation, libel, calumny, or making false charges, and “desacato” offenses which refer to insulting or offending the state or state officials, the report said.

Specifically the report said 32 out of 33 nations in the Americas penalize defamation with criminal laws that can be used to punish journalists.

Jamaica from 2011 to 2013 repealed its laws that criminalised libel and

amended constitutional provisions regarding freedom of expression, it said.

Even where such laws are not typically enforced, their very existence has a “chilling effect” on the spread of information, the report said.

Criminal defamation laws have resulted in imprisonment in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suri-



David Romero, journalist and director of opposition broadcaster Globo, is seen outside the Supreme Court in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 6 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

name, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela, it said.

Mexico and the United States do not have criminal defamation laws at the federal level, but do at the state level, it said.

While there is a trend toward abolition of criminal defamation laws in the United States and Mexico, there are no such trends in Central America, the Caribbean or South America, it said.—Reuters



Women lash themselves with the leaves of the Aghada plant along the banks of the Bagmati River, during the Rishi Panchami festival, in Kathmandu on 2 September 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Women use 5,000 euphemisms to ease pain of talking about periods

Author: Alex Whiting

LONDON — “Having the painters in”, “shark week”, “on the rag” and “Bloody Mary” are all euphemisms for the same thing: menstruation, a subject that is still taboo in many countries in the world, according to a major survey on the issue.

Women refer to periods in code using some 5,000 euphemisms, avoid discussing the issue with male colleagues or relatives, and some skip school or work to hide their symptoms, a survey of 90,000 people in 190 countries has found.

Most participants globally said they had received information about starting their period, but there were some major gaps. In Russia 75 per cent said they had not received enough, in Ukraine it was 60 per cent, and in India 40 per cent.

Puerto Ricans were most comfortable talking to male colleagues and class-

mates about periods, whereas participants from Saudi Arabia were the least.

Puerto Ricans were also the most comfortable talking to male relatives about the issue, and Japanese participants the least — just 13 per cent said they felt comfortable.

“It’s unfortunate that so many people feel they aren’t able to be open about their periods, and, in many regions, this is even the case within families,” said Ida Tin, CEO of Clue, a Berlin-based female health company which carried out the survey. “We’re hopeful that with increased awareness and education about the importance of female health, we can move this discussion forward on a global scale,” Tin added. Some 17 per cent of participants globally said they had missed school, work or an event because they were afraid of someone finding out they had their period.

This was most common in Australia, Brazil and Chile where nearly a quarter of participants had missed an event because of their period.

At the other end of the scale, only between 5 and 8 per cent of Singaporeans, Indonesians and Italians said they had stayed home because they did not want people to find out they were menstruating. “We need to do a lot more to make sure women and girls know and are comfortable speaking about their sexual and reproductive health and their rights,” said Françoise Girard, president of the International Women’s Health Coalition.

The survey published on Monday was carried out using Clue’s female health app, with the help of the US-based International Women’s Health Coalition which promotes women’s sexual and reproductive health worldwide.—Reuters

### INVITATION ON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE FIXED BROADBAND NETWORK PROJECT

Yatanarpon Teleport Public Co., Ltd. (YTP) is a registered public company providing ISP services in Myanmar, located at Hlaing Universities’ Campus, Yangon. Currently holding NFS (I) license, YTP provides broadband Internet, IP-VPN services and data center facilities and is now in progress to utilize FTTx technology as the main platform to offer high speed, comprehensive Internet services in near future. Anticipated the successful launch, YTP hereby invites eligible bidders for the supply of equipments, installation and associated services for the “Fixed Broadband Network Project” in Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

|                                                      |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| The schedule is:                                     |                          |
| Newspaper Announcement                               | 1~3 March 2016           |
| Availability of RFP                                  | 3~9 March 2016           |
| Last date of written queries by interested companies | 10 March 2016            |
| Response to the queries                              | 16 March 2016            |
| Deadline of submission of proposal                   | 24 March 2016            |
| Evaluation of proposals                              | 25 March ~ 28 April 2016 |
| Announcement of winning bidders                      | 29 April 2016            |

Interested companies can submit proposal for one or more lots as mentioned below:

- Lot1 . Supply and Installation of Metro IP Core Equipment and Services
- Lot2. Supply and Installation of DWDM System
- Lot3. Supply and Installation of OLT and ONT
- Lot4. Supply of Optical Cable
- Lot5. Supply of ODN Equipment
- Lot6. Supply of Accessories for Optical Cable
- Lot7. Supply and Installation of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment

Please be requested that to observe all instructions, terms and conditions and project requirements. Documents will only be available at Tender Committee Office, Yatanarpon Teleport Public Company Ltd. (YTP) and queries will be responded as mentioned in the schedule. Failure to furnish the correct and complete information will be void and incomplete submission of documents after the deadline is not exchangeable.

For queries and submission of documents, please contact  
“Tender Committee Office”  
Tel:+951 4421190 Fax:+951 652300  
Monday to Friday (10am to 3pm)  
**Yatanarpon Teleport Public Co., Ltd. (YTP)**  
**No. 25, Universities’ Hlaing Campus; Hlaing Township, Yangon Region, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, P.O Box 909.**  
Email: [ytp-tender@teleport.net.mm](mailto:ytp-tender@teleport.net.mm)  
[www.yatanarpon.net.mm/proposal-for-fixedbroadbandnetworkproject2016](http://www.yatanarpon.net.mm/proposal-for-fixedbroadbandnetworkproject2016)

## Festival of films by women — experimental, sci-fi, fiction etc

NEW DELHI — Works by women directors of Asian origin ranging from animation, documentary, experimental, short fiction to fiction feature are set to be featured in the upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival beginning here from 3 March.

The festival, which began in 2005 and is now held annually around International Women's Day, has for this edition included 35 films from 13 countries apart from a special section of 11 films from Palestine under 'Voices of Palestine'.

"An interesting aspect of the film festival is an audio segment called soundphiles. This is the third year we are showcasing this segment where artists send in their sound entries. This year we have a total of 8 sound works," says Uma Tanuku, Festival Director.

Tanuku has curated the festival along with Aradhna Kohli.

24 filmmakers and sound artists are scheduled to take part in the three-day event where films from Bangladesh, Iran,

Israel, Japan, Myanmar, the Philippines, South Korea, Syria, Taiwan, Turkey, the UK, Vietnam apart from those from India and Palestine will be screened.

To bring a historical perspective to the films, a short seminar on documenting the women's movement in cinema will present films that were inspired by the women's movements in the 80s and 90s.

"We have films on issues like Sati, the anti-arrack movement and others that were in focus during movements in the 80s and the 90s. Film director Deepa Dhanraj, artist Sheeba Chachi, Shaba Diwan and student Pallavi Kaul will participate in the seminar," says Tanuku. The seminar has been conceived by feminist scholar Uma Chakravarti and Shikha Jhingan.

According to the festival director, documenting the women's movement around three decades ago was formidable experience in the absence of easier recording technologies like today's cell phones.—PTI

## Taylor Swift gives emotional maid-of-honour speech at wedding

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Taylor Swift served as maid of honour at her best friend Britany Maack's February wedding during which she touched every attendees' heart with her emotional speech.

The "Out of the Woods" hitmaker recalled her BFF and her man's adorable beginnings, saying they had one of the "best love stories," reported Ace Showbiz.

In a video from the ceremony which was uploaded, but later deleted, by Britany, the 26-year-old songstress began her speech by recalling the sweet couple's adorable beginnings.

"He would chase her and pursue her through middle school and junior high and high school, and their paths would diverge, and then come back together," she said at the reception.

"It would be so magically

unpredictable, but at the same time, so incredibly fated just like the best love stories are.

"My favourite accomplishment of my entire life is that everything in my life has changed except for me and Britany," Swift said. The video also showed a series of events from the rehearsal dinner to the reception.

At one point during the reception, Swift was seen hitting the dance floor and showing off some amazing moves along with Britany's family members.

Swift also took to the stage to sing some of her songs.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Rolling Stones announce historic free concert in Havana

HAVANA — The Rolling Stones will perform a free outdoor concert in Havana on 25 March, the band announced on Tuesday, a milestone event in a country where the communist government once banned the group's music as an "ideological deviation."

The band added the Concert for Amity show — likely to be the biggest rock concert ever staged in Cuba — to a Latin American tour that had been due to end on 17 March in Mexico City. The performance will

come three days after US President Barack Obama is due to conclude a visit to Cuba, the first by an American president since 1928. Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced in December 2014 they would seek to normalise relations after more than half a century of Cold War animosity.

The concert, which will be filmed, is set to take place on fields surrounding Havana's Ciudad Deportiva, a 26-hectare (64-acre) sports complex. It will mark the first open-air concert in

Cuba by a British rock band, the group said.

"We have performed in many special places during our long career but this show in Havana is going to be a landmark event for us and, we hope, for all our friends in Cuba too," the band said in a statement accompanied by an image of its four current members — Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ronnie Wood.

After the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro, Raul's brother, to power the Caribbean nation censured the group formed in London in 1962, as well as the Beatles and Elvis Presley.

Fidel Castro ultimately lamented the music censorship and attended the unveiling of a statue of late former Beatle John Lennon in a Havana park on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death on 8 December 2000.

"I very much regret not having known you before," Castro said during the ceremony.

At the statue on Tuesday, tour guide Julio Garcia reacted with joy to the news of the Stones' visit, which was filtering out slowly on the island.

"Los Rolling in Cuba? Wow!" he said. "We have been waiting for them here for many years."—Reuters



British veteran rockers The Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger sings next to band member Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Charlie Watts during a concert on their "Latin America Ole Tour" in Santiago, Chile on 3 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Miss Colombia to Play Diesel's love interest in 'xXx' sequel

LOS ANGELES — Miss Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez will be making her film debut with "xXx 3: The Return of Xander Cage".

The 22-year-old beauty queen known for being mistakenly crowned Miss Universe by Steve Harvey last year, has been cast as Vin Diesel's love interest, reported Variety.

The movie is currently being

shot in Toronto and the Dominican Republic. Produced by Revolution Studios, Roth Kirschenbaum Films and Diesel's One Race Film, is directed by D J Caruso.

Samuel L Jackson, Ruby Rose, Nina Dobrev, Donnie Yen, Conor McGregor, Deepika Padukone and Tony Jaa also star in the film slated to release on 20 January next year.—PTI

## Stevie Wonder honoured with Global Green Hero award

LOS ANGELES — Veteran singer Stevie Wonder was honoured with Global Green Hero award at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Green USA pre-Oscar party.

The 65-year-old music icon, who was joined onstage by his two sons, was presented with award, which he in turn presented back to his sons as a gesture to "encourage their generation to care about the planet," reported People magazine.

"We have to love our planet, we have to want to make it more green. We have to make sure that we can sustain the planet and make sure that people are able to survive as it has always been meant to be," Wonder said.

The Grammy-winning singer

also performed a nine-song set of his greatest hits also pointed out that climate change and its environmental impact are issues that he has always been invested in.

"I've always been passionate about it but obviously as time has gone and I've been blessed to live some minutes in life, I've had the opportunity to see the changes in the weather.

"And to those who think that in a normal climate, when it's the reverse to what it's supposed to be, then there's something wrong with them," he said.

Wonder then donated his harmonica to Global Green to auction off, adding, "One that has a lot of spit in it, so you can raise money for a good cause."—PTI

# Yosemite changes famous names; Ahwahnee sign stolen amid legal fight

LOS ANGELES — Visitors to Yosemite National Park were greeted with an unfamiliar name for the park's most iconic hotel on Tuesday as a bitter legal battle over its trademarked name raged on, while thieves made off with a sign for the famed Ahwahnee before it could be changed.

The Ahwahnee Hotel, which was built in 1927, and other popular sites such as Curry Village were stripped of the monikers they held for decades after the park's longtime concessionaire, Delaware North Company, lost the lucrative contract to operate hotels and other commercial sites in the park to competitor Aramark. Delaware North sued the National Park Service in September, claiming that it

owned the trademarks.

Aramark formally took over the park's concession on Tuesday.

Temporary banners, in some cases made of tape or canvas and plastered over the original signs, identified the Ahwahnee by its new name, the Majestic Yosemite Hotel.

Curry Village is now called Half Dome Village, and the Wawona Hotel, built in 1876 and like the Ahwahnee a National Historic Landmark, is known as Big Trees Lodge. The name changes were not reflected on official websites as of Tuesday afternoon.

"The signs are temporary because we do want to retain the (historic) names, but with the new contract starting and a compressed time frame we just wanted to get those up," Yosemite

spokesman Scott Gediman said. The National Park Service on Friday filed a petition with the US Patent and Trademark office challenging the trademarks now that Delaware North no longer has an association with Yosemite, Gediman said.

Attorneys for the Park Service have claimed in court papers that Delaware North quietly trademarked the names without telling the government and called the move part of a business strategy by the company.

If the court battle rages on for months, as expected, the temporary signs will be replaced with more permanent markers, Gediman said.

Delaware North says it was required to buy Yosemite's so-called intellectual property when it was

first awarded the concessions contract in 1993 and trademarked the names as a routine business practice.

Meanwhile, park rangers were investigating the apparent theft over the weekend of a small round sign for the Ahwahnee Hotel, formerly fastened to a stone pillar on the entrance to the lodge.

Gediman said the sign disappeared late Saturday night or early Sunday morning, though it was not yet clear if the crime was related to the name-change controversy. The thieves would face federal charges, he said. Last month three members of the California Assembly introduced legislation barring the state from awarding concessions to any company seeking such trademarks.—Reuters

# Fifty shades of gray (or more): gene for graying hair identified



Britain's Queen Elizabeth arrives for the State Opening of Parliament, at the Palace of Westminster in London.

PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — They may not have settled the enduring debate over whether gray hair makes a person look distinguished or just plain old, but scientists have identified for the first time a gene behind graying hair.

Researchers said on Tuesday an analysis of DNA from more than 6,300 people from five Latin American countries enabled them to pinpoint a gene that affects a person's likelihood of getting gray hair.

The gene, called IRF4, is involved in regulating melanin, the pigment responsible for hair colour as well as the colour of the skin and eyes.

People with a certain version of the gene are predisposed to hair graying, according to University College London human geneticist Andres Ruiz-Linares, one of the researchers in the study published in the journal Nature Communications. The researchers said hair graying is not driven exclusively by genetics, with other factors in the mix such as stress or experiencing a traumatic event.

"This is really the first study on the genetics of hair graying in humans," Uni-

versity College London statistical geneticist Kaustubh Adhikari said.

People spend a lot of time and money dyeing gray hair back to their natural hair colour. The researchers said identifying this gene could offer a path forward for developing a treatment that could prevent or reverse graying.

"A drug that has effects on the melanin-production pathway in hair follicles as the follicles develop internally might reduce the need to apply external hair dyes on the scalp hair after it comes out. This is certainly a research avenue worth pursuing," Kaustubh said.

The researchers combed through genetic information from men and women in Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico and Peru, with a combination of European, Native American and African ancestry.

The gene variant predisposing people to early hair graying was essentially only seen in those of European ancestry. "This might, to some extent, explain why hair graying is more common in Europeans than in other populations," Ruiz-Linares said.—Reuters



The Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park, California is shown on 5 October 2006 handout photo released to Reuters on 4 February 2016. On 1 March 2016, more than 125 years after Scottish-American naturalist John Muir's advocacy helped inspire the creation of Yosemite National Park, some of its most hallowed sites are set to be stripped of their famous names as part of a bitter, \$50 million legal squabble. PHOTO: REUTERS

| <div>  <div> <div>Myanmar</div> <div>International</div> </div> </div> |    |                                                  |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------|--|
| (3-3-2016 07:00am ~ 4-3-2016 7:00am) MST                                                                                                                  |    |                                                  |  |
| Today Fresh                                                                                                                                               |    |                                                  |  |
| 07:03                                                                                                                                                     | Am | News                                             |  |
| 07:26                                                                                                                                                     | Am | A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas                       |  |
| 07:39                                                                                                                                                     | Am | Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist - U Lun Gywe |  |
| 07:56                                                                                                                                                     | Am | Myanmar Street Foods                             |  |
| 08:03                                                                                                                                                     | Am | News                                             |  |
| 08:26                                                                                                                                                     | Am | Myanmar Classic Cars Rally 2015 (Ep-II)          |  |
| 08:38                                                                                                                                                     | Am | Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image In Rakhine            |  |
| 08:51                                                                                                                                                     | Am | Next Weekend                                     |  |
| 09:03                                                                                                                                                     | Am | News                                             |  |
| 09:26                                                                                                                                                     | Am | Myanmar Handicrafts                              |  |
| Prime Time                                                                                                                                                |    |                                                  |  |
| 07:03                                                                                                                                                     | Pm | News                                             |  |
| 07:26                                                                                                                                                     | Pm | A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)          |  |
| 07:46                                                                                                                                                     | Pm | The Iron Rider                                   |  |
| 08:03                                                                                                                                                     | Pm | News                                             |  |
| 08:26                                                                                                                                                     | Pm | Exquisite Myanmar Silk                           |  |
| 08:45                                                                                                                                                     | Pm | Chef Life: Avi Bitton (Israeli Chef)             |  |
| (09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)                                                                                                |    |                                                  |  |
| (11:00Pm~03:00Am) - WednesdayRepeat(07:00Am~11:00 Am)                                                                                                     |    |                                                  |  |
| (03:00 Am~07:00 Am)- Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)                                                                                                   |    |                                                  |  |
| (For Detailed Schedule – <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a> )                                                   |    |                                                  |  |

| <div>  <div> <div>News Channel</div> <div>in Brief</div> </div> </div>                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (3-3-2016, Thursday)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>6:00 am</b><br>• Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw<br><b>7:35 am</b><br>• Weekly Entertainment News<br><b>9:35 am</b><br>• 2016 University Entrance Examination (History)<br><b>10:35 am</b><br>• MRTV Job Opportunity Programme<br><b>11:35 am</b><br>• Science and Technology Programme<br><b>12:35 pm</b><br>• TV Drama Series | <b>2:20 pm</b><br>• National Symphony Orchestra<br><b>2:35 pm</b><br>• Real Story Real Movie<br><b>3:35 pm</b><br>• 2016 University Entrance Examination (Geography)<br><b>5:35 pm</b><br>• People's Talks<br><b>7:15 pm</b><br>• TV Drama Series<br><b>8:00 pm</b><br>• News / International News/ Weather Report<br><b>9:00 pm</b><br>• News<br>• TV Drama Series |
| Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

## West Brom dent Leicester's title charge, Chelsea win again

LONDON — Leicester City played some brilliant attacking football and had 22 attempts on goal but dropped two vital points in their pursuit of a first Premier League title when they were held to a 2-2 draw at home by West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday.

The leaders were denied victory by a stunning free kick from Craig Gardner and while they moved three points clear of Tottenham Hotspur, Spurs will replace them in top spot if they win at West Ham on Wednesday thanks to a better goal difference.

While Leicester and Spurs are locked in hot pursuit of the title, reigning champions Chelsea continued their revival under interim coach Guus Hiddink with a third successive league win — 2-1 over relegation-threatened Norwich City.

Sunderland grabbed a point with a last minute goal to draw 2-2 with Crystal Palace while Everton pushed Aston Villa closer to relegation with a 3-1 win at Villa Park, where thousands of fans walked out in protest at the way the club is being run. At the top, Leicester, on 57 points with 10 matches to play, would have opened up a five-point gap with a win but manager Claudio Ranieri was far from despondent despite the two dropped points.

"I am very pleased with our performance," he told the BBC.

"They played so well, there was no panic after the first goal. We played much better than against Norwich (on Saturday).

"I want to create a lot of chances and sooner or later we score. Tonight wasn't the right moment but we are alive and we fight to the end. Everybody is ready to fight, to play well, to create chances. Only the victory was missing."



Norwich City's Cameron Jerome in action with Chelsea's Branislav Ivanovic and Kenedy during Barclays Premier League at Carrow Road on 1 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Leicester came close to dropping two points on Saturday before beating Norwich with a last-minute goal, but they could not repeat the trick on Tuesday.

They fell behind after 11 minutes when West Brom's Salomon Rondon became the first player to score a league goal against them at the King Power Stadium in 2016. However, they struck back with a fortuitous deflected shot from Danny Drinkwater and went ahead with a brilliantly-executed first league goal of the season for Andy King on the stroke of halftime.

They were pegged back after 50 minutes when Gardner's 25-metre free kick left Leicester goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel rooted to the spot. Leicester struck the woodwork twice with efforts from Jamie Vardy and Shinji Okazaki, while Leonardo

Ulloa, Saturday's match-winner against Norwich, almost grabbed another winner in the final few seconds but his effort went just wide.

Chelsea stretched their unbeaten league run to 12 matches since former manager Jose Mourinho left in December after a 2-1 win at Norwich, where Kenedy scored the fastest goal in the league this season, after 39 seconds, to put the visitors ahead.

The victory was secured by a second goal from Diego Costa, which looked offside, and lifted Chelsea to eighth.

Interim coach Hiddink told Sky: "We didn't want to go into the battle but they forced us. We were sloppy in the first half, starting well with a beautiful goal and I think we could have finished it in the first half.

"We were complacent with the last pass. They made our life difficult."

Norwich pulled a goal back through Nathan Redmond after 68 minutes but defeat saw them slide into the bottom three behind Sunderland.

Aston Villa inched closer to relegation with a 3-1 loss to Everton at Villa Park.

The fans' protest was planned for the 74<sup>th</sup> minute, in recognition of Villa's founding in 1874, by which time the hosts were already 3-0 down.

Villa are eight points adrift at the bottom behind Sunderland, Norwich and Newcastle United, who are all on 24.

In the night's other match, Bournemouth beat Southampton 2-0 for their first league win over their south coast rivals since 1958.—Reuters

## Atletico win 3-0 to close gap to Barcelona



Atletico Madrid's Luciano Vietto (L) and Real Sociedad's Alberto de la Bella in action during Spanish Liga BBVA at Vicente Calderon stadium, Madrid, Spain on 1 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MADRID — Atletico Madrid cruised to a 3-0 home win over Real Sociedad on Tuesday to close the gap behind La Liga leaders Barcelona to five points.

Barca, who can restore their eight-point advantage with a victory at Rayo Vallecano on Thursday, have 66 points from 26 games, while Atletico have played a game more.

Third-place Real Madrid, who play at Levante on Wednesday, have 54 points, while Sociedad are ninth with 34.

Atletico took the lead after eight minutes when Sociedad midfielder Diego Reyes scored an own goal trying to cut out a cross from Keko.

Diego Simeone's side went

further in front a minute into the second half when striker Luciano Vietto latched onto a poor clearance and pulled the ball back for Saul Niguez to shoot past Geronimo Rulli.

Atletico completed their biggest home win in the league this season when Antoine Griezmann converted a 61<sup>st</sup>-minute penalty against his former club, after the Frenchman had been brought down by Alberto de la Bella.

The visitors came closest to pulling one back when Jonathan headed against the post two minutes later after being set up by Ruben Pardo.

Atletico defender Diego Godin, Griezmann and Vietto all missed other chances in a one-sided first half.—Reuters

## Young 'fools' behind Kenya doping woes — Rudisha

MELBOURNE — Kenya's doping problems were caused by "foolish" young athletes desperate to win races and cash in on the sport, David Rudisha said on Wednesday, but the Olympic 800 metres champion hopes his country is on the right track to restoring its reputation. The 27-year-old, who lit up the 2012 London Games with a brilliant world record performance in the 800m final, has been distressed by the allegations of doping and corruption that have rocked the East African country's athletics programme.

Kenya has been hugely successful in middle and long-distance running for decades and remains a global leader on the track and in big-city marathons, but some 40 of its athletes have been banned for doping in the last three years.

The World Anti-Doping Agency has given the country an April deadline to implement new anti-doping measures or risk non-compliance, which could pave the way for a ban on its track and field athletes competing at the Rio Olympics.—Reuters

## First world traditional martial arts championships to be held in Viet Nam

HO CHI MINH CITY — The first world traditional martial arts championships will take place in Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City from 24-30 July, the World Federation of Vietnamese Traditional Martial Arts (WFV) said yesterday.

The week-long event is expected to attract over 800 participants from over 30 countries and regions, including France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Algeria.

The WFV was established in 2015, with the first term of its organising committee comprising of 56 members from 30 countries and regions where Vietnamese martial arts are popular.

Vietnamese martial arts are being taught and practiced in at least 45 countries around the world, attracting millions of practitioners.—Xinhua