

Maintain the stability already achieved

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thare Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein sent message to the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Shan State Day which falls on 7th February.

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UNITED IN PROVIDING AID

Aid sent out to Labutta, Namhsan

RELIEF aid are flowing into Labutta and Namhsan which huge fire hit on 4th February.

Government ministries and private donors have sent food, clothes and cash to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, following the fire which left about 300 families in Namhsan, in northern Shan State and nearly 200 families in Labutta, Ayeyawady Region.

More than K 9.5 million worth rice, clothes and food were distributed on 6th February donated by Department of Fisheries and private well-wishers to fire victims currently sheltering at a four-storey monastery in Labutta, according to local authorities.

Meanwhile, relief aid donated by ministries and donors were sent by flight to Namhsan.

Non-governmental organizations and governmental departments have sent aid for the victims to Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw and the ministry's Yangon divisional office.

Donation in cash for the victims reached more than K 291 million yesterday, according to the ministry.



See page 3 >> Aid arrive at a monastery where Labutta fire victims are sheltering. PHOTO: IPRD

No more operating licences to be issued to foreign insurers: Finance deputy minister

LICENSES will not be granted to foreign companies to operate insurance services in the country this year, according to Finance Deputy Minister DrMaungMaungThein.

Currently, three foreign insurance firms are enough to provide services to the companies in the Thilawa Special Economic

Zone, the deputy minister said.

Currently, three Japanese companies- Sampo Japan Insurance, Tokai Marine Insurance and Sumitomo Insurance- have won licences to render insurance services within the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, a joint venture in which Myanmar has a 51% stake

and Japan a 49% stake.

No more foreign insurance companies will be allowed to operate in the economic zone, with the deputy minister saying that business firms from 13 foreign countries are currently having 19 factories constructed in Zone A.

The Myanma Insurance En-

terprise, a government-owned company, offers life and general insurances including fire insurance, comprehensive motor insurance, fidelity guarantee insurance, cash in safe insurance, cash in transit insurance and marine cargo insurance.

However, foreign companies

are limited to operation of life, fire and motor insurance services.

According to sources close to the ministry, permission is granted to foreign insurers with 30 years of experience and US\$3 billion investment who have opened their offices in the country for three years.—Ko Moe

Centuries old First Baptist Church building in Mawlamyine to be restored with American assistance

RESTORATION work is to begin on the 188 year old First Baptist Church, located in Mon State capital of Mawlamyine, with financial support from the American ambassadors cultural heritage conservation fund.

The building is located at No.60 on the upper main road of Mayangon neighbourhood in Mawlamyine. Expert archaeologists from the World Monuments Fund (WMF) will collaborate with Myanmar archaeologists in restoring the building with a total fund of \$125,000.

Discussions were held among a representative of the American embassy in Yangon; French archaeologist from the WMF, Thierry Grandin, who is currently undertaking restoration work on the royal palace in Mandalay; two Myanmar archaeologists and a surveyor, in order to commence restoration activities, explained U Than Aye, a priest of the church.

"They've now taken away with them evidence and records. An event will be held in May to mark the start of preparations for restoration, which itself will begin come the end of the rains in November. We've allocated a two



The 188-year-old First Baptist Church in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

year period to carry out the restorations," he said.

Once the aforementioned building has been restored with American funding, it will be the third building in Myanmar to officially be acknowledged on the list of world historical buildings. America will then carry out annual check up inspections on the restorations, while local churches will take responsibility for carrying out preservation activities.

Back in 2014, the church was visited by an American national who studied the structure, making a photographic record. The second trip was made by a Myanmar archaeologist and American national who surveyed the church, carrying out detailed studies.

July 2015 marked the third trip to the building, this by the American ambassador to Myanmar, who also studied the church. After the period of a month the

America embassy sent a letter of notification to the head of the church informing him that the building had been included on the list of world historical buildings.

The first year of restoration activities on the church building will be a joint effort by the American embassy and the WMF. It is the second such project, the first being restoration to the royal palace in Mandalay.— Myitmakha News Agency

Hospital wastes to be destroyed by Medical Waste Incinerator

WITH assistance from Korea the Sanitation Department of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) will install a medical waste incinerator in order to systematically destroy hospital waste.

The machines are guaranteed to destroy waste by burning refuse at up to 5,000 °C without causing environmental pollution.

This is the first time the country will use such a machine to destroy waste materials produced by hospitals, MCDC member Dr Thwin Kyaw said.

The machine will operate this year after undergoing an environmental impact assessment, he added.

Generally, hospital waste includes injection needles, rubber gloves and parts of the human body, which can create serious public health problems if not disposed of systematically.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Crime News



Sai Naunt and Sai San Aung

Yabba seized in Loilem

AUTHORITIES seized 320 Yabba pills from a car driven by one Sai Naunt with Sai San Aung on board on Loilem-Namhsan road, Loilem township on Wednesday.

Similarly, members of the police searched a house owned by one Ma Myint Myint Aye and found 212 Yabba pills. Charges have been filed against the suspects under the Anti-Narcotic law.— Myanmar Police Force

Motorbike accident kills three people

A MOTORBIKE collided head on with a passenger vehicle at milepost 67/6 on Shwe Bo-Mandalay road on Tuesday leaving three people dead.

The motorbike was being driven by a young man with two friends when they crashed into the truck being driven by U Set Aung.

The collision killed Aung Khine, 24, and Tun Lin Aung, 20, on the spot and seriously injured Pho Nge, 17. He later succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. Police are still investigating the case.—Kyaw Zaw (Shwe Bo)

Yabba and Marijuana seized in Nanthida Jetty

AN anti-drug squad discovered 160 Yabba pills, 32 grams of Marijuana in a car driven by one Banya, 22, with passenger Kaung Htet Lin, 24 in Nanthidar Jetty,

Seikkan township on Tuesday. The police have filed charges against them under Anti-Narcotic Law.—Myanmar Police Force



Kaung Htet Lin and Banya. PHOTO: MPF

Firearm and bullets seized in Tachilek

AUTHORITIES seized a handgun and some bullets from a car in Tachilek township, Shan State (East), on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police searched a car being

driven by one Sai Hla Htoo alias Ah Min, 50, with a passenger and found the weapon and some ammunition. Police have filed charges against the suspects.— Myint Moe (Tachilek)



The accused seen together with the arm seized.

PHOTO: MYINT MOE (TACHILEK)

Raw opium seized on train

AN anti-drug squad discovered three kilograms of raw opium worth K18,000 from one Aung Myint Tun, 43, on board the Loi-

kaw-Pyinmana train on Monday. The man is being charged under the anti-Narcotic law.— Myanmar Police Force

Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends int'l literary talk in Taunggyi



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets local peoples after attending an international literary talk at Shan State Buddhist University in Taunggyi. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended an international literary talk at the Shan State Buddhist University, Taunggyi, yesterday, together with Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Chancellor Ven. Dr. Ashin

Nyanissara.

The event focused on Buddhism, higher education and vision.

The International Association of Buddhist Universities (IABU) Secretary General Ven.

Dr Dhammasami of Buddhist Studies at Oxford University presented Dhamma gifts to the vice president. This was followed by a lunch with the members of the Sangha.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Cruise liner docks at Thilawa Port

UNDER the arrangement of Diethelm Travel Ltd, a German-based cruise liner with 366 crew and 419 tourists on board docked at the Myanmar International Thilawa Port on Friday, according to the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

He said that the MS Europa 2 left India's Port Blair for Myanmar carrying 419 tourists, who would visit places of interest in Bagan, Yangon, Bago and Thanlyin.

The cruise liner will leave the country for Phuket, Thailand today.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Tourists arrive at Thilawa Port by Cruise Liner MS Europa 2. PHOTO: MNA

Bed & Breakfast licence to continue to be temporary

TEMPORARY bed and breakfast tourism licence issued in Thandaunggyi Township, Pa-an District in Kayin State would have to be renewed upon expiry but the status will continue to be temporary, said assistant director U Win Kyaw from the Kayin State Government Office in a couple of days ago.

"This program is being implemented to create job opportunities for the local populace. But we've issued only a one-year licence. In fact, this kind of program does not exist in other states. We're the pioneers. We've made this arrangement for regional development also.

They've to renew their license upon expiry but the license will continue to be temporary", U Win Kyaw added.

There are altogether six guest houses in Thandaung that accept the tourists under the bed and breakfast stay program, which aims to enable the tourists to stay conveniently.

"This season is seeing many a tourist in Thandaung. December has witnessed the biggest number of tourists. In the beginning of this B & B program, there were only two guest houses. Now, there are six altogether. This season has been seeing many more guests – both tourists

and nationals", said Grace for Grace B & B Guest House manager NawHtoo Saw Bree.

The guest houses have eight rooms each, and the bed & breakfast costs guests from K10,000 to K40,000.

"During Christmas we usually find it difficult to stay. We've had to seek help from the local people to provide us a place to sleep. Now we've got B & B guest houses to stay at. And the prices are very competitive. Not having to worry about staying, we can now enjoy the natural scenic beauty of Thandaunggyi without being disturbed".—*SoeSoe Yu*

Maintain the stability already achieved

The following is the unofficial translation of the message sent by Agga Maha Thare Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Shan State Day which falls on 7th February.

TO all esteemed Shan nationals and brethren residing in Shan State,

It is my honour to send you this message on the occasion of the 69th anniversary Shan State Day which falls on 7th February today.

The history of Myanmar's independence struggle tells us that while national leader General Aung San was discussing the independence for Myanmar with the British colonial government, Shan leaders led their people in a referendum and voiced that the plains and the hilly regions were to gain the independence under one flag. In order to gain the independence with seamless boundary among the plains and the hilly regions, General Aung San met ethnic leaders of the hilly regions in Panglong in Shan State and exerted effort to reach an agreement. The decision to gain independence unitedly from the colonial government was made on 7th February 1947. The day on which the decision was made was marked as "Shan State Day" and this year marks the 69th anniversary.

Now is the time when Myanmar puts all her energy into ensuring the internal peace aspired by the entire indigenous people as she is in the process of transition to democracy. The Union Government managed negotiations to end the armed conflicts which have been breaking out for over 60 years, and as a result, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was signed by eight ethnic armed groups on 15 October 2015.

Based on the agreement, the political dialogue could have taken shape with the holding of the Union Peace Conference from 12 to 16 January 2016 at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw. The conference is an important milestone for peace in Myanmar history. As stability and the rule of law play a pivotal role in national development of a country, all indigenous races need to maintain the stability already achieved and they are to strive for national development in unity with the government.

I send this message to the brethren living in Shan State to urge all of you to take part based on the stability and development already achieved in the Shan State in marching towards the goal of effectuating a developed country where there flourishes the Union Spirit which is the genuine patriotic spirit.

Man charged for threatening public

A MAN was arrested for making knife threats in Hlaingthaya township, Yangon Region, on Friday, following a tip-off to police.

Zaw Lin Tun, 28, was found making knife threats on Danyawady street in Ward 19 of the township. Police were forced to shoot him as he attacked a police officer in an attempt to resist arrest.

Further investigation revealed that the knife man had been an outlaw with a criminal record of several counts including pickpocketing and possession of lethal weapons.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Chan Du (alias) Zaw Lin Tun.

Aid sent out to Labutta, Namhsan

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Following two huge fires in Shan State and Ayeyawady Region on Thursday, the Union Government has taken quick response to the two disasters, making efforts for relief and recovery

of the victims

The fire occurred in two areas, leaving about 300 families homeless in Namhsan in northern Shan State and about 195 families homeless in Labutta, Ayeyawady Region.—*GNLM*

Taiwan quake kills at least 12, fells apartment block

TAINAN, (Taiwan) — A powerful earthquake struck Taiwan early yesterday killing at least 12 people, most in a 17-storey apartment building that collapsed, with at least five people missing in the ruins of the complex as darkness fell, government officials said.

As rescuers searched for survivors, questions were raised about the construction of the Wei-guan Golden Dragon Building in the southern city of Tainan, with its floors that pancaked down on each other when the 6.4 magnitude tremor hit at around 4am (2000 GMT), at the start of a Lunar New Year holiday.

Nine of the dead, including a 10-day-old girl, were from the apartment building. The baby was found in her dead father's arms, media reported.

Rescuers mounted hydraulic ladders and a crane to scour the ruins, plucking survivors to safety, with dozens taken to hospital.

An 18-year old man was found alive and conscious shortly after dark, and rescuers were working to get him free, Taiwan television said.

Buildings in nine other loca-



Rescue personnel help a child rescued at the site where a 17-storey apartment building collapsed during an earthquake in Tainan, southern Taiwan, on 6 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

tions in the city of 2 million people had collapsed and five were left tilting at alarming angles, a government emergency centre said.

But a fire department official said rescue efforts were focused on the apartment block, where a child's clothes fluttered from a first-floor

laundry line and the smell of leaking gas hung in the air.

"I was watching TV and after a sudden burst of shaking, I heard a

boom. I opened my metal door and saw the building opposite fall down," said a 71-year-old neighbour who gave his name as Chang.

A plumber, he said he fetched some tools and a ladder and prised some window bars open to rescue a woman crying for help.

"She asked me to go back and rescue her husband, child, but I was afraid of a gas explosion so I didn't go in. At the time there were more people calling for help, but my ladder wasn't long enough so there was no way to save them."

The quake was centered 43 km (27 miles) southeast of Tainan, at a depth of 23 km (14 miles), the US Geological Survey said.

Earlier in the day, an elderly woman, wrapped in blankets, was strapped to a board and slowly slid down a ramp to the ground as the cries of those still trapped rang out. Rescuers used dogs and acoustic equipment to pick up signs of life in the rubble.

Authorities said there were 96 apartment units in the Golden Dragon Building and 256 registered residents. Late in the day, city mayor William Lai said 5 people were missing there.—Reuters

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Abe offers condolences to Taiwan over quake deaths

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has expressed his condolences over the victims of the devastating earthquake early yesterday in southern Taiwan.

"I am saddened to hear about extensive damage. I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to those who died and offer deepest sympathies to the

afflicted," Abe said in his message sent to Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou.

Japan is ready to extend any support Taiwan needs, Abe also

said. A powerful earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 hit southern Taiwan early Saturday, killing at least five people and injuring hundreds.—Kyodo News

US officials say North Korea may be nearing launch

WASHINGTON — Satellite images taken this week of North Korea's Sohae rocket launch site show apparent fueling activity seen in the past shortly before a rocket launch, a US think-tank said, as US government officials signaled that a launch could occur as early as Monday.

North Korea has told UN agencies it will launch a rocket carrying what it called an earth observation satellite some time between 8 February and 25 February, triggering international opposition from governments that see it as a long-range missile test.

On Friday, US government sources said US intelligence agencies believed North Korea could be ready by the US Super Bowl kickoff on Sunday, which will be Monday in Korea. Activity at the site was consistent with a launch in the time frame given by Pyongyang, US officials said.

US Pacific Command said it was closely monitoring the situation and had many missile defense assets in the region that would provide "a robust defence."

"No one should doubt that US Pacific Command forces are prepared to protect the American

homeland and defend our allies in South Korea and Japan," said Pacific Command spokesman US Navy Captain Cody Chiles.

Commercial satellite images from Wednesday and Thursday show the arrival of tanker trucks at the launch pad, said Washington-based 38 North, a North Korea-monitoring project. It said the presence of the trucks likely indicated the filling of tanks within bunkers at the site rather than a rocket itself.

"In the past, such activity has occurred one to two weeks prior to a launch event and would be consistent with North Korea's announced launch window," the group said.

On Friday, US President Barack Obama spoke by telephone with President Xi Jinping of China, North Korea's main ally and neighbour, and agreed that a North Korean launch would represent a "provocative and destabilizing action," the White House said. Obama and Xi also said they would coordinate efforts to respond to North Korea's nuclear test last month and said they would not accept North Korea as a nuclear weapon state.

"The leaders emphasized

the importance of a strong and united international response to North Korea's provocations, including through an impactful UN Security Council Resolution," the White House said.

Washington and Beijing have appeared divided over how to respond to North Korea, with the United States urging tougher sanctions and China stressing the need for dialogue. Earlier on Friday, Xi told South Korea's president that China was dedicated to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

The 38 North report said activity could also be seen around a building at the launch site used in the past to receive and assemble rocket stages. It said the imagery showed vehicles including one or two buses and a crane, a level of activity similar to that seen before the previous launch in 2012.

The group said the images indicated no significant changes at the launch pad itself, where work platforms on the gantry towers remained folded forward. It said coverings obscured whether a space-launch vehicle was present on the pad. North Korea says it has a sovereign

right to pursue a space program. But it is barred under UN Security Council resolutions from using ballistic missile technology.

Coming so soon after North Korea's fourth nuclear test on 6 January, a rocket launch would raise concern that it plans to fit nuclear warheads on its missiles, giving it the capability to strike South Korea, Japan and possibly the US West Coast.

US Pacific Command said it had Aegis ballistic missile defense systems, Terminal High Altitude Area Defence batteries and the Sea-Based X-Band Radar in the region, which would work with Japanese and South Korean militaries to detect the launch.—Reuters

The USS Benfold, a guided-missile destroyer, arrived on Friday in Otaru, Japan, one of five US destroyers equipped with Aegis ballistic missile defense systems that are girding for the potential launch, according to several sources.

The ships are spread out around the region to protect installations in Japan, Guam and South Korea, and to track the first and second stages rocket boosters as they fall to earth after the launch.—Reuters

Sam Rainsy unlikely to topple Hun Sen in 2018 Cambodian election

PHNOM PENH — While some observers predict that Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is expected to face the toughest general election in 2018 amid outstanding social issues such as corruption, opposition leader Sam Rainsy appears unlikely to be able to capitalize on the opportunity to topple him.

Sam Rainsy's Cambodia National Rescue Party had a surprisingly strong showing in the previous election in 2013, winning 55 of the 123 seats in the National Assembly, with the remaining 68 going to the ruling Cambodian People's Party.

CNRP members are hopeful that the opposition party would win the next election, and supporters of the party say Sam Rainsy deserves to become the next leader as Hun Sen has been in power for three decades and Cambodia needs change.

But Sam Rainsy, 66, appears to fall behind Hun Sen, 63, in many aspects, including wealth and other resources, experience and strategies.

Supporters of the CPP argue that keeping Hun Sen in power would allow him to secure peace and stability, which are necessary for Cambodia to continue to develop.

Sam Rainsy, however, has the support of Cambodian people who see him as a victim of political maneuvering by Hun Sen over the years.

Kem Ley, a social and political analyst, said that at the grassroots level, people, including some civil servants and members of the government, no longer support the ruling party.

He noted the possibility that the CPP could lose the 2018 election if it allows the opposition CNRP to compete freely in the absence of political maneuvering by the ruling party.

But Sok Touch, another political analyst, said Hun Sen will likely win the election again because he has managed to bring about changes in both domestic and foreign policies and overall politics.

He said Hun Sen was awoken by the results of the last election and started engaging in activities to secure support for his party at an early time, with an eye on winning the next polls.

At any rate, an Asian diplomat who declined to be named said the 2018 election will be "very crucial" and a matter of "life and death" for both the CPP and the CNRP.

"If the CPP loses in the next election, it will be a total disaster for the aging ruling party," the diplomat said, adding that if the CNRP is unable to garner enough seats to win the election, it would mean an end to Sam Rainsy's political career.

He expressed optimism that his party will similarly be able to gain votes in the next Cambodian general election.

Meanwhile, since last fall, Hun Sen has been taking a new approach in getting closer to the people — using Facebook to reach out.

Hun Sen has been in power through various coalitions since 1985. The only election he lost was in 1993 to the royalist Funcinpec party, but he managed to hold the second prime ministerial position in a coalition government.

Sam Rainsy faces three separate court cases in Cambodia and would therefore be arrested if he returns to his country without Hun Sen's guarantee of freedom.

Twice in the past, Hun Sen allowed him to come back to Cambodia to run in the 1998 and 2013 elections, but it remains unclear whether the prime minister would grant a similar permission again for the next election. —Kyodo News

Efforts to revive Afghan peace talks continue in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — Representatives from Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United States and China met in Islamabad on Saturday to continue work on a roadmap for peace talks with Taliban insurgents who have ramped up their violent campaign against the government in Kabul.

The talks are part of the latest effort to find a negotiated end to nearly 15 years of war in Afghanistan, a conflict that has killed thousands of civilians and crippled the nation's economy.

The Pakistani prime minister's foreign affairs adviser Sartaj Aziz said in opening remarks in the Pakistani capital that he hoped the group would finalise a roadmap on Saturday to outline a way forward for direct dialogue between the Afghan government and Taliban groups.

"We are confident that the process would lead to a significant reduction in violence (in Afghanistan)," Aziz said.

"We have to exert all our efforts and energies for keeping the process on track."

Peace efforts broke down last year after it became known the Taliban movement's founder and leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, who sanctioned the talks,

had been dead for two years, exposing deep fissures within the insurgency. In January, the group made a raft of demands to be met as a pre-condition to joining talks, including the removal of the group from a UN blacklist, formal recognition of a political office for the group and the release of political prisoners.

Some observers were sceptical those demands would be met and there have also been doubts about whether competing factions of the Taliban that have been fighting for control of the movement will be willing to join. Nevertheless, the Afghan government has said it expects at least parts of the Taliban to agree to peace talks within six months, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah told Reuters in New Delhi last week.

"There might be groups among the Taliban who might be willing to talk and give up violence," Abdullah said, declining to give further details.

He said the countries involved in the four-way talks were discussing where to hold Afghan-led peace talks once some Taliban groups decide to come to the table, and how to address the problem of the groups who do not. —Reuters

US, India in talks to settle solar power trade dispute

WASHINGTON — The United States and India are in talks that could settle a long-running solar power trade dispute, delaying the announcement of a ruling by the World Trade Organisation, an Obama administration official said on Friday.

Washington filed the WTO challenge three years ago, claiming that India's national solar power programme illegally discriminated against imported solar panels and related products through its domestic content requirements.

The WTO in recent weeks has twice delayed the public announcement of a ruling in the case, rescheduling it for next Wednesday. Indian media reported last August that a WTO dispute settlement panel had confidentially notified Washington and New Delhi that it would rule against India in the case.

US Trade Representative spokesman Andrew Bates declined to confirm any details of the WTO's intentions, but said the talks were aimed at reaching an out-of-court resolution before any public announcement by the Geneva-based trade body.

"The United States initiated this dispute for the purpose of advancing the rapid deployment of clean, affordable energy in India and around the world," Bates said.

"India has now asked to speak with the United States regarding the issue, and in light of ongoing discussions, release of the WTO panel's report ruling has been temporarily delayed."

The US complaint in 2013 alleged that the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission subsidies were available only if developers used equipment produced in India, violating a key global trade rule. The programme is aimed at easing chronic energy shortages in India, Asia's third-largest economy.



A worker walks through the installed solar modules at the Naini solar power plant in the northern Indian city of Allahabad in 2012. The 5 MW capacity plant by the Electrical Manufacturing Company Ltd. (EMC) has started under the phase-1 of the Jawaharlal Nehru solar power mission, the Government of India and targets to supply 5.5 million to 90 million units of power to the grid, project manager Pankaj Kumar said on Wednesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Two Cambodian boys killed after war-era rocket explodes

PHNOM PENH — A war-left B40 rocket exploded on Friday afternoon, leaving two boys dead in central Cambodia's Kampong Thom Province, a local police chief confirmed yesterday.

"The victims found the old B40 rocket in the woods while they went to trap small animals; then, they used rocks to beat on it, triggering the explosion," Pen Sam Oth, police chief of Popok commune, where the accident took place, told Xinhua, citing the third boy, who ran away when he saw the two victims trying to break apart the bomb.

The ill-fated boys, aged 12 and 14 years old, were neighbours, he said. Landmines and unexploded ordnances killed 18 Cambodian people and injured 93 others in 2015, according to a government report. The Southeast Asian country is one of the countries that suffered badly from landmines and unexploded ordnances. An estimated 4 to 6 million landmines and other munitions were left over from three decades of war and internal conflicts that ended in 1998. —Reuters

Presidential hopefuls Sanders, Clinton in dead heat

NEW YORK — Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has erased Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's wide lead for the Democratic presidential nomination since the start of year, putting the two in a dead heat nationally, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll.

Clinton leads Sanders 48 per cent to 45 per cent among Democratic voters, according to the poll of 512 Americans, conducted 2-5 February following the Iowa caucus. The poll has a credibility interval of 5 percentage points.

Democrats had been sup-

porting Clinton by more than a 2-to-1 margin at the beginning of the year. Sanders has narrowed that lead considerably over the past several weeks.

Clinton beat Sanders narrowly in the Iowa caucuses, the nation's first nomination contest ahead of the November election, but is expected to lose to him in New Hampshire. The two rivals clashed on Thursday night in their first one-on-one debate, reflecting the tightness of the race.

There is still a wide gap between the two in name recognition nationally. Nearly a quarter

of Democrats and two-fifths of Independents say they are still not that familiar with Sanders. In comparison, Clinton has almost total name recognition among voters. On the Republican side, Donald Trump continued to lead the field with 40 per cent support. His level of support among Republicans was relatively unchanged following his second-place finish in the Iowa caucus. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas followed with 16 per cent and Senator Marco Rubio of Florida came in third with 13 per cent.—Reuters

WikiLeaks' Assange calls on Sweden, Britain to allow him freedom after UN panel report

LONDON — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange called on Britain and Sweden on Friday to let him freely leave the Ecuadorian embassy in London after a UN panel ruled he had been arbitrarily detained and should be awarded compensation.

Assange, a computer hacker who enraged the United States by publishing hundreds of thousands of secret US diplomatic cables, has been holed up in the embassy since June 2012 to avoid a rape investigation in Sweden.

Both Britain and Sweden denied that Assange was being deprived of freedom, noting he had entered the embassy voluntarily. Britain said it could contest the decision and that Assange would be arrested if he left the embassy.

Assange, an Australian, appealed to the UN panel, whose decision is not binding, saying he was a political refugee whose rights had been infringed by being unable to take up asylum in Ecuador.

It ruled in his favour, although the decision was not unanimous. Three of the five members on the panel supported a decision in Assange's favour, with one dissenter and one recusing himself.

Brandishing a copy of the UN panel's decision from the balcony of the embassy in the Knightsbridge area of London, Assange called on Britain and Sweden to implement the ruling.

"How sweet it is. This is a victory that cannot be denied," said Assange, wearing a loosened gold tie with the top button of his shirt undone.

"What right does this government, or the US government, or the Swedish government have to deny my children their father?" he said below the yellow, blue and red Ecuadorian flag.

When a heckler persistently asked whether he planned to stay for five more years in the embas-



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange appears on screen via video link during a news conference at the Frontline Club in London, Britain on 5 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

sy, Assange quipped: "Can someone close that person up."

Assange, 44, denies allegations of a 2010 rape in Sweden, saying the accusation is a ploy that would eventually take him to the United States where a criminal investigation into the activities of WikiLeaks is still open.

"The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention considers that the various forms of deprivation of liberty to which Julian Assange has been subjected constitute a form of arbitrary detention," the group's head, Seong-Phil Hong, said in a statement.

"(It) maintains that the arbitrary detention of Mr Assange should be brought to an end, that his physical integrity and freedom of movement be respected, and that he should be entitled to an enforceable right to compensation."

Ecuador's foreign minister, Ricardo Patino, said Assange must be allowed to go free. "What more do they want to be accused of before they start to rectify their error?" he told South American broadcaster Telesur, in reference to Britain and Sweden. Patino said Ecuador was analysing its next steps.

The decision in his favour marks the latest twist in a tumultuous journey for Assange since he incensed Washington with leaks that laid bare often highly critical US appraisals of world leaders from Vladimir Putin to the Saudi royal family.

In 2010, the group released over 90,000 secret documents on the US-led military campaign in Afghanistan, followed by almost 400,000 US military reports detailing operations in Iraq.

Those disclosures were followed by release of millions of diplomatic cables dating back to 1973.

The UN Working Group does not have the authority to order the release of a detainee — and Friday's ruling in unlikely to change the legal issues facing Assange — but it has considered many high-profile cases and its backing carries a moral weight that puts pressure on governments.

High-profile cases submitted to the UN panel include that of jailed former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed and of Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, an Iranian-American jailed in Iran until a prisoner swap last month.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU needs detention and removal centre for migrants

BRUSSELS — European Union countries that register arriving migrants also need detention and removal centres to handle those that are not granted the right to stay in the 28-nation bloc, European Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos said.

In an interview with the Euractiv information website, Avramopoulos also said that countries facing the biggest migration pressure like Greece and Italy, should build such centres alongside expanding "hot-spots" for handling those who have arrived and are waiting for a decision. "Of course, during that time, people have to stay somewhere. So it is normal that we need more reception places," he said.

"But detention or removal centres are also needed for those who receive the decision to return, particularly if there is a risk of absconding and if they are not willing to return voluntarily," Avramopoulos told Euractiv.—Reuters

Hotel fire in Iraqi Kurdistan kills 17, including foreigners

ERBIL (Iraq) — A fire at a hotel in the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region killed 17 people on Friday, the governor of Erbil told a local media network, and the hotel manager said they included foreigners.

Governor Nawzad Hadi told Rudaw TV that 14 of the victims were not from the autonomous region, but that their nationality was not yet known. The cause of the fire was not clear, but Hadi said an electrical fault was suspected. The manager of the Capitol Hotel told Rudaw the fire had started in a massage parlour next door and that some of those killed were from the Philippines. Many foreign workers came to Kurdistan after 2003, when the region experienced an oil fuelled economic boom, inviting comparisons with the Gulf emirate of Dubai.—Reuters

At least 36 killed when bus plunges into river in West India

NEW DELHI — At least 36 people were killed and many severely injured when a bus plunged into a river in the western Indian state of Gujarat on Friday, police said.

The State Road Transport Corporation bus, which was carrying 65 passengers, fell into Purna river in south Gujarat when the driver apparently lost control of the speeding bus, said police.

The passengers included students and employees working in private sectors and government offices, who were on their way to Ukai from Navsari State transport depot, said local daily Indian Express online. The accident happened just before the Gurukul Supa bridge on Purna river. Authorities were carrying out rescue operations and the injured have been rushed to hospitals for emergency treatment.—Xinhua

Heavy clashes in southeast Libya, 30 killed

TRIPOLI — Two days of clashes in southeastern Libya between a local armed faction and Sudanese fighters have left more than 30 people dead, a local mayor said on Friday.

The commander of the Libyan Subul Assalam faction, Abdurrahman Hashim, said the Sudanese fighters were rebels from Sudan's Darfur region who had moved into the area around the town of Kufra following the uprising that toppled Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. He said his group was retaliating for armed robberies and attempted attacks on Kufra, in Libya's desert south-east which shares a border with northwestern Sudan. Kufra Mayor Miftah Bou Khalil told Reuters that Subul Assalam fighters attacked an oasis 150 km northwest of Kufra on Friday, killing 10 Sudanese fighters and capturing four.—Reuters

Five killed, two missing in landslides in Central Java, Indonesia

JAKARTA — Indonesian rescuers have discovered 5 bodies and are still searching for 2 others after landslides hit Purworejo district of Central Java on Friday night, rescuer said yesterday.

Heavy downpours triggered the falling down of soil on a hill at Penungkulan village of Gebang sub-district at around 20:00 pm Jakarta time, which hit at least 2 houses, spokesman of National Search and Rescue Office named only Marsudi said. "Rescue team from Central Java office along with soldiers, police and volunteers are searching for the missing persons now," he told Xinhua by phone. Landslides are frequent in Indonesia during heavy rainfalls, leaving scores of casualty and damages.—Xinhua

Thousands flee as Russian-backed offensive threatens to besiege Aleppo

BEIRUT — Tens of thousands of Syrians fled an intensifying Russian assault around Aleppo on Friday, and aid workers said they feared the major city could soon fall under a full government siege.

Iran reported one of its generals had been killed on the front line, giving direct confirmation of the role Tehran is playing along with Moscow in what appears to be one of the most determined offensives in five years of civil war.

The government assault around Aleppo, and advances in the south and northwest, helped to torpedo Geneva peace talks this week. Russia's intervention has tipped the war President Bashar al-Assad's way, reversing gains rebels made last year.

The last two days saw government troops and their Lebanese and Iranian allies fully encircle the countryside north of Aleppo and cut off the main sup-



People inspect the damage after airstrikes by pro-Syrian government forces in the rebel held al-Sakhour neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 5 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

ply route linking the city — Syria's largest before the war — to Turkey. Ankara said it suspected the aim was to starve the population into submission.

Aleppo would be the biggest strategic prize in years for Assad's government in a conflict that has killed at least 250,000 people and driven 11 million

from their homes.

Video footage showed thousands of people massing at the Bab al-Salam crossing on the Turkish border. Men carried lug-

gage on their heads, and the elderly and those unable to walk were brought in wheelchairs. Women sat on the side of the road holding babies and waiting to be allowed into Turkey.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said 15,000 people fleeing Aleppo had arrived at Turkey's border.

Rights group Amnesty International urged the country to let in those fleeing the latest violence.

"It feels like a siege of Aleppo is about to begin," said David Evans, Middle East programme director for the US aid agency Mercy Corps, which said the most direct humanitarian route to Aleppo had been severed. "The situation in Aleppo is a humanitarian catastrophe," said an opposition spokesman still in Geneva after the ill-fated peace talks. "The international community must take urgent, concrete steps to address it." —Reuters

Kerry says in talks on Syria ceasefire, will know in days if possible

WASHINGTON — Talks are under way about a ceasefire and humanitarian access for civilians in the five-year-old Syrian civil war and it will be clear within days whether that is possible, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday.

"The modalities of a ceasefire itself are also being discussed and the Russians have made some constructive ideas about how a ceasefire in fact could be implemented," Kerry told reporters. "But if it's just talks for the sake of talks in order to continue the bombing, nobody is going to accept that, and we will know that in the course of the next days."

UN-led peace talks in Geneva were halted on 3 February after the Syrian army, backed by Russian air strikes, advanced against rebel forces north of Aleppo, choking off humanitarian supply lines to civilians.

The talks were the first attempt to negotiate an end to Syrian's war in two years. The opposition has said it will not negotiate unless the government stops bombarding civilian areas, lifts blockages on besieged towns and releases detainees.

Kerry said Russia and Assad were not in compliance with a UN Security Council resolution, which calls for immediate humanitarian access and an end to aerial bombardment of civilians.

He said there was evidence that Russia was using "dumb" bombs to kill civilians in "large numbers" in Syria.

"This has to stop," Kerry said, "Nobody has any question about that. But it's not going to stop just by whining about it. It's not going to stop by walking away from the table or not engaging," he added. "The next days will tell the story of whether or not people are serious or people are not serious," said Kerry, adding that talks underway were about providing quick humanitarian access to civilians and a ceasefire.

Kerry travels to Munich next week for talks with Russia, Iran and other parties involved in the Syrian conflict. —Reuters

INVITATION TO TELENOR MYANMAR

It is hereby notified to make Media Conference in connection with whether Telenor Myanmar followed to business ethic or not.

Our Zenith Power Company Limited and Telenor Myanmar Co., Ltd made service agreement on (27 - 6 - 2014) and implemented as PMC Service with 10 Cluster Project Manager by sending staff specially trained by Zenith Power Company Limited. After execution of the said service agreement, Zenith Power Company Limited implemented as PMC Service with 10 Cluster Project Manager. During the said service period, the staff specially trained by Zenith Power Company Limited were appointed as staff at your Telenor Myanmar Co., Ltd by organizing within few month.

After the said appointment, it is learnt to know that the works implementing under agreement of Zenith Power Company Limited are being continued as PMC Service with 10 Cluster Project Manager with the engineers specially trained by our client.

As continuing the work with our staff after completion of service agreement is deemed as if it is breach of custom of international economic culture avoiding the business competition ethic by appointing staff of our client company desirous not to pay the work value of service agreement. Our client Zenith Power Company Limited feel that your Telenor Myanmar Co., Ltd is a company standing with goodwill in accordance with business ethic with high dignity worldwide.

Therefore, we deemed it is necessary to make Media Conference by your Telenor Myanmar Co., Ltd to enable to clarify the Telenor user Myanmar people together with business organizations and social organizations in connection with the said matter being dignity of your company is high.

It is hereby notified that our client company has prepared and in ready position and your company is invited to enable to clarify with your company.

Under instruction-

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO (1046W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1046W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (104N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (104N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

OPINION

Disciplined democracy versus freedom

Khin Maung Aye

THE Yangon City Development Committee paved concrete roads in the commercial capital of Yangon during the year 2015. New concrete roads can be seen everywhere, making the community cleaner and better looking in addition to better transport and travel. On top of all, the real estate sector has seen a rise in prices of flats and apartments in the whole city thanks to improvement in transportation and traveling.

With the advent of wider roads, some people

have come to regard the open spaces emerging from road improvements as places for parking of bicycles, motorbikes and motorcars. They misuse the newly paved roads as their parking lots, and do the parking in an undisciplined manner with the result that both the vehicles and the pedestrians are suffering from the avoidable traffic jams. There are also those unruly football players on the road. Some are even having a bath on the road whereas others feed the stray dogs. Some drop the left over food into the drainage while some throw the litter onto the road, not abiding by the road rules. There are also roadside vendors who use the roads and pavements as if the latter are their own home.

These unethical behaviors and/or undisciplined manners reminded me of General Aung San, our national hero and architect of independence, who once said he had seen in Hinthada some local people drying up the tobacco on the road, thinking they could do things according to their whims and fancies as independence was regained from the British colonialists.

In this juncture, it is worth remembering that abidance by discipline is a symbol of a gentleman as well as of a law abiding citizen. In this time of democratisation, it is of vital importance for the authorities to enforce the rule of law, to restore law and order and to promote the awareness of the importance of abidance by laws, rules, regulations in order that a democratic society can be built up.

Write for us

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

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

Newspaper Headline Styles

Tommy Pauk

WHENEVER we read a newspaper, we first look for the interesting news or breaking news. The headlines of news items introduce the news to us or arouse our curiosity to read the very news. Also, they attract the readers' attention to the particular news. The writing of newspaper headline styles is rather unusual and different from the ordinary English. Newspapermen always create effective or conspicuous headlines in the dailies. So, we, the readers are aware of such style of writing for news headlines in the news columns. Certain words are used in newspaper headlines. They are usually short, entertaining or sound dramatic. Some of these words are not common in ordinary language or are used in different sense. This is really an amazing art of writing indeed.

Headlines also omit certain words and use colloquial expressions, abbreviations and different verb tenses. The present simple can be used for present or past story. The use of the present simple instead of the past tense makes the story sound more immediate. An infinitive often refers to the future. e.g. 'Man To probe Water on Mars.' Articles (a, an, the) and the auxiliary verbs are often not included. Obviously, this art of writing in newspaper headline style is created by pressmen known as newspapermen. In this field of print media, the newspapermen have right or license (such as a poetic license in literature) to use constructs, the phrases or clauses for news headlines. Sometimes, the headlines are composed into sentences. Despite the style of headlines are often ungrammatical, the correct spelling is used.

English grammarians, linguists, academicians and international readers can understand and accept these headline styles being

used in English newspapers. All sensible persons regard and pay respect to the pressmen for their dedication to their work. By any means, we must praise them for their creativity of headline styles in the newspapers. The pressmen are worthy of commendation because they artistically and cleverly create the very unusual words in writing headlines. Thus, the readers can get rid of boredom while reading the specific news.

The following are from various English newspapers.

Contractions and abbreviations are used in headlines.

Examples: 'Pols' for Politicians, 'Dems' for Democrats, 'Govt' for Government, 'Lib Dems' for the Liberal Democrats etc.

Extremely short words are used in headlines in order to save space.

Examples: 'axe' (eliminate), 'bid' (attempt), 'Foil' (to prevent), 'ink' (sign a contract), 'rap' (criticize- as a verb), 'rout' (defeat overwhelmingly), 'laud' (praise), 'confab' (meeting), 'mull' (consider), 'see' (forecast), 'nix' (reject), 'pose' (raise question) 'parley' (negotiations between enemies- as a noun) 'pen' (writer), 'Halt' (stop, to stop), 'hype' (create publicity stunts), 'vie' (compete), 'blast' (explosion), 'blaze' (fire), 'clash' (conflict, disagreement, fight), 'curb' (check or restraint), 'drama' (exciting or dramatic event), 'envoy' (diplomat) 'hike' (increase) 'hit' (affect badly), 'Haul' (goods stolen in robbery or taken by police or customs), 'Oust' (to force out of office, remove from high position), 'poll' (vote, election, public opinion survey), 'probe' (investigate, investigation), 'Quit' (leave, depart, resign), 'Quiz' (question), 'Riddle' (mystery), 'Rig' (to falsify), 'Seek' (look for, want, ask for) 'Slash' (reduce drastically), 'Storm' (angry argument), 'split' (divide, division) 'Swoop' (raid, to raid), 'Temblor

' (USA) (earthquake) 'Toll' (total number of dead), 'tout' (praise, endorse), 'Wed' (marry), 'Woo' (attract, interest, win the support of) 'Gag' (to silence, censor, censorship), 'Slam' (heavily criticize), 'eye' (consider), 'lull' (appease, calm), 'Lout' (stupid person), 'stun' (shock), 'mar' (damage) 'duo' (couple), 'Gal' (Internet slang used to ridicule people who spend large amounts of time using computers or the internet / slang expression for girl or woman), 'thug' (gangster), 'rip' (tear), 'crackdown' (sudden punitive or disciplinary action) 'besiege' (surround), 'baffle' (bewilder, mystify), 'leak' (escape of secret information). 'move' (action, step, to take action), 'cut' (reduce)

Violent words are often used in newspaper headlines in order to make stories seem more dramatic.

Examples: 'EU acts to crush terror of the thugs'

'Palace besieged by journalists'

'Typhoon rips through town'

'Crackdown on soccer louts'

The following newspaper headline styles are often seen in the newspaper in the world. They are comprehensible to native speakers and English speaking people around the world. They can be described as a blend of literary words and ordinary words. Professionally, newspapermen write about a variety of daily events, incidents which are occurring on the stage of human-life. The true stories are presented in the dailies in the form of news writing.

GOVERNMENT IN NEW ROW OVER LAND (row means an argument); The government is in an argument over land.

OBAMA BACKS NEW LAW (back means support); President Obama has supported a new law.

JAPAN'S PRIME MINISTER TO QUIT (leave a job); Ja-

pan's Prime Minister is going to quit.

BAD WEATHER HITS FARMERS (hit means have a bad effect on); The bad weather has affected the farmers to grow crops.

UN IN BID TO END WAR (bid means try or attempt); UN is trying to end war.

STAR TO WED (used infinitive for future tense); A film star is going to get married

POLLS RIGGED CHARGES; Allegations have been made that election results were falsified.

TWO SOUGHT AFTER BREAK-OUT DRAMA; Police are hunting two men who made a daring escape from prison by helicopter.

CABINET RESHUFFLE URGED; Strong appeals have been made to the Prime Minister to make changes in his ministers.

GEMS HAUL SEIZED IN SWOOP; Police raided a house today and took possession of jewelry stolen in a recent robbery.

BRITAIN'S PRINCE CHARLES, WIFE VISIT PASTY MUSEUM IN MEXICO (conjunction is omitted); THE Britain's Prince Charles and his wife visited Pasty museum in Mexico.

BRITISH BANKER CHARGED WITH MURDER OF 2 WOMEN IN HONG KONG (instead of using passive voice, the active voice is used in the headline); A British banker has been charged with murder of 2 women in Hong Kong.

AIR FARES SLASHED TO WOO HOLIDAY MAKERS (instead of using passive voice, the active voice is used in the headline); Airfares have been drastically reduced to attract more holidaymakers to fly.

ARMY AXES 3 BASES, 3,000 MEN; The army has closed down three bases and dismissed 3,000 men to save money.

3 SAVED IN FLATS BLAZE DRAMA (instead of using passive voice, the active voice

is used in the headline); Three people have been saved in a dramatic fire at a block of flats

'CRACKDOWN ON PORN'; A strong campaign against pornography has been launched.

PM TO REVEAL SOCCER LOUPLANS; The Prime Minister is going to announce plans for dealing with football hooligans etc.

Since they are not writing fictitious stories, the news must be confirmed, factual, timely and reliable. Headlines are the opening or introducing parts of the news items. So, the pressmen use appropriate choice of words and styles in writing news headlines. Afterwards, the headlines are compact and vivid so that the readers can understand partially about the news before they read the detailed news. This artistic daily-task shows the cleverness, quality and skill of the pressman in writing the styles of headlines. The readers are absolutely fascinated by the pressman's methods of writing newspaper headline style. Besides, the pressmen are normally respected and praised by readers for their relentless efforts to convey the confirmed news and important or useful information to the readers in time. In conclusion, the newspaper headlines depict the bird's eye view of the events or occurrences attractively. !!!

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

Exhibition marks birthday of elderly artist



A painting fan taking a photo of paintings. PHOTO: KHIN KHIN WIN (EDUCATION)

TO mark the 86th birthday of Artist U Aye Myint, a solo art exhibition is being held in Mandalay starting from 2 February with a focus on showcasing his original artworks that reflect the country's traditional arts and culture.

The event had run until 6

February at the Mandalay Hill Gallery in Aungmyethazan Township, featuring over 70 works in a wide range of styles and media.

Subject matters include traditional themes like the beauty of Myanmar girls and their customs, still life, landscapes, ethnic diver-

sity in the country and Buddhist culture.

The 86 year old artist said Artist U Kyaw Lay was his first teacher and that he also emulates the traditional artistic techniques of Artist U Khin Maung.—*Khin Khin Win (Education)*

Cabbage prices plummet in Sagaing Region

CABBAGE farmers from the Khin Oo township of Sagaing Region are experiencing many losses after the price of their crop has plummeted.

"Last week a hundred cabbages sold for 40,000 kyats, but now the price has fallen a great deal. Farmers could suffer many losses at such a low price," said Ko Myint, a cabbage farmer from the Behkone village of Khin Oo township.

The growing rate for a hun-

dred cabbages during January 15-25 was between 35,000-40,000 kyats. But, from January 26 and into this first week of February, the price of the same volume of the vegetable is being valued at between just 7,000-13,000 kyats.

"Those farmers whose cabbages are only now ready for selling are suffering losses. We don't have anything left after transport, brokering and labourer expenses [have been taken

off]. The price of cabbages has also declined. Those farmers only now selling their crop are the first victims," said Ko Win Aung, a cabbage farmer from the village of Aung Thar in the aforementioned township.

It is known that the cabbages grown in the Khin Oo township of Sagaing Region are transported and sold within the township itself as well as the town of Shwebo and Mandalay.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

International fighters to meet at charity boxing tournament for flood victims



THE Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation, in cooperation with Yangon Press Group and the Myanmar Media Group will organise a charity tournament for flood victims in February in Yangon.

The major purpose of the contest is to provide assistance to victims nationwide who suf-

fered from floods during the last monsoon. The heavy rains in June and July of last year caused floods in wide parts of the country, leaving many homeless.

Five Japanese boxers named Kazuki, Takashi Inamine, Kenso, Masato Tanak and Kiyoshi Tamura, an Australian Hartley Jackson, Italy's Coean Neel and

James Aideen from New Zealand will participate in the event.

In men and women's events, eight male athletes from Japan, Britain and the U.S, and four female fighters from Japan, Australia and the U.S have already registered to take part in the contest.

Kyar (Tiger) Ba Hein will fight against Hsinyinelay (Wild Elephant) at the Myanmar traditional boxing contest, an organiser said.

The contest will be held on 12 February at Theinbyu Gymnasium at 5 p.m. Sports fans need to pay a fee of K100,000, K70,000, K50,000, K30,000 and K20,000 each for the boxing events.—*Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)*

Prosecution begins against human traffickers in Mon State

THE contingent of the Myanmar anti-human trafficking police force based in the Mon State capital, Mawlamyine, has made it known that incidents of human trafficking within the State have fallen during its second 5 year anti-human trafficking project.

The first 5 year long anti-human trafficking project was conducted between 2007-2011, with a following project spanning the years of 2012-2016. The later project has seen a distinct fall in the numbers of people being trafficked in the State, with just 10 cases of prosecution being made so far, compared with 24 cases during the initial project.

Moreover, anti-human trafficking groups were formed at State, district, township and village level, in order to combat human trafficking. They carried out public awareness campaigns involving talks and lectures; the handing out of information pamphlets; erecting of large billboards in visible locations, as well as carrying out five sectors of protection against human trafficking in a bid to completely eradicate it: collaboration in drawing up of relevant policies; prevention, prosecution, capacity building and protection over victims of human trafficking.

"When we come across victims of human trafficking, the majority have usually come [here] from other States or Regions within the country, travelling through a broker. Brokers cross the borders of Mon and Kayin States, while many of those profiteering from human trafficking are caught along the

border [with Thailand]." said Head of the Mawlamyine Anti-human Trafficking Police Department U Aye Thein.

According to residents of the region, the number of those from Mon State traveling to neighboring Thailand in search of work illegally are increasing.

"There are many of people from Mon State in Thailand. But, there is a greater number of those who travel there illegally than legally. There isn't a great deal of difference in the price incurred between traveling by legal or illegal means, but to travel legally requires waiting at least two weeks before hand to be issued with passport documentation. If you travel illegally today, you'll arrive tomorrow. The other thing is, you might also get a low salary by traveling through an official company. That's why there's a lot of people who travel to Thailand illegally of," said U Aye Thaung, a resident Mon State.

The punishment from a Myanmar court of law for being found guilty of trafficking women or children is 10 years to life imprisonment, while it is between 5-10 years for the trafficking of men.

The majority of those people being trafficked who are picked up in Mon State are from the Ayeyawady, Bago and Magwe Regions of the country.

The population of Mon State is over 2 million, according to the 2014 census, while 400,000 of them have left to work aboard.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Bad Weather Affects Paddy Yield

DESPITE seeing the price rise in paddy in Ayadaw Township, local farmers have experienced a low yield of paddy for three consecutive years.

"We used pesticide and chemical fertilizer in attempts to boost the rice production, but it doesn't work because of bad weather. In fact, we have even chosen a good pedigree of seed, such as Eya-min and Baygya",

said a farmer.

On account of severe weather, farmers can approximately reap 70 baskets of Eya-min strain of rice per acre and 60 baskets of Baygya strain of rice per acre. Currently, 100 baskets of Eya-min are sold out for K8,000 as well as 100 baskets of Baygya are sold out for K9,000.—*Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

Chinese New Year Sale Festival will be held in Latha

THE Chinese New Year sale festival will be held for three days from 5 to 7 February in Latha Township. There will be about 550 stalls on the Mahabandoola Road between Lanmadaw and Latha Streets. Stalls are being sold for K6,500 and K8, 500 depending upon the space allowed.

Those wishing to buy the stalls may submit their application forms at Dhammayon

Township, which is located on 20 street (lower), Latha Township.

The rules and regulations prescribed are mentioned in the application forms. Shopkeepers shall not put their goods in the area out of their stalls or sublet to others. Those found encroaching upon the road area will have action taken against them, according to the rules. —*The Mirror*

US creates 151,000 nonfarm jobs in January, jobless rate falls to 4.9%

WASHINGTON — The US economy created a smaller-than-expected 151,000 nonfarm jobs in January, while the unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point from the previous month to 4.9 per cent, its lowest level in nearly eight years, the Labor Department said Friday.

The number of newly created jobs fell below the 200,000 threshold indicative of steady economic recovery for the first time in four months, possibly casting a shadow over the prospects of the world's largest economy and affecting the timing of any additional interest rate hike by the US Federal Reserve.

The Labour Department also revised upward the net increase in nonfarm jobs in November to 280,000 from 252,000, while revising downward the figure for December to 262,000 from 292,000.

In January, the private sector added 158,000 jobs while the government shed 7,000 jobs, the de-

partment said.

The goods-producing sector generated 40,000 jobs, with construction gaining 18,000 and the manufacturing sector 29,000, while mining and logging lost 7,000 workers.

The private service sector, in normal time the engine of job creation, created 118,000 jobs in Janu-

ary with retailers employing 57,700 more people.

The professional and business service sector, which includes consulting, accounting and computer services, added 9,000 jobs, while the education and health services sector added 6,000 workers.

Hourly pay in the private sector, a key factor be-

hind consumer spending, averaged \$25.39 in January, up slightly from \$25.27 the previous month.

Financial markets have keenly awaited the jobs report for clues to the pace of Federal Reserve interest rate hikes following its first rate increase in nearly a decade in December.—Kyodo News

Top cybercrime ring disrupted as authorities raid Moscow offices

WASHINGTON — Russian authorities in November raided offices associated with a Moscow film distribution and production company as part of a crackdown on one of the world's most notorious financial hacking operations, according to three sources with knowledge of the matter.

Cybersecurity experts said a password-stealing software programme known as Dyre — believed to be responsible for at least tens of millions of dollars in losses at financial institutions including Bank of America Corp (BAC.N) and JPMorgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) — has not been deployed since the time of the raid. Experts familiar with the situation said the case represents Russia's biggest effort to date to crack down on cyber-crime.

A spokesman for the Russian Interior Ministry's cybercrime unit said his department was not involved in the case. The FSB, Russia's main intelligence service, said it had no immediate comment.

Nikolay Volchkov, the chief executive of the film company named 25th Floor, said he could not answer questions about the raid.

Without an official confirmation, much remains a mystery. Reuters could not determine a direct link between the programme's shutdown and the raid.

The sources said that a number of people were questioned by the authorities but Reuters was unable to ascertain further details, including whether there were arrests or criminal charges. Reuters has no evidence that Volchkov or the film company is implicated in any wrongdoing and couldn't determine precisely who is. Hackers targeting Western financial institutions and individuals are



A general view shows the building 'Gorod Stolits' (Capital City) (C), which houses an office of 25 Floor Film Company, at the Moscow International Business Centre also known as "Moskva-City", in Moscow, Russia, on 3 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

rarely punished in Russia. Consequently, the November raid is seen as potentially a landmark event by Western cyber-crime watchers.

The Dyre hackers used a range of tricks to insert sophisticated computer code into consumer Web browsers to manipulate communications between those customers and more than 400 financial institutions, according to analysts at Dell SecureWorks. IBM said it was the most pervasive financial theft software hitting its customers last year.

But then Dyre stopped spreading, banking and security experts said. "We have seen a disruption over the last few months that is definitely consistent with successful law enforcement action," said cyber-crime expert John Miller of US-based security firm iSight Partners, who had no knowledge of specific arrests.

The Dyre investigation in Russia is being aided by Kaspersky Lab, a top cyber-security firm. A person close to the company

said it would reveal details about the case at its annual conference for security experts starting Sunday. Kaspersky declined to comment on its conference plans. Adding further intrigue to the November raid is that 25th Floor is in the midst of producing a film called Botnet, a cyber-crime thriller loosely based on a 2010 case in which 37 people in the United States and elsewhere were charged in a \$3 million scam.

Prosecutors in the 2010 case touted the bust as a big win against organised cybercrime. Tabloid media outlets loved the story, especially as photos circulated of one of the suspects, a blue-eyed Russian brunette named Kristina Svehinskaya, who was referred to by *The Sun* newspaper in Britain as "the world's sexiest hacker."

However, most of the people charged were lower-level in the scam and the key figures were never named, let alone arrested. The hackers used a variant of the then-top programme

for hijacking bank accounts, known as Zeus, which law enforcement sources say is related to the present-day Dyre.

Housed in a fashionable Moscow skyscraper, 25th Floor distributes movies and television shows in Russia and neighbouring countries as well as producing some of its own. Last year's distribution slate included "The Runner," with Nicholas Cage, and this April it is slated to ship "Exposed," a police corruption drama with Keanu Reeves.

Two people briefed on the November raid said it involved both 25th Floor's office and a related neighbouring office.

In treatments for the movie version of the crime story seen by Reuters, the lead female character grows up poor in a Moscow housing complex, is lured into an imagined high life of New York hackers, and eventually gets arrested by the US National Security Agency before turning on the worst of her criminal associates and walking free.—Reuters

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MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (154N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (154N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1014W)

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALACCA STAR VOY NO ()

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Zika found in saliva, urine in Brazil; US offers sex advice

RIO DE JANEIRO — Authorities in Brazil said on Friday Zika has been detected in patients' saliva and urine, adding to the concern over the spread of the virus, while US officials offered new guidance on sex for people returning from Zika-hit regions.

Zika, linked to thousands of birth defects in Brazil, is primarily transmitted through mosquito bites, but word surfaced this week of infections through sex and blood transfusions, and news of the presence of the virus in the saliva and urine of two patients prompted new worries.

The possibility of infection via body fluids could complicate efforts to contain the outbreak.

In fact, the president of the Brazilian federal biomedical research institution that made the announcement urged pregnant women not to kiss strangers during the country's free-wheeling Carnival celebrations.

The US Centres for Disease Control and Pre-

vention recommended more stringent measures for monitoring pregnant women for Zika and for preventing sexual transmission of the virus.

"I wish we knew more about Zika today," CDC Director Tom Frieden told reporters.

The CDC said men with a pregnant partner who live in or have travelled to an area of active Zika transmission should use condoms during sex with their partner or abstain from sex for the duration of the pregnancy.

"The science is not clear on how long the risk should be avoided," the CDC said.

Zika has spread rapidly through the Americas, prompting the World Health Organisation to declare an international public health emergency due to its link to microcephaly, a condition in which infants are born with abnormally small heads and can suffer developmental problems.

There is no vaccine or treatment for Zika.



Female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are seen on the forearm of a health technician in a laboratory conducting research on preventing the spread of the Zika virus and other mosquito-borne diseases, at the entomology department of the Ministry of Public Health in Guatemala City, on 4 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Carnival celebrations are a raucous, five-day bacchanalia known for street parties and lots of alcohol and kissing. Some revellers even keep track of the number of complete strangers they kiss.

Because Zika has been linked to microcephaly, the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation scientists recommended that pregnant women take special precautions and avoid crowds during Carnival.

"In light of the possibility of being in contact with someone who is infected, do not kiss, obviously," Dr Paulo Gadelha, the foundation's president, told reporters.

"We cannot say today that there is no possibility of transmission," Gadelha added.

The scientists said they used genetic testing to identify the virus in saliva and urine samples from the two patients, who had

symptoms caused by Zika infection, and determined that the virus was active, meaning it had the potential to cause infection. They said more research was needed to determine whether Zika could be transmitted by either fluid.

They said this marked the first time the virus had been detected in either fluid.

Brazil, the country hardest hit by Zika, is grappling with the virus even as it prepares to host the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August.

The WHO said that between January 2014 and 5 February 2016, a total of 33 countries have reported indigenous circulation of Zika virus. The UN agency also said there was evidence of indirect local transmission in six other countries.

Reflecting concern over potential harm to fetuses, the CDC updated its guidelines on Friday for testing pregnant women who have travelled to affected areas, saying even those without symptoms

should be tested after returning home.

The guidelines recommend pregnant women be offered testing two to 12 weeks after returning home. The agency had earlier suggested tests only for those with symptoms of the illness, which causes a fever, rash and red eyes.

The CDC already earlier urged pregnant women not to travel to areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing. The agency has not issued guidance regarding kissing, Frieden said. At the centre of the concern over Zika, until recently viewed as a mild illness, is the possibility that infection with Zika during pregnancy may cause microcephaly.

CDC chief Frieden said the suspected link appears "stronger and stronger" as researchers study whether there is a causal connection. He added that his agency is working with researchers in Brazil to study a potential link between Zika and a wider array of developmental disorders in babies.—Reuters

Chinese given World Cancer Day lifestyle warning

BEIJING — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned China about its high rate of cancer deaths, urging the population to give up smoking and to adopt more healthy diets and lifestyles.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the eve of World Cancer Day, the WHO noted that more than 2.8 million people died of cancer in China last year, with an average 7,500 such deaths per day.

"The real tragedy is

that most of these cases are preventable," said Dr Bernhard Schwartlander, representative for the WHO in China.

Smoking, alcohol abuse, poor diets and lack of physical activity all greatly increase the risks of cancer.

About 30 per cent of cancer deaths are caused by lung cancer in China.

"There are over 315 million smokers in China, and the number continues to rise. Nearly half of all

Chinese men smoke. Unsurprisingly, lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer among men," Schwartlander said.

A report by the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) in June supported the WHO's evaluation.

It said more than 85 per cent of all deaths in China are from chronic diseases, with cancer and chronic respiratory issues among the top causes.

The NHFPC attributed the situation to smoking, excessive drinking, insufficient exercise and diets featuring too much salt and fat.

Schwartlander also stressed the broader national impact of not controlling smoking on cancer. "Cancer is not just an individual health issue — it reaches into all aspects of society, including the economy and the public health system," he said.

The medical expert

suggested the country focus on raising people's awareness of healthy lifestyles, promoting early diagnosis and improving treatment, saying that China's ongoing health reforms should help the cause.

The country has been restructuring the public health network and improving services in less developed rural areas, including free screenings for cervical cancer and breast cancer among rural women.

Beijing and a number of other cities have also banned smoking in public places.

Last summer, hit Chinese film "Go Away Mr Tumour," about a cartoonist with cancer, showed its female protagonist burning the midnight oil, eating junk food and working under pressure, all common among young Chinese.

The character was based on a woman who died of lymphoma in her twenties.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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Haiti protesters stone ex-fighter to death as political crisis deepens

PORT-AU-PRINCE — Haiti slipped deeper into unrest on Friday as former fighters roamed the capital and a mob of protesters stoned one of them to death, days before President Michel Martelly is due to leave office with no elected successor.

Reuters witnesses said a crowd attacked an unarmed man wearing green military-style clothes, who was among the retired paramilitary fighters in the streets on Friday. Such fighters toppled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a 2004 coup.

"We are ready to fight the former military, they killed us in 2004, we will never let that happen again," said opposition protester Wesner Morin, 37, from the Bel Aire slum.

Martelly is due to leave office on Sunday but squabbling politicians have failed to organise an interim government to replace him, after the runoff election to choose his replacement was scrapped last month amid violence and fraud allegations.

The crisis has reopened



A man kicks in the head of an unidentified man in military style clothes who was stoned to death by a mob of protesters in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on 2 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

old divisions in Haitian society, with mainly poor opposition protesters calling for the leftist Aristide to be brought back as an interim

leader and the former fighters appearing in support of Martelly's camp.

The Caribbean nation, the poorest in the Western

Hemisphere, has been trying since the 1980s to build a stable democracy in the wake of the decades-long rule of the Duvalier family.

Aristide disbanded the army in 1995 in an attempt to end military dominance over Haitian politics stretching back to independence two centuries earlier. Martelly last year energised former fighters by taking steps to revive the army.

The groups of ageing former gunmen drove through the capital in convoys on Friday, some waving weapons and firing into the air.

Until police took away his body, the dead veteran lay on the street in a pool of blood, his boots removed by protesters. A small card bearing the image of ruling-party candidate Jovenel Moise was stuck to the back of his crushed head.

The latest political crisis has distracted from ongoing efforts to rebuild a nation shattered by an earthquake six years ago that killed an estimated 200,000 people.

Haiti held the first round of the presidential election in October, but opposition candidates have since claimed it was

tainted by major fraud. An independent commission that investigated the election cited serious irregularities.

A runoff vote scheduled for January was scrapped when the opposition candidate, Jude Celestin, threatened to boycott the process and sporadic violent protests swept the country.

With no solution to the impasse, protests have intensified in recent days in the lead up to Martelly's expected departure.

Politicians are discussing a range of options, including appointing a supreme court judge or a new prime minister to run an interim government. Martelly said in a statement on Friday that he would soon choose one of the options.

The United States, which spent some \$33 million on the election, fears an interim government might linger for years, leaving Haiti without a democratically elected president, a situation the country suffered after Aristide was toppled.—*Reuters*

Auto Telephone Numbers of Thingangyun Exchange Area will be changed

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications is always trying to provide better quality and upgraded services for its auto telephone customers. Thingangyun S-12 Exchange need to be upgraded in mechanical functions. It will be replaced with modern MSAN Exchange urgently.

Therefore, we would like to inform that the numbers (01-56xxxx) of Thingangyun Exchange Host will be changed into (01-856xxxx), by adding (8) to original number (56), (example 01-561234 to 01-8561234) on 10th February 2016.

And the original numbers (01-56xxxx) of Thuwanna Exchange, South Okkalapa RSU Exchange, Yankin RSU Exchange will be changed into (01-233xxxx), by replacing (233) in the place of original number (56), (example 01-561234 to 01-2331234) on 10th February 2016.

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Twitter users cool toward mellow Coldplay ahead of Super Bowl

NEW YORK — British rock band Coldplay may have won several Grammy awards for its music, but it has yet to convince Twitter users that its mellow ballads are suited for the normally peppy Super Bowl halftime show on Sunday.

On Friday, many on the social media platform poked fun at the band, known for brooding songs that are starkly different from the bubbly hits of last year's performer, Katy Perry. Upwards of 100 million US viewers are expected to tune in for the intensely choreographed 15-minute set.

The jokes came in response to a push to popularise the hashtag #BetterHalftimeShows by the late-night show "Midnight," which airs on the Comedy Central network.

"I cannot wait to see people on social media somehow muster passionate opinions about Coldplay," the show's host, Chris Hardwick, said during Thursday's episode. He added: "Since the haters are coming, let's pre-empt them with tonight's hashtag."



Recording artists from left Jonny Buckland, Guy Berryman, Chris Martin and Will Champion of Coldplay are presented with gold souvenir footballs during the Super Bowl 50 halftime show press conference at Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA, USA, on 4 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

The mocking of Coldplay began late last year, shortly after the band was announced as a performer for the 2016 game. Coldplay frontman Chris Martin has remained humble and upbeat,

noting at a news conference on Thursday that everyone who performs at halftime "knows that it is the biggest honour, the biggest privilege and they put their life and soul into it."

Still, #BetterHalftimeShows was trending on Twitter the following day.

"Janet Jackson exposes Justin Timberlake's nipple #BetterHalftimeShows," tweeted TV

writer Bryan Behar (@bryanbehar) on Friday, in apparent reference to the two performers' infamous "wardrobe malfunction" moment in their 2004 halftime performance.

Rock band the Dandy Warhols (@TheDandyWarhols) tweeted, "#BetterHalftimeShows why not just have the players put on some little skit?"

To be sure, some were looking forward to the performance. Mackenzie Soldan (@MackenzieSoldan), a Paralympic athlete in wheelchair tennis, tweeted: "I think I might be the only person excited to see Coldplay during the halftime show of the #SuperBowl. #BetterHalftimeShows #OhWell."

While Coldplay drew attention on social media, it did not beat Beyonce. Twitter Inc said on Friday that the R&B singer garnered 182,000 tweets since she was confirmed as a performer for Super Bowl 50 in early January, and Coldplay clocked around 132,000 tweets in that same period.—Reuters

'Star Wars' film to hit \$2 billion in global sales on Saturday: Disney

LOS ANGELES — Global ticket sales for blockbuster movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" are expected to reach \$2 billion on Saturday, the Walt Disney Co said.

"Force Awakens" is the third highest-grossing movie in Hollywood history, behind "Avatar" and "Titanic." "Avatar" holds the all-time record with nearly \$2.8 billion in worldwide box office receipts.—Reuters

Sanders to appear on 'Saturday Night Live' with Larry David: NYT

NEW YORK — Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders plans to appear in an interview with Larry David on NBC's "Saturday Night Live", the New York Times reported on Friday.

The US senator from Vermont will travel to New York this weekend for the TV appearance, interrupting his campaign in New Hampshire, NYT reported on Friday, citing a senior campaign official.

Comcast Corp's (CMCSA.O) NBC could not be immediately reached for comment.

Sanders and Hillary Clinton were deadlocked in the first presidential nominating contests of the 2016 White House race in Iowa. The two came in at roughly 50 per cent each with 95 per cent of Iowa's precincts reporting results. Sanders declared the results a tie.—Reuters

Zayn scores fastest-selling single of 2016 with solo release

LONDON — The debut solo of former One Direction singer Zayn shot straight to the top of the British charts on Friday as the fastest-selling single of 2016 so far, while David Bowie continued to dominate the albums.

Zayn's "Pillowtalk" notched up combined sales of 112,000 with 4.97 million streams, according to the Official Charts Company.

Zayn Malik left One Direction last March after five years with the hugely successful boyband that was first discovered on ITV television talent show "X Factor."

Pillowtalk held off competition from Jonas Blue's "Fast Car" in second spot while last week's number one "Stitches"

by Shawn Mendes fell to third place.

Bowie has dominated the British album charts since his death in January and claimed top spot for the fourth week as the "Best of Bowie" compilation — originally released in 2002 — replaced his final album "Blackstar."

Bowie has become the first act to knock himself off the top of the Official Albums Chart in nearly six years, since Michael Jackson achieved the feat following his death in 2009.

Third place went to "This is Acting," the seventh studio album by Australian singer-songwriter Sia.

Rihanna's long-awaited eighth studio album "Anti" came in at number 7.—Reuters



Former One Direction member Zayn Malik and his mother Trishia arrive at the fifth annual Asian Awards in the Grosvenor House Hotel, London in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Girish Kumar wants to become 'Prince of Romance' in B-town

INDORE — Actor Girish Kumar has expressed his desire to become 'Prince of Romance' in Bollywood.

"I want to become the 'Prince of Romance' in Bollywood. But at the same time, I am (also) open for doing exper-

imental films", he told reporters here.

The 27-year-old actor was in the city to promote his upcoming romantic movie "Love-shhuda".

Girish made his debut with "Ramaiya Vastavaaiya" in 2013.

To a question, he said, "My second film ('Loveshhuda') is coming after three years as I searched for doing films outside our own banner. I want to create my own niche".

Girish, is the son of Kumar S Taurani, Chairman of Tips In-

dustries, one of the largest business houses in the field of music and films.

Directed by Vaibhav Misra, "Loveshhuda", starring Girish, Navneet Kaur Dhillon and Naveen Kasturia, will hit the screens on 19 February.—PTI

Proud to be asked to present at Grammys: Anoushka Shankar

LOS ANGELES — Sitarist Anoushka Shankar says she is thrilled and proud to be one of presenters at this year's Grammy Awards, where she is also nominated in the world music album category.

"I am thrilled and proud not only to be nominated for a 5th Grammy award for my classical album Home, but also to be the first ever Indian musician to present at the Grammy Awards Premiere Ceremony on 15th

February," Anoushka, 34, wrote on Facebook.

Shankar has been nominated in the Best World Music Album category for her solo album "Home", which is a pure Indian classical album showcasing the

meditative and virtuosic qualities of the Indian raga.

"Home" features two ragas, one of which is a creation of her late father Ravi Shankar. This is her fifth nomination in the same category.—PTI

Burberry, Tom Ford align runway shows with retail availability



Models present creations from the Burberry Prorsum Autumn/Winter 2015 collection during London Fashion Week in

LONDON/PARIS — Design houses Burberry and Tom Ford on Friday announced new strategies that will allow them to close the gap between the runway and retail in order to get clothing and accessories more quickly to customers in different climates around the world.

British heritage brand Burberry said it would no longer present two womenswear and two menswear shows a year, but instead hold February and Sep-

tember shows that would feature both menswear and womenswear collections.

Ford on Friday abruptly cancelled his New York fashion week show later this month for his autumn/winter collection. Ford instead will debut the collection in early September and make it available to purchase in stores and online on the same day.

Major luxury brands such as Dior, Chanel, Louis Vuitton and

Gucci have increased the number of annual collections in recent years from four to six, adding cruise and resort collections on top of the traditional ready-to-wear and couture collections, to raise brand awareness and lure more customers with more options.

The move by Burberry will make it logistically easier to get new fashions more quickly to customers, who increasingly want to order items fresh off the

catwalk via mobile phones rather than waiting months for them to appear in store, the brand said.

“From live streams to ordering straight from the runway, to live social media campaigns, this is the latest step in a creative process that will continue to evolve,” Chief Executive Christopher Bailey said in a statement.

Ford said debuting a collection from his privately-held brand on the runway four months before it is available to purchase “is an antiquated idea and one that no longer makes sense.”

“Our customers today want a collection that is immediately available,” Ford said in a statement. The designer broke with tradition last February when he debuted his collection in Los Angeles ahead of the Oscars rather than at London Fashion Week, to capitalise on the news spotlight in Hollywood.

Burberry said it would continue to hold small events or fashions shows in some of its important markets.

The changes may help Burberry and Ford fight competition from fast fashion retailers such as Inditex’s Zara which can put out new ranges in a matter of weeks inspired by catwalk trends without the expense of celebrity designers and fashion shows.

They also come at a time

when designers have become increasingly vocal about the hectic pace of fashion and the demands of communicating online on social networks. When Raf Simons left Dior and Alber Elbaz was sacked from Lanvin last year, they both complained about the fast pace of the industry.

“Fashion shows have become a way to communicate to the media, and the same journalists cover both womenswear and menswear,” said Exane BNP Paribas analyst Luca Solca.

“Hence, it makes a lot of sense to combine the two, as you save money in the process and you can make a louder bang with your bucks.”

The race to wow journalists by showing resort and cruise collections in unusual places has intensified.

Last spring, Chanel flew journalists to Seoul, LVMH’s Louis Vuitton took them to Palm Springs and Dior whisked them back to Europe just days before the Cannes film festival.

This year, Chanel will be showing its cruise collection in Cuba in May, while Kering’s Gucci this week said it would present in June its cruise collection in London’s Westminster Abbey, where Prince William married Kate Middleton. —Reuters

Russia’s luxury flagship store turns to Chinese spenders

MOSCOW — Framed by Swarovski crystal figurines and crocodile skin-clad smart phones, sales promotions at Moscow’s exclusive TsUM department store are being publicised in two languages: Russian, of course, and now Chinese.

The bi-lingual signs, promising to match the prices of all luxury goods with those on sale in Milan, are part of a push by store operator Mercury to encourage high-spending Chinese visitors to shop in TsUM’s neo-Gothic store, rather than the boutiques of the Italian fashion capital.

Luxury retailers have fared

better than many mass-market brands during Russia’s economic crisis but they still need foreign shoppers to compensate for falling spending by local consumers.

Mercury, a holding group of more than 100 premium stores and boutiques across Russia, plans to increase sales in euros by 10-12 per cent this year by targeting Chinese spenders in particular, said General Director Alexander Pavlov.

Shoppers from China accounted for 7 per cent of the group’s sales in 2015 and while the country’s economy is slowing sharply, at least it is still

growing unlike Russia’s which is shrinking. Chinese visitors have become a more frequent sight in central Moscow, some carrying bright orange shopping bags from TsUM, and Pavlov has high hopes. “We think that the number of Chinese customers in our shops will increase significantly and could reach 30 per cent,” he said.

TsUM’s store in Moscow, a stone’s throw from the Kremlin, has recruited 25 Chinese-speaking sales assistants and slashed prices to compete with western European rivals, he added.—Reuters

1957 Ferrari racing car sold at auction for record \$35.6 million

PARIS — A 1957 Ferrari 335 Sport Scaglietti was sold for a record 32 million euros (24.5 million pounds) at an auction in Paris on Friday.

Some of the most famous drivers of the time raced at the car’s wheel and the Italian manufacturer won the Constructors’

World Championship title in 1957.

The previous record was held by another Ferrari, a 250 GTO which went for 28.5 million euros in 2014, Managing Director for Artcurial Motocars auction house Matthieu Lamoureaux said.—Reuters



Visitors look at a red 1957 Ferrari 335 Sport Scaglietti model on display at the Paris Retromobile fair in Paris, France, on 5 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Today Fresh

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)

07:45 Am We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am Discovering Tribes "MUUN" (Episode - II)

08:49 Am Excavation At Kawhmu

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Interesting Features of Rakhine

09:46 Am Porcelain and Glass

09:52 Am Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am Myanmar HR Conference (2015) (Part- VII)

10:48 Am Lady Pilot

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

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting

07:44 Pm Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up

07:52 Pm Today Myanmar: First Chapter of New History

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-3)

08:52 Pm Myanmar Masterclass "Contemporary Art"

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

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

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

United can still be in thick of title race — Van Gaal

LONDON — Victory at Chelsea on Sunday would put Manchester United back in Premier League title contention, manager Louis van Gaal said on Friday as the former champions were again linked with Jose Mourinho.

Fifth-placed United are 10 points behind leaders Leicester City with 14 games remaining and the Dutchman, buoyed by a 3-0 home victory over Stoke City last weekend, said his side should not be counted out.

United finally produced some much-needed swagger at Old Trafford to give Van Gaal breathing space as his future continues to be the subject of media speculation.

"The competition is still not finished," Van Gaal told reporters on Friday.

"It is not finished for Manchester United and not for other teams," he added before an unsourced report surfaced in the Manchester Evening News saying the club had held talks with former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho's agents about the Portuguese replacing Van Gaal next season.

"I feel that if we beat Chelsea, and that is not simple, our league [challenge] shall start again. That's important."

Van Gaal said he had good reason for optimism after the win over Stoke followed an FA Cup victory at Championship team Derby County.

"We have the feeling because we are winning two times in a row and with sparkling football, goals and clean sheets," he explained.

"This against opponents in great form. Stoke played Liverpool off the pitch in the Capital One Cup, for example, even though they lost on penalties.

"We have to show it though, in a row of games that you win, because in this competition anything is possible."

United continue to be without a host of injured players although Van Gaal said there was now "some light at the end of the tunnel".

Phil Jones has returned to training and is in contention to play against champions Chelsea while long-term absentees Marcos Rojo, Luke Shaw and Antonio Valencia were "making progress". Bastian Schweinsteiger is still out. The German midfielder has missed the last five games after suffering a knee injury against Sheffield United on 9 January.—Reuters

Belated gold would be hollow for Ireland's O'Sullivan



Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan holds her silver medal for the 5000m final at the Sydney Olympic Games, in 2000. PHOTO: REUTERS

DUBLIN — It would be a hollow victory for Sonia O'Sullivan if she became a double world champion 23 years after losing to Chinese athletes being probed for systematic doping, the former Irish distance runner said on Friday.

The IAAF ruling body said earlier that it would investigate

the authenticity of a letter signed by 10 Chinese athletes that says an Olympic coach from their country ran a systematic doping programme up to the mid-1990s.

O'Sullivan, one of Ireland's most successful and celebrated track and field competitors, was beaten into fourth place in the 3,000 metres final and second

in the 1,500 metres at the 1993 world championship by Chinese medal winners.

Gold, silver and bronze medals awarded in that era could be re-assigned if it is proved that an athlete took an illegal substance.

"It won't make a difference now," O'Sullivan told national broadcaster RTE. "It probably would have back then.

"As a double world champion, as a world record holder, which I also would have been because I would have had the world record in 1994 for the 3,000 metres and I would have had it for eight years, your profile and status would have been huge."

O'Sullivan, who went on to win world championship gold two years later, said she and her fellow competitors did not know what to think when the Chinese athletes "came out of nowhere" in 1993.

She was favourite for both races but remembers as "the most mind-boggling, strange thing ever" China's Wang Junxia

and her team mates blowing everyone away in the 10,000 metres.

"Why did it take so long for it to be okay for people to talk about athletes cheating and to go after them when there's a little bit of a hint that somebody is doing something that's not quite right?", O'Sullivan said.

"I don't think that was carried out a lot in the 90s and a lot of stuff was definitely hidden. The system was set up to protect athletes that were cheating more than it was to protect clean athletes."

The allegations in the letter, which Reuters could not independently verify, come as the former head of world athletics Lamine Diack is under investigation by French authorities for corruption.

"If the truth comes out, just knowing that what you thought was unbelievable and not possible, that you were right. You know when something is extraordinary but it's amazing how much it takes to prove that," O'Sullivan said.—Reuters

McIlroy hits back in style after tossing ball away

DUBAI — Rory McIlroy tossed his ball into a lake after making a poor start to his Dubai Desert Classic second round on Friday before four birdies in the last six holes banished any fears that he might miss the cut.

The world number two, who is six shots adrift of leader Rafa Cabrera-Bello of Spain, dropped a stroke at the first hole and threw his ball away in disgust after three-putting the fourth.

Defending champion McIlroy then mixed a birdie at the fifth with more dropped strokes at the eighth, ninth and 11th before staging a late rally.

"I struggled in the wind a little bit," the four-times major winner told reporters after carding a level-par 72 for a four-under tally of 140.

"I bounced back well and persevered and got something out of the round in the end. It never looked like I was going to shoot better than over-par but to shoot par is not bad and I just need to make sure I get off to a fast start tomorrow.

"I've come back from bigger deficits than this and this is one of my favourite places," said McIlroy who also won the tournament in 2009.

"I'll get better conditions, as well, being out a little earlier."



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits the ball out of the bunker on the first hole during the Abu Dhabi Golf Championship, in January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Twice European Tour winner Cabrera-Bello hailed "one of the best putting rounds of my life" after shooting a second successive 67 to set the pace on 10-under 134.

The Spaniard, who won the Desert Classic four years ago, had only 26 putts in his round

on Friday.

"Yesterday I really felt I played great from tee to green," said Cabrera-Bello. "I gave myself lots of chances.

"Today was the exact opposite, I didn't play as well, as sharp. I didn't quite find my tempo but the putting was ex-

tremely hot."

Ernie Els, another four-times major winner and a record triple champion at the Desert Classic, posted a 67 to share second place on 135 with fellow South African Trevor Fisher (68) and Britain's Danny Willett (65).—Reuters