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

ONE MORE FACE-OFF

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw schedules presidential nominations for 17 March

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.
PHOTO: MNA

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced yesterday that group meetings for the nominations of three vice presidents will take place on March 17 in order to elect Myanmar's next president and two vice presidents.

The three candidates are to be respectively nominated by the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House), the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) and the Tatmadaw MPs.

At the first meeting of the second parliament, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than pledged to strive, without corruption or bias, to promote democracy and human rights for the people of Myanmar.

He also called on MPs to work together, without attachments to racism, party loyalties, personality cults, regionalism or religious extremism, in the interest of the country and the people.

The speaker read a message sent by the President U Thein Sein to the first meeting of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. In the message, the president stressed the need to maintain peace and stability and to cooperate with the people in order to promote democracy and development in the country.

In his message, the president also expressed his hope that MPs, protecting and safeguarding the constitution, would act in conformity with the provisions enshrined in the constitution.

During the meeting, MPs agreed to donate cash to fire victims in Namhsan and Labutta.

Out of a total of 653 MPs, 648 parliamentarians attended the parliamentary meeting.

The meeting continues today.—*GNLM*

Mandalay Region parliament to form human rights committee

THE formation of the human rights committee will receive priority, said U Aung Kyaw Oo, who was elected speaker of the second Mandalay Region Hluttaw yesterday.

The first regular session of the second Mandalay Region Hluttaw was convened yesterday, with the representatives appointing U Aung Kyaw Oo of Patheingyi Constituency-1 as speaker and Dr Khin Maung Thein of Pyin Oo Lwin Constituency-2 as deputy speaker.

"The committee aimed at working on human rights issues, land disputes and corruption is set to be formed, as such a committee has never been formed here before," said the speaker at a press conference after the parliament session.

"We will strive for the formation of the committee to deal with the concerns of ethnic minorities," said U Sai Kyaw Zaw, a Shan national representative.

The first session of the second Mandalay Region Hluttaw was attended by 48 representatives from the National League for Democracy, eight from the Union Solidarity and Development Party, one from the Democratic Party (Myanmar) and 19 Defense Services personnel.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw approves two standing committees

THE first regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) continued yesterday, with parliamentarians approving the Amyotha Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Amyotha Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

First, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than read out a message sent by the chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China Mr Zhang Dejiang, and the message was documented.

Next, the Speaker sought the approval of the parliament for the lists of the members, terms, duties, rights and powers of the two committees.

During the session, the Amyotha Hluttaw Rights Committee was formed with 15 members led by chairman U Aye Tha Aung of Rakhine State Constituency-6 and secretary U Min Oo of Bago Region Constituency-6.

Likewise, the Amyotha Hluttaw approved U Thein Swe of Ayeyawady Region Constituency-10 to act as chairman and

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State Constituency-11 to act as secretary of the 15-member Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw approves two standing committees

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

THE first regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) entered its fourth day yesterday, approving the members of the two standing committees.

First, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint sought parliamentary approval for the lists of the members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Pyithu Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee. He also sought approval for the terms, duties, rights and powers of the two committees.

Next, the speaker announced that the Pyithu Hluttaw Rights Committee was established with 15 members led by Chairman U T Khun Myat of Kutkai Constituency and Secretary Dr Hla Moe of Aungmyay Thasan Constituency.

Likewise, the Pyithu Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee was approved with 15 members, including chairperson Dr May Win Myint of Mayangon Constituency and secretary U Zone Teint of Chipwe Constituency. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Regional laws to be given priority in Yangon Hluttaw

A PUSH will be made to prioritise the enactment of regional laws in Yangon Region, said Daw Sandar Min, a member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and regional representative for Seikkyi Khanaungto Township.

The regional MP spoke during the second general meeting of the Yangon Regional Hluttaw on 8 February.

"Consultations have been made. There's been a great deal of discussions. Respective committees will make proposals. This will only be so once committee have been formed. There isn't anything being carried out yet [to enact laws] for the entire [Yangon] Region, only for my township," said Daw Sandar Min.

She said proposals will be made to solve Yangon's congestion problems, as well as other problems affecting Yangon residents.

"The most widely felt problems of Yangon residents, such as traffic congestion, must be resolved. Cars were approved for import into Yangon before any proper long-term consideration of the implications the influx of vehicles would have on the city's congestion. As such, the side-effects of the mass rollout of new vehicles onto Yangon's streets are not a problem that can be solved immediately.

A plan must be drawn up. Various groups must be consulted in order to do so, and discussions must be held. But this problem won't likely be fixed right away," said Daw Sandar Min.

The second general meeting of the Yangon Regional Hluttaw, which was convened on 8 February, was chaired by Yangon Region Hluttaw speaker U Tin Oo of the NLD. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

President sends message to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

FOLLOWING is an official translation of the message sent by President U Thein Sein to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

1. On behalf of the State and the people, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the first meeting the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which emerged in line with the constitution.

2. Achievements in the past five years in conformity with the constitution has resulted in laying down good foundations, putting the country on the right track to flourishing democracy and development.

3. As peace and stability and the rule of law play a crucial role for democracy to flourish and for the country to develop, it is needed to maintain peace and stability and to keep on working together with the national people for the development of the country.

4. Being the highest legislative body which swear to protect and safeguard the constitution, and to abide by the country's laws, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is obliged to lay emphasis upon doing things in conformity with the provisions enshrined in the constitution.

5. I wish MPs to enjoy good health and peace of mind, to be able to work for the country and the peoples with added momentum, to be able to promote the country's peace and stability and the rule of law in line with the constitution and to be able to support the country's goal of building a peaceful, modern and democratic nation.

Fire victims receive outpouring of public support

MEMBERS of the public have been donating cash and goods for fire victims of Namhsam, Shan State, and Labutta, Ayeyawady Region, through the National Natural Disaster Management Committee.

The committee under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement received K115,000 donated by U Yan Naing Tun, the deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce, and Daw Ohnmar Hlaing, as well as 30,000 donated by U Kyaw Thu Hein and Daw Su Wai Nwe, yesterday.

Likewise, the Yangon Region Relief and Resettlement Department accepted K100,000 each for Namhsam and Labutta fire victims from U Aung Khin and family of Hlaingthaya Township; K30,000 and two bags of clothes from U Tun Aung and Daw Khin Mar Win of Insein Township; and other gifts of cash and goods from other donors.

The Kachin State Relief and Resettlement Department also received K450,000 and clothes worth K100,000 from members of the public. The National Natural Disaster Management Committee reported K30,035,000 (US$23,837in donations for fire victims between 5 and 8 February. —*Myanmar News Agency*

10-per cent penalty set for late business tax payments

BUSINESSES that miss deadlines for paying commercial taxes or for submitting tax returns will be fined 10 per cent of the initial value of their commercial taxes, according to the Mandalay Region Internal Revenue Department.

Those who fail to pay taxes within 10 days of the last day of the month and to file tax returns every three months will be charged a fine of 10 per cent of their commercial taxes, said the department's deputy director, U Tin Htwe.

Commercial tax is an indirect tax paid by those who purchased the goods and services through their businesses, the deputy director said.

Works are underway to fully collect taxes from business owners through newspaper advertisements urging businesses to pay commercial taxes and submit tax returns before the due date, according to the department.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

VP attends annual conference of Myanmar Medical Association

VICE PRESIDENT Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the 16th annual conference of the Myanmar Medical Association in Taunggyi, Shan State, yesterday.

In his speech, the vice president called on those present to discuss what must be done to develop quality standards for healthcare services and to exchange views on ways and means for addressing the latest challenges in the medical field. The vice president stressed the need to train more doctors, as there are only 35,000 medical paractitioners across the country, in which the rural population accounts for 70 per cent of the total. If almost every village has a health care staffer each in the country's more than 64,000 villages, health care service would be better, he added.

The vice president also visited University of Medicine in Taunggyi, where he met faculty members and medical students. During his tour, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham also inspected Aye Thaya Public Housing in Aye Thaya Township.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham greets attendees of 16th annual conference of the Myanmar Medical Association in Taunggyi. PHOTO: MNA

Media Development Thematic Working Group meets

THE Ministry of Information and UNESCO jointly organised a meeting of the Media Development Thematic Working Group at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

Mr Sardar Umar Alam, UNESCO's Myanmar resident representative, made the opening speech at the meeting.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut also made a speech in which he elaborated on legal matters relating to media and future projects to be implemented.

Next, U Kyi Toe, a member of Information Committee of the National League for Democracy, and U Thiha Saw, secretary of the Media Council, made speeches.

The seminar, aimed at ensuring media development in Myanmar, was also attended by officials from the ministry, local and foreign media, UN agencies and guests.

According to the seminar, another meeting involving media organisations and local and foreign experts is set to be held in March in order to discuss rights to access to information and a draft law.

Experts' discussion on media development

U Soe Myint of Mizzima Media Group stressed the need not only to review undertakings being carried out for media development but also to plan what to do next, as media freedom is important in a democracy. He also called for collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in the media industry, the government, the lawmakers and international organisations.

He expressed his view that the current government has done as much as it can for the development of the country's media sector.

Experts participate in Media Development Thematic Working Group meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Mr Sardar Umar Alam, UNESCO'd Myanmar resident representative, said UNESCO is committed to strengthening the capacity of lawmakers relating to media, adding that the UN agency will work on media development in accordance with prioritised areas set by the next government on the sector.

According to the UNESCO representative, arrangements are being made to hold discussions on the current draft law and other media draft laws with local and foreign experts in March, to strengthen the Media Council and to conduct courses relating to the media sector for parliamentarians in May, June and July.

U Chit Win Maung of Forever Group MRTV-4 acknowledged remarkable changes in the country's media sector over the last five years. He said he hopes to see more development in the sector.

U Zeya Hlaing, secretary of the Myanmar Journalist Network, said democracy is impossible without freedom of media, stressing the need to provide capacity building support to media persons in Myanmar.—*Ye Kaung, Sandi, Yi Yi*

PRESS RELEASE: WHO, UNAIDS conduct review of HIV, TB collaborative activities in Myanmar with Ministry of Health

IN January 2016, the World Health OrganiSation (WHO) and UNAIDS carried out an in-depth review of the current status of Tuberculosis and HIV in Myanmar and of the collaborative activities implemented to address these diseases. The review was conducted in close collaboration with the National Tuberculosis and AIDS Programmes of the Ministry of Health and with financial support from USAID and the Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Myanmar has made impressive progress in the fight against HIV and TB, successfully halting and reversing the spread of the diseases in line with the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. However, despite these progresses, tuberculosis and HIV remain two major public health threats, condemning many to premature death, unnecessary suffering and economic losses. If these two diseases infect patients at the same time, the physical and economic burden can become unsustainable – and mortality rates will increase dramatically.

Co-infection of TB and HIV was responsible for around 4,100 deaths in Myanmar in 2014 out of the estimated 32,000 deaths for all TB forms; the country ranks as 'high-burden' for both TB and HIV incidence and has a high rate of HIV-TB coinfections. To address this, the World Health Organisation and UNAIDS recommend:

1) a strong collaboration between the National TB and AIDS Programmes, aimed at strengthening the mechanisms for delivering integrated TB and HIV services;

2) measures to reduce the burden of TB in HIV-infected individuals, and

3) measures to reduce the HIV burden among TB patients.

In light of these policy requirements, the Ministry of Health is stepping up efforts to tackle the combined epidemic of HIV and tuberculosis in Myanmar. WHO and UNAIDS support the call for improved coordination between all partners involved in the national TB and HIV response. In particular, all doctors – public and private – should strive to link TB and HIV patients to the free diagnosis and treatment services made available by the Government of Myanmar and its implementing partners.

The key recommendations of the review shared with the Ministry of Health focused on the importance of strengthening collaboration between HIV and TB National Programmes through improved information sharing, joint procurement and adequate deployment of human resources. Furthermore, increasing and decentralising the number of health facilities that provide joint screenings and treatment of patients for HIV and TB at all levels of the health system (through scaling up of services and employing mobile teams, particularly in high burden areas) would be central to ensure that these diseases are detected on time, properly treated and further reduced. Lastly, engagement with all partners – including the private sector – would boost the effectiveness of health policies by devising and implementing innovative service delivery strategies.

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Water access restored to Namhsan fire victims

Officials of State Development Affairs Department (Branch) laying the pipes for drinking water in Namhsan.
PHOTO:SAI (HSIPAW)

FIRE victims in Namhsan Township, Shan State, who previously faced a water shortage, have been given access to clean water as of 6 February thanks to the efforts of departmental officials and staff.

On 4 February, a fire broke out in Mingala and Myole wards in Namhsan Township in the Palaung Self-Administered Area in northern Shan State, destroying 209 households and leaving 1,279 people homeless. A group of officials and staff from the state development department (Lashio branch) carried out sanitation work along water supply pipelines and repaired the water supply system across the fire-affected area on Saturday in order to restore the victims' access to clean water. Firefighters and volunteers from Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Lashio townships, social organisations from Mandalay Region and members of the public have provided aid to the affected communities every day since the fire broke out, one victim said.—*Sai (HsiPaw)*

Basic obstetric care course opens in Tatkon Tsp

TO reduce the mortality rate of pregnant women during pregnancy, during delivery and soon after delivery, a township-level course on basic emergency obstetric care was opened at the Tatkon Township General Hospital yesterday.

At the opening of the course, Dr Hla Hla Kyi, director of the Nay Pyi Taw Public Health Department, instructed trainee midwives to urge mothers to deliver children only with the help of the midwives employed by the health department and to give birth control pills to married mothers for free. OG specialist Dr Daw Yi Yi explained the aims of opening the course on basic obstetric care.

Obstetric care trainers and officers from the Township Health Department also attended the course. —*Tin Soe Lwin*

Dr. Hla Hla Kyi, director of the Nay Pyi Taw Public Health Department, making speech at the opening of the obstetric care course.
PHOTO:TIN SOE LWIN (TATKON IPRD)

Crime News

Bombs, hand grenade discovered in Dagon Seikkan Township

TWO bombs and one hand grenade, all manufactured during World War II were found on a mound of soil near a low-cost housing project in Dagaon Seikkan Township.

On 3 February, one of the old bombs was discovered by a 13-year-old child named Aung Khaing Soe, who resides in the township's Ward 168.

Another bomb and a hand grenade were found at the same place on 4 February.

Each bomb is 22.25 inches long and 5.75 inches in diameter, and the hand grenade is 3.75 inches long and 2 inches in diameter.

The ward administrator reported the findings to the township police.

Then the police handed the explosives over to the battlefield engineering battalion in Nyaungdon.—*Kyin Maung*

Woman stabbed, robbed in Hlaingthaya Township

A WOMAN named Daw San San was stabbed on Friday afternoon by a young man who resides in the same township in Yangon. Htay Aung, 23, of Aungminkhaung Street in Ward 7 of Hlaingthaya Township strangled the victim and stabbed her abdomen while she was asleep in her home. Afterward, the suspect took her earrings. Daw San San's neighbours later took her to Insein General Hospital, where she received treatment for her injuries.

Local police arrested the suspect, and charges have been filed against him under the Criminal Law.—*329*

5,000 yabba tablets seized in Loilin

POLICE from Loilin Myoma Police Station on Wednesday seized over 5,000 yabba pills from a motorbike driver in Loilin Township, Shan State.

Acting on a tip-off, local police searched a motorbike that was driven by Sai Naung and carried one passenger on the Loilin-Nanthsam Road in front of a monastery in Pankhoukwa Village. They discovered 5,320 yabba tablets in the motorbike and seized them. Police also confiscated over 200 pills at a house owned by Myint Myint Aye in Kyeintaw Village in Moemeik Township on the same day. The suspects involved in these cases have been charged by local police. —*Myanmar Police Force*

Women arrested for gambling

FIVE women were arrested for allegedly playing cards in Insein Township, Yangon, on Thursday, police reported.

The police searched a house on Ywale Street in the township's Singu Ward and found the women betting on a pot of K58,900 on the upper floor of the house. The Insein Township police station filed charges against the women.—*684*

Battling doctor shortage, Indian hospitals offer intensive care from afar

NEW DELHI — A doctor at a hospital in India's capital, New Delhi, was recently tracking a wall of monitors displaying the vital signs of intensive care patients admitted hundreds of miles away when red-and-yellow alerts rang out.

The oxygen flow to a 67-year-old patient had stopped when no critical care doctors were present in a hospital in the northern city of Amritsar.

But the doctor in the New Delhi centre run by Fortis Healthcare quickly issued a set of instructions and stopped the patient from suffering brain damage or death, the Indian hospital chain said in an account of the episode.

India's top private hospitals, seizing on a shortage of critical-care doctors, are expanding into the remote management of intensive care units around the country and, starting this month, in neighbouring Bangladesh too.

India has seven doctors for every 10,000 people, half the global average, according to the World Health Organisation. Data from the Indian Medical Association shows the country needs more than 50,000 critical care specialists, but has just 8,350.

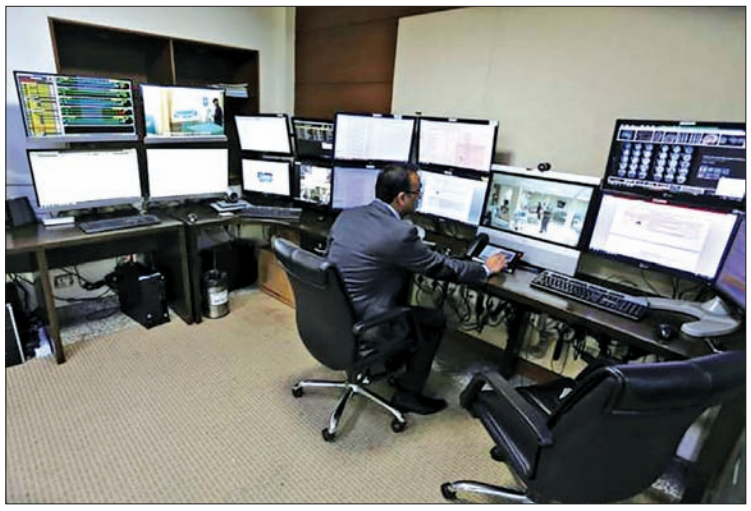
Such a shortage of doctors means small facilities in India's $55 billion private hospital market are ill equipped to provide critical care even as numbers seeking private healthcare rise because the public health system is in even worse shape.

India's largest healthcare chain, Apollo Hospitals Enterprise, and Fortis will this year expand their network of electronic intensive care units (eICUs), scaling up operations thanks to advances in communications technology.

"We want to leverage (doctors) using technology," said K. Hari Prasad, head of hospitals business at Apollo that employs more than 700 critical care doctors.

Apollo, which monitors 200 patients in six states from its only eICU in Hyderabad city, will open three new centres to track 1,000 more patients. Prasad said he is also in talks to extend the service to government hospitals.

Fortis will start remote monitoring of intensive care patients in the Bangladeshi city of Khulna this week, its first such cross-border operation. The hospital chain tracks 350 patients from its New Delhi centre but will start two more eICUs by mid-2017.



A doctor remotely monitors live footage of patients inside an electronic intensive care unit (eICU) at Fortis hospital in New Delhi, India, January 20, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Jayant Singh, director of healthcare at Frost & Sullivan India, a consultancy, estimates that eICUs are boosting industry revenues by $220 million a year by giving smaller hospitals the ability to treat critical patients at the hands of top flight intensive-care specialists, even if they are in another city. India's eICU beds will expand by 15-20 percent each year from about 3,000 now, Singh said.

With multiple computer screens inside these high-tech eICUs, doctors suggest treatment procedures after assessing medical history and real-time heart rate charts of patients fighting for their lives in distant facilities.

Doctors recently saved a 30-year-old pregnant woman in a hospital in the southern city of Warangal after her heart stopped beating, assisting a resident doctor not specialised in intensive care to carry out chest compressions through a video link.

"We save about 25 lives a month," said Shamit Gupta, medical director at Fortis' eICU unit.

Hospitals charge between $10 and $30 a day to virtually monitor a patient from their eICUs, with revenues shared between hospitals and companies such as General Electric and Philips that have developed the tracking software.

That comes on top of standard critical care costs of about $200 a day in a small city hospital.

At that price, eICUs do little to address concerns of millions of India's poor patients who often share beds or wait for days to gain admission to a public hospital.

"This technology basically is not bridging the gap between the poor and the rich, but increasing access to specialised healthcare for those who can afford it," Frost & Sullivan's Singh said.—*Reuters*

Women in Japan taking senior roles 30 years after gender equality law

TOKYO — Women around 50 years old, who started working soon after the equal employment opportunity law came into force in Japan in 1986, are now assuming executive positions in major companies.

But these women are just a small cadre of professionals who have broken through the so-called "glass ceiling" that prevents women from climbing the career ladder, with female managers accounting for only 9.2 per cent of the total in the private sector in 2014.

While the legislation has paved the way for Japanese women to be on a level playing field with men, hurdles still remain for many of them to keep working while juggling with family matters and child rearing.

"Do what you are supposed to do with sincerity every day. At the same time, let's look to the future and take on challenges," Chie Toriumi, president of Nomura Trust and Banking Co., wrote in an email she sent to the bank's 470 employees on this year's first working day.

Toriumi, 50, is the first female head of a bank in postwar Japan. She says "talking to employees in my own words" has been her mantra since she assumed the post in April 2014.

After graduating from Waseda University in Tokyo, Toriumi entered Nomura Securities Co. in 1989 and pursued a mainstream career, getting experience in various posts such as stock trader, policy secretary for the company president and head of corporate planning.

Now that she is in the top position, "I am the one who needs to make the decision in the end," said Toriumi.

> **"There is more than one role model. Don't lose a sense of composure so that you can go back to your usual self no matter what happens."**
>
> **Chie Toriumi**
>
> President of Nomura Trust and Banking Co

"I did not feel there was a glass ceiling. But I cannot deny that I have survived by adjusting to a male-dominated society," she said.

Toriumi said that when she started out on her career, she did not want to be judged based on her gender and deliberately projected a tough image. But after some time, she was able to be herself at work.

"There were some moments when I could grasp the way the world works, as if I had crawled out from a ship's bottom to the deck," said Toriumi, adding that such moments enabled her to have a wider view and enjoy her work.

Toriumi, who is married but has no children, has always shared household chores with her husband.

Giving advice to young women who are pursuing a career, she said, "There is more than one role model. Don't lose a sense of composure so that you can go back to your usual self no matter what happens."

Keiko Tashiro, 52, executive managing director of Daiwa Securities Group Inc., entered the firm in 1986. Now she is overseeing some 300 staff at a US unit.

Tashiro said she chose to work for the company as she thought it offered a good environment for working women, but "I had never been able to imagine myself becoming what I am right now."

She added that her experience of studying in the United States made her focus on how to move an organisation or people to act, and that it affected her career path thereafter.

Keiko Kamimoto, 48-year-old chief of Kirin Beer Marketing Co.'s Tochigi branch, recalled that 30 years ago was "a period in which (women were) under pressure to choose either work or family."

Back then, the beer industry was dominated by men and the main customers were also men, and many female workers chose to quit after struggling to utilize their skills.

Kamimoto also thought about quitting, but she continued making efforts to utilize her perspective as a woman in her work.

Now that she has many junior staff members, Kamimoto is starting to "take a new pride" in her work, she added.

Among those in "the first generation" of the equal employment opportunity law, many working women had to sacrifice their families due to flaws in the legislation.

But few of the women who have now become company executives seem to regret their career paths. Before the law took effect, it was impossible for women to feel the real joy of working, such as engaging in management and development of human resources, that they enjoy now.

Kimie Iwata, the chairman of the Japan Institute for Women's Empowerment and Diversity Management who engaged in the enactment of the legislation at the labor ministry, said the law is "finally showing effects (on securing equal working opportunities for men and women) after 30 years."—*Kyodo News*

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Toyota halts output at all Japanese factories due to steel shortage

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp suspended yesterday all production at its factories in Japan due to a steel shortage following an explosion in January at a steel plant in central Japan.

All vehicle assembly lines at 16 Japanese factories will be halted from Monday through Saturday, with operations expected to resume on 15 February, Toyota said.

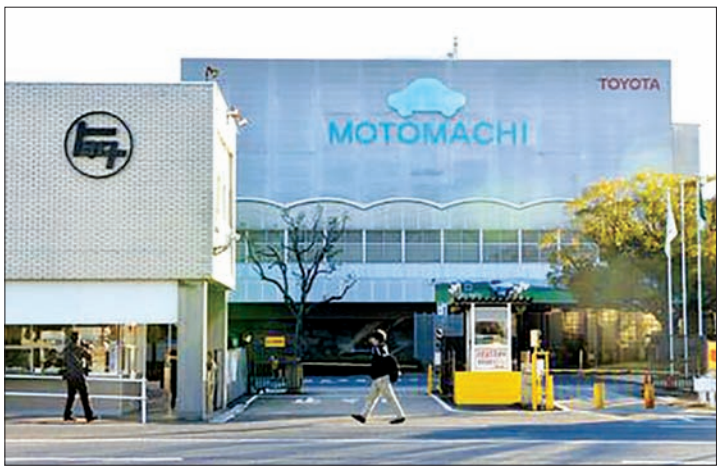
In addition, Toyota's directly owned and operated plants in Japan, such as those manufacturing car components, stopped production for a day on Monday.

It marks the first time Toyota has stopped all production in the country since the massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 hit northeast Japan and disrupted its supply chain.

Some 70,000 to 80,000 vehicles will likely be affected by the production halt, as Toyota produces around 13,000 vehicles a day.

The 8 January explosion at a steel plant operated by Toyota affiliate Aichi Steel Corp in Tokai, Aichi Prefecture, has made it difficult for Toyota to secure enough special steel used in auto parts. Aichi Steel has said it will resume production on 29 March.

Toyota did not take into account the impact of the latest stoppage on its earnings for fiscal 2015 when it released its full-year outlook on Friday.—*Kyodo News*



Toyota Motor Corp's Motomachi factory in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture. The automaker suspended all production of its domestic factories the same day due to a steel shortage following an explosion in January at a steel plant in central Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Some Australian asylum seekers to be deported have cancer, terminal illnesses

SYDNEY — Some of the 267 asylum seekers Australia wants to deport to an offshore immigration centre following a court ruling are suffering from cancer and other terminal illnesses, a senior government official said yesterday.

Australia's High Court last week upheld the government's right to deport detained asylum seekers to the tiny South Pacific island of Nauru, about 3,000 km (1,800 miles) northeast of Australia.

The decision provoked criticism from the United Nations and sparked protest, with church leaders offering asylum seekers sanctuary.

The centre has been widely criticised for harsh conditions and reports of systemic child abuse and sexual assault.

Some deportations could begin within days, but others would have to be dealt with in a staged fashion, because of the illnesses, said Michael Pezzullo, secretary of the department of immigration and border protection.

"In some cases we're talking about cancer, we're talking about all sorts of long-run illnesses," he told a parliamentary hearing.

"Regrettably in some cases, for reasons to do with very long-term, and indeed potentially terminal illnesses, some folks, I suspect, will be here for quite a while."

The refugees, including 37 babies, had been brought to Australia from Nauru for medical treatment.

Michael Pezzullo, Secretary of the department of immigration and border protection, speaks during his appearance at an Australian Senate Estimates Committee in Parliament House, Canberra, on 8 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Under Australia's controversial immigration policy, asylum seekers trying to reach the country by boat are intercepted and sent to camps on Nauru or on Manus island in Papua New Guinea. They can never be resettled in Australia.

Both the ruling conservative Liberal Party of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and centre-left Labour Party support the policy, which was introduced by former Labour Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

Both sides argue that the policy of deterrence is necessary to stop asylum seekers dying at sea while attempting to make the sea crossing on often rickety boats used by people smugglers.

The numbers trying to reach Australia are small in comparison with the floods of asylum seekers in Europe, the issue is a perennial hot-button political issue both at home and abroad.

On Monday Australia announced the appointment of veteran politician Philip Ruddock as its first special envoy for human rights.

"Australia has a strong record of promoting and protecting human rights, at home and around the world," Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said in a statement.

"Mr Ruddock will be reflecting the government's commitment to further strengthening Australia's contribution to advancing human rights."—*Reuters*

Two more Taiwan quake survivors found, toll could exceed 100

TAINAN — Rescuers pulled two survivors from the rubble of a Taiwan apartment block yesterday more than 48 hours after it was toppled by an earthquake, but the mayor of the southern city of Tainan warned the death toll was likely to exceed 100.

The official death toll from the quake rose to 38, with more than 100 people missing.

The quake struck at about 4am on Saturday (2000 GMT Friday) at the beginning of the Lunar New Year holiday, with almost all the dead found in the toppled Wei-guan Golden Dragon Building in Tainan.

Rescue efforts are focused on the wreckage of the 17-storey building, where 117 people are listed as missing and are suspected to be buried deep under the rubble.

Wang Ting-yu, a legislator who represents the area, told reporters that a woman, identified as Tsao Wei-ling, was found lying under her dead husband. Their 2-year-old son, who was also killed, was found lying nearby.

Rescue workers stand in front of a 17-storey apartment building which collapsed after an earthquake hit Tainan, southern Taiwan on 7 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Another survivor, a man named Li Tsung-tian, was pulled out later on Monday, with Taiwan television stations showing live images of the rescues. Several hours later, Li's girlfriend was found dead in the rubble.

Tainan Mayor William Lai said during a visit to a funeral home that rescue efforts had entered what he called the "third stage".

"There are more fatalities than those pulled out (alive), and the number of fatalities will probably exceed 100," Lai said in comments carried on the United Daily News website.

Rescuers continued to scramble over the twisted wreckage of the building as numbed family members stood around, waiting for news of missing relatives.

Lin Tong-meng said he had been waiting at the site for word of his 11- and 12-year-old nephews.

"I came back and forth all yesterday and now I'm here again," Lin said. The boy's mother and father were rescued soon after the quake.

Their father also stood nearby, pacing close to the rubble in tears.

Taiwan's government said in a statement 36 of the 38 dead were from the Wei-guan building, which was built in 1994.

President-elect Tsai Ing-wen, who won election last month, said there needed to be a "general sorting out" of old buildings to make sure they were able to cope with disasters like earthquakes.

"There needs to be a continued strengthening of their ability to deal with disasters," she said.

Outgoing President Ma Ying-jeou, speaking to reporters at a Tainan hospital, said the government needed to be a better job in ensuring building quality.

"In the near future, regarding building management, we will have some further improvements. We will definitely do this work well," Ma said.

Reuters witnesses at the scene of the collapse saw large rectangular, commercial cans of cooking-oil packed inside wall cavities exposed by the damage, apparently having been used as building material.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also conveyed condolences to the victims, state news agency Xinhua reported late on Sunday, and repeated Beijing's offer to provide help.—*Reuters*

Doctors puzzle over severity of defects in some Brazilian babies

NEW YORK/BRASILIA — Experts on microcephaly, the birth defect that has sparked alarm in the current Zika virus outbreak, say they are struck by the severity of a small number of cases they have reviewed from Brazil.

Consultations among doctors in Brazil and the United States have increased in the last two weeks, and some of the leading authorities on the condition are finding patterns of unusual devastation in scans of the newborns' malformed brains.

While it's not known how representative the scans are, the early observations of these doctors point to a tough road ahead for the babies, their families and their communities and heighten the concern surrounding Zika, which is suspected of causing microcephaly.

"We are in the process of very rapid information gathering on what has been seen," said Dr. William Dobyns, a geneticist at Seattle Children's Hospital. "The condition that I've been able to review, very preliminarily, is more severe than simple microcephaly."

A woman looks on next to a banner as soldiers and municipal health workers take part in cleaning of the streets, gardens and homes as part of the city's efforts to prevent the spread of the Zika virus vector, the Aedes aegypti mosquito, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 6 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Zika virus is transmitted by mosquito, causing mild symptoms in about 20 percent of cases, and most people experience no illness at all. But a spike in reported microcephaly cases among babies in areas of Brazil with Zika outbreaks has triggered an international effort to determine whether the virus causes the condition. The suspected association moved the World Health Organisation (WHO) on Monday to declare an international health emergency.

Dobyns has spent 30 years researching and treating microcephaly, a condition defined by abnormally small heads in newborns that can lead to developmental disabilities, from mild to severe. The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has sought out his expertise in understanding the unfolding epidemic.

With a small group of geneticists and other microcephaly specialists, he recently reviewed scans of a handful of babies sent by a colleague in Brazil. All the experts were struck by the scale of malformations, he said.

"These children have a very severe form of microcephaly," Dobyns said. "The brain is not just small, it's small with malformations of the cerebral cortex and calcifications. It has the appearance of a very severe, destructive injury to the brain."

Particularly alarming, Dobyns said, is the presence in the Brazilian cases of excess spinal fluid between the brain and skull of the babies.

"If the brain is growing and then suddenly shrinks, then you'll see fluid between the brain and skull," he said. "It has a pattern that suggests that the brain has actually decreased in size."

Dr Leonardo Vedolin, a neuroradiologist and researcher at the Moinhos de Vento hospital in Porto Alegre, Brazil, shared with Dobyns scans of two more microcephalic babies this week. The doctors belong to a brain defects study group that convenes via video conference each month. The group is now focussed on Zika.

Neither Vedolin nor Brazil's Health Ministry were able to provide a breakdown on the severity of confirmed microcephaly cases. In general, Vedolin said, 5 percent of microcephaly cases are severe. But the proportion appears greater among the cases in Brazil, he said.

Public health officials in Brazil are investigating more than 4,000 cases of suspected microcephaly, and have confirmed more than 400. Prior to the Zika outbreak, Brazil saw on average 163 cases annually of microcephaly over the past five years, according to WHO. In 17 of the new cases, the presence of Zika was identified in the mother or the baby.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (092W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (092W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AURORA PEARL VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AURORA PEARL VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HELIO INT'L SERVICES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HUA YOU 1 VOY NO (1601)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA YOU 1 VOY NO (1601) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULTHARA VOY NO (01/16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (01/16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 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 KULNATEE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

OPINION

The paradigm shift in Myanmar politics

Khin Maung Aye

WITH the National League for Democracy winning an overwhelming majority in the 2015 national elections, the political atmosphere has undergone dramatic changes. It is common knowledge that this positive development in our political reform movement toward building a modern, developed, democratic state plays a key role. In this regard, it is worth remembering that the incumbent government has demonstrated its genuine goodwill and magnanimity by holding the free and fair election. Besides, it has made firm pledges time and again to transfer the presidency as well as the responsibilities of the government to its successor in accordance with the provisions enshrined in the constitution and in a timely manner.

Another significant political development is that NLD chairperson Aung San Suu Kyi has demonstrated magnanimity in nominating speakers and deputy speakers of both houses, as well as chairpersons, secretaries and members of parliamentary committees. Her selections reflect her willingness to ensure improvements in national reconciliation.

Her actions are welcomed by the incumbent government, by the USDP party, as well as by an overwhelming majority of indigenous political parties and armed organisations. These are positive developments in the pursuit of national unity and in our march toward the goal of building a federal union. Political analysts have been optimistic about Suu Kyi's selection of USDP and other indigenous party member MPs to the topmost positions in both houses. Everybody is now hoping that her cabinet will also include members from all political parties. All three pillars—executive, judiciary and legislative—can now be expected to see a plethora of members of parliament from all political parties, irrespective of the number of seats they won in the election. They will become strong groups that emphasise team spirit. Like an orchestra, people in government must exercise unity in order to perform well.

The Global New Light of Myanmar is optimistic about the prospect of achieving unity and national reconciliation under the democratic government.

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.

Myanmar' neighbours : to exploit or to be exploited

Hla Maung (Arakan Sein)

Myanmar geographically borders China , Laos and Thailand on its east and India and Bangladesh on the west and is politically linked with Asean, Bimstec and Mekong Delta region. Furthermore, our country is sandwiched between the two economic giants ,India and China—the former is an emerging economy and the latter is the world' second biggest economy next to the United States of America.

In this situation, let us look over the nearest neighbour, Thailand where our migrants of 2.5 million have been working for a long time.

Why are so many people working there ? The answer is easy: their economy is booming and ours is stagnant. Let us look at the tourism sector alone : Thailand is expected to receive a total of 30 million in 2016 and it gears up for one million during the Lunar New Year whereas Myanmar' tourist arrivals in 2015 exceeded over a little over 5 million ; Singapore' tourist arrivals in the same year exceeded over 54 million with the highest arrival of 5.29 in December alone.

Our per capita income in 2015 stood at US$ 1270 according to the president' annual speech; that is well below those of Thailand and Singapore. According to Corruption Perceptions Index Box released by Transparency International on 27 Jan,2015 ,even Bangladesh is above Myanmar.

In this situation , what should Myanmar do? Divided, we fail ; united, we win. People from all walks of life will have to participate activately to put the country back on the track by supporting the next government which won a landslide victory in November 2015 elections. The historic elections show that Myanmar has been longing for a genuine desire for democracy since it was lost in March, 1962. I personally believe democracy is indisputably fit for Myanmar in terms of traditions, religions and culture. All after, democracy is the best form of administration systems ever practiced in the world in many administrative systems of dictatorship, communism and socialism were applied but not accepted by the majority and eventually collapsed.

Myanmar would set an example for others to emulate by a smooth transfer of power from the present government to the newly-elected party NLD. Things are shaping up to form the next government: both the present government and the newly-elected party have shown a political maturity during the former' farewell at the end of the first Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, paying the way for the future successive governments to carry on the good traditions for our people and our country.

The international communities—the US,EU,UK on the west and Japan, China, and Asean countries on the east show great interest in the historic events in our country. They all want to help our country with Japan visibly engaged in building infrastructure—schools, bridges, railroads,ete.

We are poised for the return of a newly-elected government and at the same time we all have to support it with might and main. We need a strong government with strong leadership. In passing, one might ask what sort of government is strong. A democratically elected government is one we need to fight back all the ills which might come from neighboring countries. That government will create a lot of job opportunities for potential workers who could inadvertently get trapped by human traffickers from those economically stronger countries. In this connection, a piece of advice for the incoming government: why shouldn't we be courageous enough to appoint a Myanmar-born Chinese who is fluent in Mandarin Chinese to deal with Chinese affairs; a Myanmar-born Indian who is fluent in Hindi or Urdu to deal with Indian affairs. If we cannot handle with the economic giants, we will be swallowed by them in terms of power, money, status etc.

In this way, we have to build a political culture which requires patience, magnanimity,forgiveness, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. It means we have all to support the incoming government.

If you cannot destroy them, join them. Forgive and forget all the personal grudges encountered during political campaigns or party infightings. Two examples are given here: Hillary Clinton was defeated by Barack Obama during 2008 Democratic Presidential nomination. Obama became President and Hillary, the secretary of state when the Obama administration came into power. They worked together for the sake of the country. Again, there was an infighting between the former prime minister Tony Abbot and the incumbent Malcolm Turnbull ; the former was replaced by the latter.Mr. Abbot later said that the removal was terrible but he promised he wouldn't do anything to undermine the present government. Are we quarrelling among ourselves to undermine the incoming government or looking beyond our internal conflicts to fight against all the ills coming out of two massive neighbors. So, in order to have a strong government with a strong leadership, mind your own business: let the sweepers do sweeping; let soldiers do soldiering; and let the politicians do politics. At this time of great opportunity, our country is going to have a newly-elected government after many years of international isolation by balancing to exploit and not be exploited by the stronger neighbors.

PRESS RELEASE: ADB, IFC to help extend mobile telecom services across Myanmar

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group—are providing loans of US$300 million to Ooredoo Myanmar for the rollout of a mobile telecommunication network across Myanmar, which will help extend affordable telecom services across the country, boosting economic growth and job creation.

ADB and IFC are extending a loan of $150 million each to Ooredoo Myanmar, a fully owned subsidiary of Ooredoo Q.S.C, to expand a nationwide "greenfield" mobile telecom network using advanced 3G technology.

"Myanmar has one of the lowest rates of telecom connectivity in Southeast Asia, with poor communities and women the least likely to have access to these increasingly vital services," said Christopher Thieme, Director of ADB's Private Sector Operations Department. "This assistance, ADB's largest private sector investment to date in Myanmar, will help the government meet its target of connecting over 90 percent of the population, including millions of people for the first time."

In 2013, only 7 out of every 100 people had access to a mobile phone in Myanmar. Providing affordable, widely available telecom services to support economic growth and cut poverty has been a priority goal of the Government of Myanmar. Since its entrance into the market in 2014, Ooredoo Myanmar has reached millions of customers, covering 80 percent of the population with its 3G network.

"This investment shows our continued support to help extend essential and affordable infrastructure services to Myanmar people," said Vikram Kumar, IFC Resident Representative for Myanmar. "In addition to providing thousands of direct and indirect jobs to local workers, Ooredoo Myanmar's nationwide telecom network will help

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Farmers invited to cultivate community forests

Reserve forest in Yangon Region. PHOTO: MYO MIN THEIN

THE Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry has expanded its use of community forests in Yangon Region, inviting residents to grow crops on such areas.

Since 1995, the ministry has established community forests in forest reserves around the country to combat climate change and to create job opportunities for residents, said U Tin Tun, the deputy director of the forestry department.

A group involving at least five members may send an application to the forestry department to request permission to farm. The application must include the number of acres the group wishes to farm.

The ministry allows growers to sell their products only within the region. Growers who want to sell in the outskirts of Yangon must receive a green light from the forestry department.

Currently, 1,023 residents have begun working in community forests in Kawhmu, Twante, Hlegu, Taikkyi and Hmawbi townships.—*Myo Min Thein*

Twante Township elects local administrators in record time

THE residents of Pyawbwelay Village in Twante Township, Yangon South District, have elected their new village administrators in record time.

The selection of ward and village administrators began at the beginning of this year.

Under the arrangement of township police and departmental officials, the residents of the village participated in the 12-hour long selection process and chose a new administrator on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications.

They gathered at the polling station at 8am on 31 January, and the selection ended at 8:55pm. The villagers chose a new administrator as well as 10-household leaders from Pyawbwelay and Latpangon villages. After finishing the vote counting, incumbent U Win Htike was re-elected to his post as village administrator with 74 votes.—*Htoo Ye Htut*

Dala residents to receive compensation for land in bridge project area

THE Ministry of Construction will provide compensation for people residing within the area where the ministry plans to build the Yangon-Dala Bridge, according to a ministry spokesperson.

The government plans to build the Korea-Myanmar Friendship Bridge between Yangon and Dala at an estimated cost of US$187.833 million. Construction is scheduled to begin in December 2016.

"We plan to provide K130 million for each 40-foot by 60-foot plot of land situated on both sides of Bominyaung Road in Dala," said an official. A total of 68 households are set to receive compensation for their land on 10 February. In addition to the households, five religious buildings, a Buddha image and two schools are also located within the project area. Households will be given priority for compensation by the authorities, though there are plans to build the religious buildings and schools anew after the project is completed.—*Banyar*

PRESS RELEASE: ADB, IFC to help extend mobile telecom services across Myanmar

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connect people and ease economic activities by applying advanced telecommunication technologies."

The network rollout will be carried through to 2019. With the physical infrastructure, Ooredoo Myanmar plans to develop mobile applications for banking, agriculture, and maternal health, which will improve access to services particularly for low-income groups and women.

ADB will also carry out a technical assistance project—financed by an up to $1 million grant from the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia—to examine the feasibility of using renewable energy to run telecom transmission towers. The project will trial the use of renewable energy at selected towers with the goal of deploying it across at least 1,500 rural sites, reducing around 10,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members—48 from the region.

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Working with more than 2,000 businesses worldwide, IFC uses its capital, expertise and influence to create opportunity where it is needed most. In FY15, its long-term investments in developing countries rose to nearly $18 billion, helping the private sector play an essential role in the global effort to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. For more information, visit www.ifc.org.

Miss Northern Shan State contest held in Muse

A MISS Northern Shan State competition was recently held in Muse, a Myanmar town on the border with China. The winner of the pageant was short listed as candidate for the 2016 Miss Golden Land Myanmar.

Nan May Shin Thant from Lashio Township was crowned Miss Northern Shan State on Friday while Si Winna from Mantung Township won first runner up and Su Hlaing Hnin from Kyukot (Panhsai) was awarded second runner up. Actresses Swe Zin Htike and Htet Htet Moe Oo, together with pageant trainer Phyo Thuta, served as judges during the contest.

A total of 12 girls from Muse, Nantkham, Kyukot (Pansai), Kutkai, Theini, Lashio, Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Nawnghkio, Tangyan, Namhsam and Mantung townships participated in the contest. —*Thant Zin*

Nan May Shin Thant from Lashio Township (C) at the MISS Northern Shan State competition. PHOTO:THANT ZIN

Turkey delivers aid across border as Syrian forces step up Aleppo assault

Ambulances enter Syria from Turkey at Turkey's Oncupinar border crossing on the Turkish-Syrian border in the south-eastern city of Kilis, Turkey, on 7 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

ONCUPINAR, (Turkey)/ BEIRUT — Aid trucks and ambulances entered Syria from Turkey on Sunday to help tens of thousands of people who have fled an escalating government assault on Aleppo, as air strikes targeted villages on the road linking the city to the Turkish border. Rebel-held areas in and around Aleppo, Syria's largest before the war, are still home to 350,000 people, and aid workers have said they could soon fall to the government.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war, said air strikes, thought to be from Russian planes, hit villages north of Aleppo on Sunday including Bashkoy, Haritan and Anadan, the latter two near the road to Turkey.

Russia's intervention has tipped the balance of the war in favour of President Bashar al-Assad, reversing gains the rebels made last year. Advances by the Syrian army and allied militias, including Iranian fighters, are threatening to cut the rebel-held zones of Aleppo off from Turkish supply lines.

"In some parts of Aleppo, the Assad regime has cut the north-south corridor ... Turkey is under threat," Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan was quoted by the *Hurriyet* newspaper as telling reporters on his plane back from a visit to Latin America. Turkey has given refuge to civilians fleeing Syria throughout the conflict, but is coming under growing pressure from the United States to secure the border more tightly, and, from Europe, to stem the onward flow of migrants. It is already sheltering more than 2.5 million Syrians, the world's largest refugee population.

But at the Oncupinar gate, which has been largely shut for nearly a year, the newest arrivals were being shepherded into camps on the Syrian side, where Turkey says they are safe for now. The local governor of Oncupinar said on Saturday that around 35,000 had reached the border in the space of 48 hours.

"If needed, we will let those brothers in," Erdogan was quoted as saying. Aid officials at Oncupinar said they were focusing for now on getting aid to the Syrian side of the border, where Turkish agencies have set up new shelters.—*Reuters*

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Construction, Department of Highways
(Invitation for Prequalification)

Date: 9th February 2016

Loan Agreement No: MY-P6

IFP No: my-P6/JICA/ICB/PQ/15-16/001

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (GOM) has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of the Procurement of Civil Works Contractor for Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area Phase II. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Ministry of Construction (the Employer) intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for the Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area Phase II (Access Road Project). The Project comprises of the following components:
   - Reconstruction/widening of the current single carriageway (2-lane road) to double carriageways (4-lane road) with median with a total length of 8.7km.
   - Relocation of the existing overhead/underground power lines (0.4kV, 6.6kV, 11kV and 33kV) to the underground about 45 km linear length.
   - Relocation of the existing overhead/underground communication lines (copper and optical fiber cables) to the underground about 51 km linear length in total.
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in May 2016.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans (April 2012). The Eligible Nationality of the Applicants shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the address given below, from 10.00a.m. to 4.00p.m.
6. The complete set of the PQ Documents are available in CD-ROM and will be obtained free-of-charge by interested Applicant(s) from 9 to 19 February 2016 on the submission of a written Application to the address below.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below **on 28 and 29 March 2016, from 10.00a.m to 3.00p.m. Myanmar local time** and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Infrastructure Development Project in Thilawa Area Phase II (Access Road Project)."

U Win Pe

Director General

Director General's Office, Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Building No. (11), Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Tel: 067-407074, 067-407603, 095312243, 095070469, Email: winpe81@gmail.com, copy to: khinchit57@gmail.com, kyikyithwe@gmail.com, easterlily.eieimyo@gmail.com

Suicide bomber in Afghan city kills three, wounds 14

An Afghan National Army officer escorts a slightly injured boy from the site of a suicide attack on the outskirts of Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan, on 8 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, (Afghanistan) — At least three people were killed and 14 wounded yesterday when a suicide bomber attacked a bus filled with Afghan army personnel in northern Afghanistan, officials said.

The blast occurred just before 8am in Dehdadi district, not far from the Balkh provincial capital of Mazar-i-Sharif, according to a statement by the Ministry of Defence.

The ministry put the number of wounded at eight, while Munir Ahmad Farhad, a spokesman for the Balkh provincial governor, said that 14, including three women, had been injured.

The bomber detonated a suicide vest near the bus as it was carrying members of the army's 209th Shaheen Corps, and all of the reported casualties were army employees, Farhad said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the bombing in a statement released online. The statement named a resident of Wardak Province, which neighbours the Afghan capital city of Kabul, as the attacker.

Buses carrying military and government employees to and from work have been common targets for insurgent groups like the Taliban, who are seeking to topple the Western-backed government in Kabul and reimpose harsh Islamic rule 15 years after they were ousted form power.—*Reuters*

Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (1/2016)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars (CIF Yangon) and Myanmar Kyats (MPPE Warehouse Yangon).

Sr.No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	200 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	2 Sets	USD
(2)	600 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	2 Sets	USD
(3)	Fire Extinguisher	6 Items	Kyats

(2) Tender Closing Date & Time - 9 - 3 - 2016, 12:00 Hrs

3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 8 - 2 - 2016 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone :067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

SHINHAN BANK sponsors Korean medical team to provide free operation for Myanmar children

SHINHAN Bank sponsored a Korean medical team from the Seoul National University Hospital of the Republic of Korea to provide cleft lip and palate surgeries for Myanmar children at Yangon Children's Hospital on 2-5 February.

The medical team comprised of doctors and nurses, totaling 13, from the teaching hospital in Seoul and a six-member volunteer team of Shinhan Bank conducted free health care to children at the hospital as of 1 February. Among them, 15 children with cleft lip and palate received the free-of-charge surgeries.

Before the latest cooperate social responsibility programme in Myanmar, the Bank which has opened its resident representative office in Yangon since 2013, supported five Myanmar medical staff to undergo training in the ROK last October, said an official from its representative office in Myanmar.

The Bank also has a plan to perform one more free-of-charge operation including medial check-ups for children with cleft lip and palate in Myanmar this October, added the official.

Through its series of CSR activities being launched in Myanmar, the Bank donated US$100,000 to a microfinance scheme for villages in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region in 2013.

Likewise, the Bank also made provision of tracksuits and bags for Myanmar sport contingent to Asian Games in 2014 and cash donation for construction new school facilities and furniture to two primary schools in Hlegu Township in 2015.

Moreover, the Bank provided scholarships for outstanding students from Yangon and Mandalay Universities of Foreign Languages for the academic year 2015-2016. The South Korea-based Shinhan Bank is one of foreign banks looking to open branches in Myanmar where nine foreign banks had won licenses to operate services here in 2014.—*GNLM*

Some BOJ policymakers feared side effects of negative interest rate

TOKYO — Some policymakers of the Bank of Japan expressed concern about the possible side effects of a negative interest rate during the January policy meeting at which the central bank decided to adopt the new step, a summary of opinions at the meeting showed yesterday.

At the Jan. 28-29 meeting, Japan's central bank decided to charge a negative interest rate of 0.1 per cent on part of the accounts of financial institutions parked at the bank.

One of the policymakers — their identities are not disclosed in the summary — supported the additional easing measure, saying the BOJ should set the country's first negative interest rate "in order to maintain momentum toward achieving the price stability target of 2 per cent."

BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, speaking at a press conference after the policy review late last month, said the fresh step to be introduced on 16 February, would stir personal consumption and boost investment.

But a policymaker said there is limited room for the private sector's borrowing rates to fall further, despite an additional decrease in the yields on Japanese government bonds, and business fixed investment is unlikely to improve.

Another member argued, "The introduction of a negative interest rate will have larger side effects on the functioning of financial markets and the financial system than positive effects on the real economy."

"Thus, in this policy measure, side effects outweigh positive effects," the member added.

Four of the nine Policy Board members — Sayuri Shirai, Koji Ishida, Takehiro Sato and Takahide Kiuchi — were opposed to the new step, according to a statement released by the BOJ after the meeting.

The BOJ's move stunned the markets, with the Nikkei stock index briefly surging nearly 3 percent. The US dollar also jumped to the mid-121 yen zone from the mid-118 yen level at one point in Tokyo trading hours on 29 January.—*Reuters*

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MV INNWA STAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Asia stocks slip in holiday-thinned trade

TOKYO — Asian shares got off to a rocky start yesterday after mixed US jobs data helped sink shares on Wall Street, but trade was thin with many regional markets closed for the Lunar New Year holiday.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS was down 0.2 percent, with Australian shares slipping about the same amount.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 pared early steep losses, helped by a weaker yen, but it also was down 0.2 per cent by midday.

"We didn't get much clues on future US rate hikes from the jobs report, so investors are having hard times deciding their positions," said Takuya Takahashi, a strategist at Daiwa Securities.

"Japanese companies' earnings reports are not helping sentiment, either, so the market may stay sluggish for a while."

US nonfarm payrolls increased by just 151,000 jobs last month, falling well short of expectations for a rise of 190,000.

But the unemployment rate fell to 4.9 per cent, the lowest since February 2008, and wages rose, indicating some signs of underlying strength in the labour market despite the weak headline figure.

Men walk past an electronic board showing Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, on 20 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

With Singapore, Hong Kong and mainland China all closed for the new year holiday, "volumes will be well below average and there tends to be a build-up of global leads that is released once Asian investors return to their desk —expect 'release valve trading late in the week," Evan Lucas, market strategist at IG in Melbourne, wrote in a note to clients.

Markets in China, a focus of recent market concern, will be closed for the entire week for the holiday.

Data released over the weekend showed China's foreign reserves fell for a third straight month in January, as the central bank dumped dollars to defend the yuan and prevent an increase in capital outflows.

Beijing has been struggling to underpin the yuan, which faces depreciation pressure as China's growth rate slows to its lowest levels in a quarter of a century.

"Just as China's persistent accumulation of foreign reserves in the first decade of the 21st century signalled that its managed currency was undervalued, its persistent loss of foreign reserves signals that the yuan has become overvalued by market criteria," economist Bill Adams at PNC Financial Services Group said in a research note.—*Reuters*

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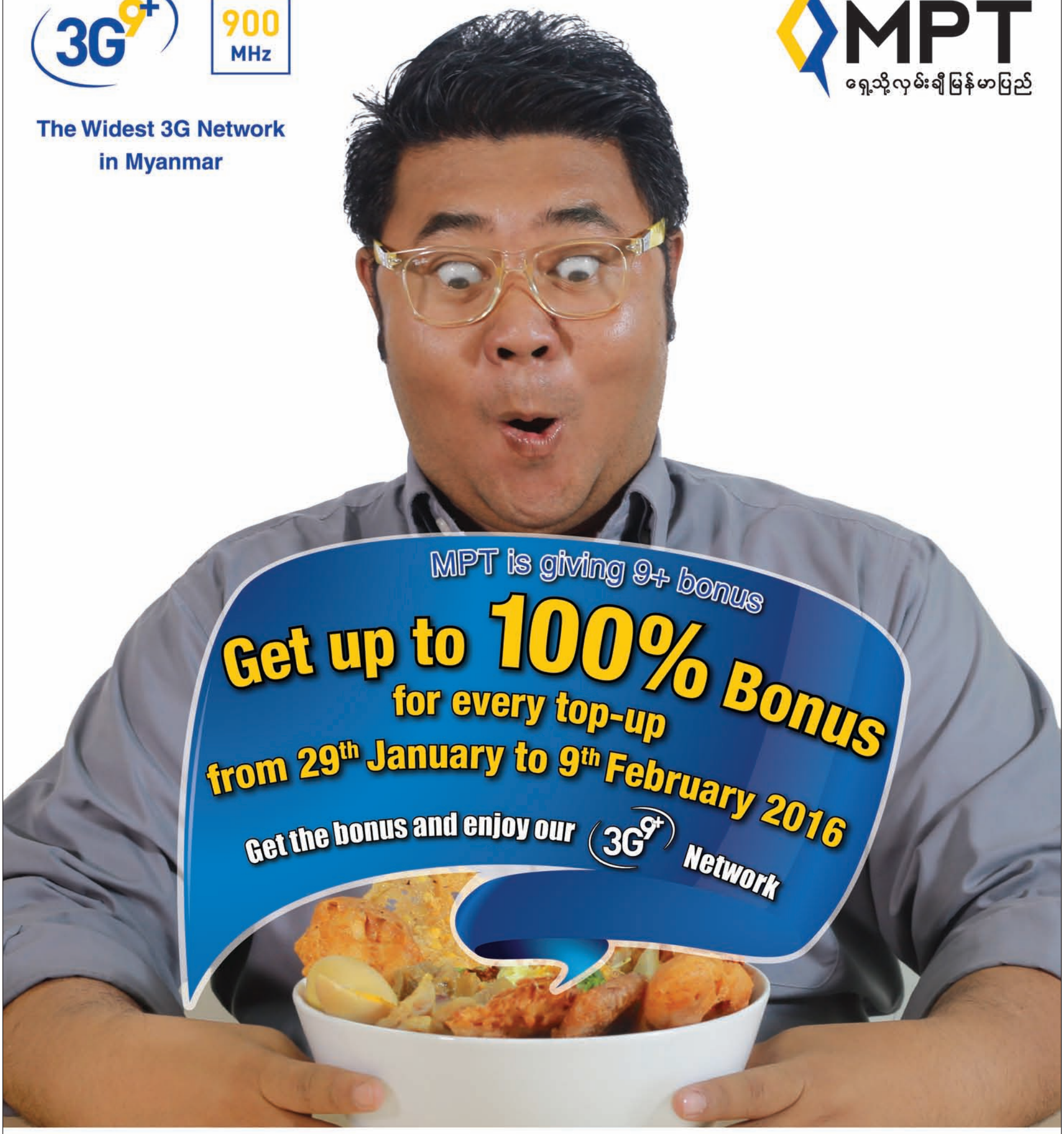

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Beyonce, Bruno Mars heat up Coldplay's Super Bowl halftime show

Beyonce, Chris Martin and Bruno Mars perform during the half-time show at the NFL's Super Bowl 50 between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos in Santa Clara, California, on 7 February.
PHOTO: REUTERS

SANTA CLARA — Coldplay headlined at Sunday's Super Bowl halftime show, but it was R&B super stars Beyonce and Bruno Mars who delivered the sizzle with a lively, upbeat production that paid homage to previous halftime performers.

Known mainly for mellow hits, British alt-rockers Coldplay amped up the energy, staging "Viva La Vida" on a colourfully illuminated floor surrounded by dancing violinists. After Coldplay crowd-pleasers "Paradise" and "Adventure of a Lifetime," a black-leather-clad Mars, who headlined the halftime show in 2014, bounced through "Uptown Funk!," with producer Mark Ronson on DJ decks on stage.

But all eyes were on Beyonce, who gyrated her way through her latest single "Formation" - a power anthem to race and feminism that made a surprise debut on Saturday.

The music video features powerful images of a flooded New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It also depicts graffiti that reads "stop shooting us," suggestive of the Black Lives Matter movement, which emerged in the wake of killings of unarmed black men, several at the hands of police.

Prior to the game, some fans speculated on social media that Beyonce would deliver a politically charged performance.

But, partnered with Mars on the football field, the tone of the performance was lighter than the video. They subtly conveyed the themes of "Formation" with female dancers dressed in black shorts, crop tops and berets, in what was perceived as an homage to the black nationalist Black Panther Party movement of the 1960s and 70s. Cedric Betts of Millbrae, California, who saw the performance live at the game, said Beyonce's message was clear. "As black people we have to embrace these moments because it's not often we get them," he said.

An ad immediately following the show announced Beyonce's "Formation" world tour beginning in April, her first major tour in three years. Before wrapping up one of the signature moments of America's biggest sporting event, Beyonce and Mars joined Coldplay frontman Chris Martin for a quick re-visit to "Uptown Funk!," ending on Coldplay's uplifting ballad "Fix You." Images honoured past halftime performers including Stevie Wonder, Black Eyed Peas and the late Michael Jackson, whose military-style wardrobe inspired Beyonce's costume Sunday. Even for music's biggest stars, the Super Bowl halftime show is the largest stage of their careers, drawing more than 100 million viewers to the live event and lighting up social media.—*Reuters*

Box Office:'Kung Fu Panda 3' trumps 'Hail, Caesar!

Cast members Lucy Liu, Dustin Hoffman, Angelina Jolie, Jack Black, Bryan Cranston, Kate Hudson and J.K. Simmons (L-R) pose at the premiere of ''Kung Fu Panda 3'' at the TCL Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California January 16, 2016. The movie opens in the US on 29 January.
PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood fumbled the ball during a quiet Super Bowl weekend at the multiplexes as new releases such as "Hail, Caesar!" and "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" failed to make much noise. For the second weekend in a row, DreamWorks Animation's "Kung Fu Panda 3" easily topped box office charts. The animated sequel added $21 million to its $69 million domestic haul. The film is playing particularly well in China, where it is being distributed by Oriental DreamWorks, a $330-million East-West joint venture. It crossed the $100 million mark in the People's Republic this weekend after opening day-and-date in the US and China on 29 January.

Universal's "Hail, Caesar!," a sendup of the Hollywood studio system from the Coen brothers, fared best among the new entrants, though that's grading on a generous curve. It picked up a mediocre $11.4 million for a second place finish. A C-minus CinemaScore could spell trouble for the film's long-term prospects, signaling the satire is divisive with audiences. Universal distribution chief Nicholas Carpou said that CinemaScore may not capture the brothers' fan base, noting that previous films from the pair, such as "The Ladykillers" (C CinemaScore) and "Intolerable Cruelty" (C+) have scored poorly, but showed some endurance. The pair's biggest hit, "True Grit," earned a B+ CinemaScore.

"There are some films that really defy polling in a general sense," said Carpou. "The Coen brothers are legitimate auteur filmmakers and they have a loyal fan base that is coming out to see this movie." "Hail, Caesar!" stars Josh Brolin, Channing Tatum, George Clooney and Scarlett Johansson and cost $22 million to produce. Universal distributed the film across 2,222 locations. The opening weekend crowd was 52% male, 69% over the age of 35 and 86% Caucasian. The weekend was particularly hostile for the other films elbowing into theaters. "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies," a hybrid of Jane Austen's romances and "The Walking Dead," earned a wan $5.2 million from 2,931 locations. It's another sign that Seth Grahame-Smith, the author of the book that inspired the movie, has had trouble translating his genre-mashing style to the big screen.—*Reuters*

Battle against censor in progressive state: Haasan

BOSTON — Actor Kamal Haasan, who is part of the reform committee of Central Board of Film Certification, said he was opposed to censorship but had no issues with certification, which should be there like a "statutory warning".

Haasan, 61, in a "fireside chat" with students of Harvard University, said that the battle against censor is in a progressive state.

"First I would like to clarify that the battle against censor is in a progressive state. That's why they are not called censor board any more. They are a certification board," the actor said, maintaining that the practice of censorship continues.

"Certification should be there like a statutory warning," he added.

The actor, whose 2013 film "Vishwaroopam" was initially banned in Tamil Nadu for 15 days and saw a release only after muting certain scenes, had in the past expressed reservations about the censor board guidelines.

Haasan, however, had said that he had nothing against the people in the board.

"It (Censor Board) does stifle my creative freedom. It is stifling my freedom. I have spoken of this to some of the board members, the officers. They are not out to destroy the film industry. They have a job, they are given a stipulation as a set of rules with which they operate. They all love cinema," he had said last year.

Asked if he plans to invest in startups, Haasan said, "Because of the dire state of affairs of my (film) industry, I myself am a start up."

The actor said he is currently working on a script with three of his American friends and the movie would be in English. "I hope to direct that film also," he said.

Acknowledging that piracy is a major issue for Indian film industry, the star alleged that there are efforts to intentionally allow black money to flourish.

Haasan argued that the government needs to treat the Indian film industry with respect and dignity.

"There is a strong voice coming from the industry, telling that you have no right to do that (fixing the maximum price of a movie ticket). Treat us like any other business. We would show you we are as good as IT. We could contribute to the exchequer by thousands of crores, if they do some little modification," Haasan said.—*PTI*

Carnival roars ahead in Brazil despite Zika health scare

RIO DE JANEIRO — The worst health scare in recent history is not keeping Brazilians from their annual Carnival revelry, with millions of partiers swarming streets and some making fun of the mosquito that spreads Zika and other viruses.

Street processions, block parties and the televised, big-budget parades that are the hallmark of the festival moved into their second day on Sunday, even as Brazilian health officials continued to grapple with an outbreak that may have infected as many as 1.5 million people and could be linked to suspected deformations in more than 4,000 infants and unborn children.

"It's one more thing to worry about," said Juliana Araujo, a 48-year-old schoolteacher at a street party in Rio de Janeiro, where other problems, like an economic recession and impeachment proceedings against Brazil's president, seemed distant concerns.

Recent news that traces of the virus had been identified in blood, saliva and other bodily fluids of patients known to have been infected with Zika would not do much to dampen a festival known for its fair share of casual sex, she predicted: "People aren't going to stop having fun and hooking up."

Over a million people hit the streets in cities like Rio, home to the country's best-known Carnival celebration, and the northeastern capitals of Salvador and Recife, two cities hard hit by the outbreak.

Along with the usual cross-dressing, superheroes and other outlandish costumes worn by partygoers, some toyed with themes related to the scare. Outside a juice bar in Rio early on Sunday, three men dressed as mosquitoes mingled with other revellers, the names of maladies borne by the insect stencilled across their chests: "Zika," "dengue" and "chikungunya."

Carnival officially ends on Wednesday.

For some, the levity is welcome relief amid nonstop Zika headlines. After emerging in Brazil last year, the virus has now been locally transmitted in at least 30 countries, according to the World Health Organisation.

Last week, scientists said they would investigate a report that an American in Texas had transmitted Zika to a sexual partner. On Friday, Brazilian researchers said they had found genetic material from the Zika virus in saliva and urine from two patients.

They said more research was necessary to determine if it can be transmitted by those fluids, but warned pregnant women, believed to be most at risk because of links between the virus and deformations in developing babies, to avoid the casual kissing of strangers common at Carnival.

Scientists have found genetic material from Zika virus in tissue and fluids taken from mothers and children in at least 17 cases of microcephaly, a deformation characterised by abnormally small heads that can also include brain damage.

Researchers have yet to prove if the virus actually causes microcephaly.—*Reuters*

A reveller parades for the Vai-Vai samba school during the carnival in Sao Paulo, Brazil, February 7, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Travel agency in isolated Gaza recalls the 'golden' 1950s

GAZA — Nabil Shurafa's travel agency in Gaza was once packed with clients booking flights to London, Paris, New York or cities across the Arab world. These days, he's lucky if anyone comes in, as so few people can get out.

The posters of the Eiffel Tower, the Statue of Liberty and a map of the world look out of place on the walls, given the sense of isolation that pervades Gaza, a narrow strip of land hemmed in by Israel on two sides, Egypt to the south and the blockaded Mediterranean to the west.

"Once borders are closed, things switch off," said Shurafa with a sense of resignation. A plastic model of a passenger plane stands on his desk, next to the silent phones.

When Shurafa's father opened the bureau in 1952, it quickly earned a reputation as a helpful and reliable agency.

Back then, Gaza was governed by Egypt and there was not much of a border to speak of. Gazans could book a plane ticket and take a four-hour bus or train to Cairo to catch their flight.

The agency had a close relationship with BOAC, the forerunner of British Airways, and Air France and is general sale agent for each. It remains a member of IATA, the International Air Transport Association.

"The era from 1952 to 1967 was a golden one," Shurafa, 53, told Reuters. People used to travel to Gaza as well, at least until the 1967 Middle East war, when Israel captured Gaza from Egypt and the West Bank from Jordan.

"Gaza was like a duty-free zone, with Egyptians coming to buy goods brought by merchants from Lebanon," he recalled.

There was also a boom in the late 1990s, after the Oslo peace accords between Israel and the Palestinians, and Gaza opened Yasser Arafat International Airport in 1998. But the years since have seen a steady decline in business as Gaza has become more and more cut off from the world.

When the second Palestinian uprising erupted in 2000, the airport's runway and control tower were bombed by Israel and it remains in ruins.

Since 2007, when the Islamist group Hamas seized control of the territory following a brief civil war with the Western-backed Fatah movement, entry to and exit from Gaza have become even more restricted, both by Egypt and by Israel.—*Reuters*

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(9-2-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

8:35 am
- Documentary

9:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

10:35 am
- Science and Technology Programme

11:35 am
- Documentary

12:35 pm
- Sing & Enjoy(NRC)

1:20 pm
- Documentary

3:15 pm
- Football Magazine

7:15 pm
- MRTV (70)th Anniversary Sing & Enjoy

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

8:35 pm
- Myanmar Song (Tin Tin Mya)

9:00 pm
- News
- Orchestra
- Documentary

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

mitv Myanmar International

(9-2-2016 07:00am ~ 10-2-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Insight Myanmar "MNHRC Complaints Mechanism"
07:52	Am	Tea Leaves
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Rakhine Tourist Area
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)
09:47	Am	All About Orchids
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A Way of Life: Karate-do
10:40	Am	A village where old traditions prevails
10:51	Am	Today Myanmar: First Chapter of New History

(11:00Am~03:00Pm)-MondayRepeat(07:00Am~11:00Am)
(03:00Pm~07:00Pm)-TodayRepeat(07:00Am~11:00Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:51	Pm	Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Unique Pattern Of Myanma...A Trend Of Chin Traditional Dress

(09:00Pm~11:00Pm)-TodayRepeat(09:00Am~11:00Am)
(11:00Pm~03:00Am)-MondayRepeat(07:00Am~11:00Am)
(03:00Am~07:00Am)-TodayRepeat(07:00Am~11:00Am)

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(9-2-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 pm
- Nice and Sweet Song

6:10 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:30 pm
- Fashion Show

6:40 pm
- Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

7:00 pm
- TV Drama Series

7:50 pm
- TV Drama Series

8:40 pm
- Radio Drama

10:15 pm
- Myanmar Video

Midnight
- Close Down

From 9.2.2016 (Tuesday) 06:00 Pm
To 10.2.2016 (Wednesday) 06:00 Pm
This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

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Arsenal win at Bournemouth, United held by Chelsea

LONDON — Arsenal got their title bid back on track with a comfortable 2-0 victory at lowly Bournemouth in the Premier League on Sunday before Manchester United were held to a 1-1 draw after conceding a stoppage time goal at Chelsea.

A first win for Arsenal in four games took them level on 48 points with second-placed Tottenham Hotspur, their bitter local rivals who have a superior goal difference.

Surprise package Leicester City are five points clear at the top after their 3-1 win at Manchester City on Saturday.

After more than five hours without a league goal, Arsenal scored two in little over a minute midway through the first half from Mesut Ozil and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.

Arsene Wenger's team, aiming for their first Premier League crown since 2004, host Leicester next Sunday.

"It was a must-win game for us today," Wenger told the BBC. "Leicester have made a big impression in the last week after their results. They have suddenly become the favourite in the Premier League and it makes our game (next week) a big game."

United played the better football at Stamford Bridge and went ahead through Jesse Lingard's superb strike on the hour but Chelsea's Diego Costa equalised in the first minute of added time to leave United fifth on 41 points from 25 matches.

They are 12 adrift of Leicester and six points behind the fourth Champions League spot occupied by Manchester City.

Arsenal registered their first league win since 2 January, having played out two 0-0 draws and lost 1-0 to Chelsea, with Welsh midfielder Aaron Ramsey heavily involved in both goals.

In the 23rd minute he crossed for Olivier Giroud to head down and give Ozil the opportunity to score.

Bournemouth had not recovered before Ramsey sent Oxlade-Chamberlain through for his first league goal since September 2014 — and first away from home — with an angled drive.

Chelsea's Gary Cahill and Manchester United's Wayne Rooney in action during their Barclays Premier League at Stamford Bridge, on 7 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bournemouth, playing their first season in the Premier league, remain 15th, five points above the relegation places.

The Chelsea-Manchester United fixture had been one of the highlights of the season for most of the past decade but with both teams having struggled for form this season, there was a subdued atmosphere in the first half.

The game finally came to life when Lingard put United ahead with a superb goal, turning and shooting after a cross from the left had been touched on by Wayne Rooney.

Chelsea left it late but finally equalised when Costa rounded Spain team mate David De Gea to score as they drew at home for the fourth straight league match, leaving them in 13th place on 30 points, 17 points from the Champions League places.

United coach Louis van Gaal could not hide his frustration at conceding such a late goal after a promising performance.

"We played very well until maybe the last quarter and it was very frustrating they scored so late. We played like we played today but we are not making the gap smaller (on the Champions League places)," he said.—*Reuters*

Mourinho says he will be back soon

LONDON — Jose Mourinho, sacked as manager of Chelsea in December seven months after winning the Premier League title, has said he is not enjoying his time out of work and will soon be back in management.

He did not comment directly on media reports that have heavily linked him with Louis Van Gaal's job at Manchester United.

But he did say that his family will remain in London and that he liked the competitiveness of English football.

"For sure, I will be back soon," the Portugese told GQ magazine in an interview published on its website (www.gq-magazine.co.uk). It did not say when the interview took place.

"(London) is an amazing place to live and for the family to be together," said Mourinho.

"As a professional, I am ready to move," added the former Real Madrid coach.

"I need competition every week. In Spain I was at an amazing club but I had four matches a year — Barcelona v Real Madrid, Real Madrid v Barcelona."

Mourinho, who also won the league with Chelsea in his first two seasons there from 2004 to 2006, suggested that he deliberately created "instability" among players once they won trophies, to avoid any complacency. "If you are in a club that wins, if you want to win again you have to create instability in the winners," added the Portuguese, fired by Chelsea after a run of poor form by the champions.

PHOTO: REUTERS

"You have to make them doubt, you have to buy new players, you have to make them feel not in their comfort zone.

"There is a normal tendency to go to your comfort zone. If you don't react, if you believe that just because you won in one year that you are going to win again, it's very difficult."—*Reuters*

Dutch stun Russia to reach Fed Cup semis, Czechs through

MOSCOW — The Netherlands' dream Fed Cup run continued as Kiki Bertens crushed Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-1, 6-4 in Moscow on Sunday to send them into the semi-finals of the team competition for the first time since 1997.

In the last four the Dutch will face France, who completed a resounding victory over Italy, while holders the Czech Republic, who were taken to the wire by Romania, and Switzerland, who beat Germany, completed the lineup.

Bertens, the highest-ranked Netherlands player but still a lowly 106, took her Fed Cup singles record to an incredible 13-1 as she overwhelmed the twice grand slam champion to give the visiting side an unassailable 3-0 lead.

The tie finished 3-1 with Russia claiming the doubles in a dead rubber.

"This is unbelievable. I don't think anyone expected that we could win this tie, perhaps we even didn't," Bertens told the official Fed Cup website (www.fedcup.com).

World number 17 Kuznetsova, 30, clearly felt the effects of Saturday's gruelling defeat by Richel Hogenkamp - a four-hour epic that set a Fed Cup singles record - and was no match for the powerful Dutchwoman, who thumped Ekaterina Makarova in the opener.

Russia, last year's runners-up, were unable to call on world number six Maria Sharapova who was injured.—*Reuters*

Title rivals Napoli and Juve look ahead to crunch match

ROME — Serie A title rivals Napoli and Juventus extended their winning runs on Sunday but something must give next weekend when the pair meet in Turin in a much-anticipated showdown.

In what increasingly looks like a two-horse title race, Napoli beat Carpi 1-0 for a club-record eighth consecutive league win, while Juve extended their own record winning streak to 14 games with a 2-0 victory over struggling Frosinone. Ahead of the meeting in Turin on Saturday, Napoli lead the table on 56 points, with Juventus hot on their heels on 54, eight points clear of third-place Fiorentina. "It'll be an excellent game," Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri told Mediaset Premium. "It certainly won't decide the Scudetto, but we'll be ready."

Juve are eyeing a fifth straight title, having fought their way back into the race after being 11 points off the pace on 31 October and taking one point from their first three matches.

By contrast, Napoli are aiming for a first championship in 26 years since a Diego Maradona-inspired team triumphed in 1990.

"I can only compliment (Napoli coach) Maurizio Sarri, because he's having a great campaign," Allegri added. "It has been many years since Napoli were top of the table like this."

Maradona's Argentine compatriot Gonazalo Higuain, whose 24 goals this season have been instrumental in Napoli's form, is not getting carried away ahead of the high-profile clash.—*Reuters*

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