

HONOURING THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY



Spirit of oneness
has enabled
proclamation of
full sovereignty

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PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN

Honouring The 69th Anniversary Union Day

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Two committees approved Process of changing, forming and renaming towns, wards and villages documented

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for its fourth day with parliamentarians approving of changing, forming or renaming towns, wards and villages in the regions and states, and the formation of two parliamentary committees yesterday.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the forming of a ward and three villages, the abolishing of a ward and five villages and the renaming of three wards

and three villages in Yangon Region, forming Lailinpi Town comprising four wards from Tiddim Township and two wards from Matupi Township in Chin State and the abolition of the Lailinpi village-tract. All were documented at the Parliament.

The Speaker stated that the Parliament approved the formation of the Public Joint Committee which comprises 15 members including chairman U



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

Aye Tha Aung, vice-chairmen U Saw Than Htut and U Aung Min, secretary Dr Sai Hseng Kyauk Hsam and joint secretary

U Khin Maung Than.

The Parliament then approved the formation of the Committee on scrutinising Hlut-

taw Representatives with 15 members led by chairman Dr Hla Moe and secretary U Min Oo.— Myanmar News Agency

Union H&T Minister earns PhD in Social Science from Thailand's Mae Fah Luang University



PhD in Social Science is being conferred on Union Minister U Htay Aung by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung received a doctorate's degree in social science at a convocation hosted by

the Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand last Tuesday. The convocation was attended by Her Royal Highness Prin-

cess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, officials of the Ministry of Education of Thailand, faculty members, professors, the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata as well as bachelor's, master's and doctorate's degree holders.

On Monday the Union Minister attended a pre-convocation dinner at the University and spoke on the occasion. The Union Minister had earned a master's degree in tourism administration from George Washington University in the United States of America under the United Nations Development Program in 1991. He was also presented an alumni award from the University in 2014. — Myanmar News Agency

New sub-printing house opened in Sittwe

A NEW sub-printing house was opened in Setyonsu ward, Sittwe, capital of Rakhine State yesterday with an opening ceremony attended by Rakhine State Acting Chief Minister U Mya Aung, officials and local people.

Responsible persons of the Aye Nyein Construction Company presented commemorative

pennants to the acting chief minister and officials.

Next, the Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Min, U Tha Pwint, chair of Sittwe Township supporting committee for development and Managing Director U Kyaw Soe of News and Periodicals Enterprise formally opened the

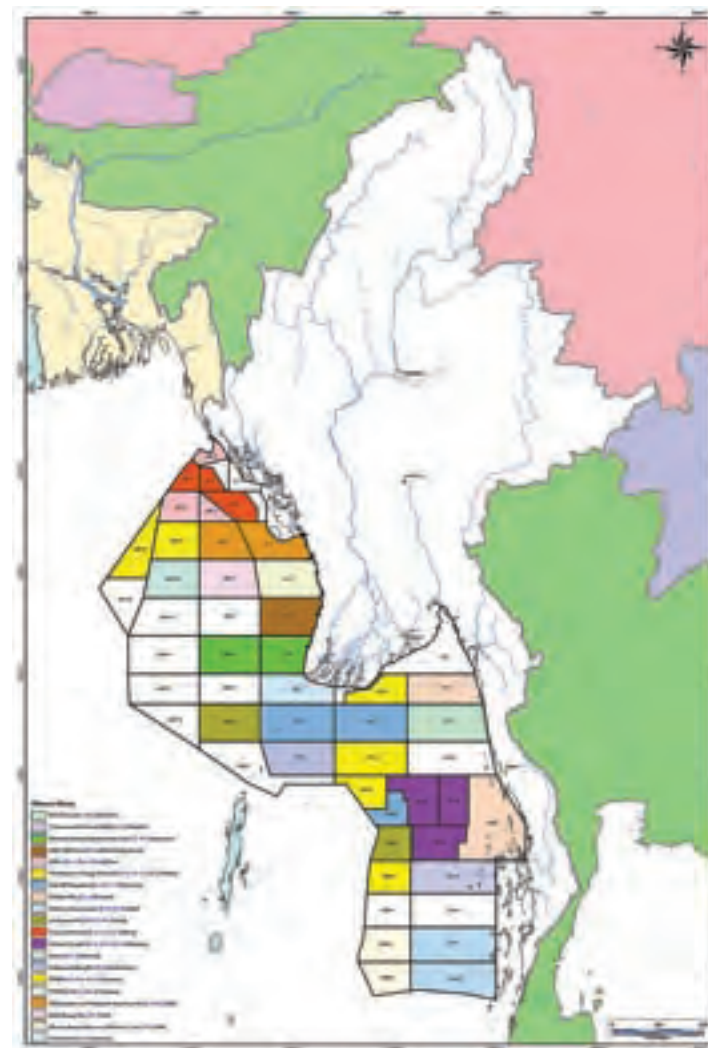
new facility.

The acting chief minister and the NPE managing director spoke, words of thanks. With the emergence of the new sub-printing house, installed with Orient Satellite 5 unit Web Offset printing machine in Sittwe, newspapers published in colour will be available. — Myanmar News Agency



Sub-printing House (Sittway) is being officially opened. PHOTO: MNA

Potential gas reserves discovered at deep-sea offshore block AD-7



THE Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy yesterday approved a new natural gas discovery at the deep-sea offshore block AD-7 currently being explored by Daewoo International Corporation and Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Co., Ltd in a joint venture business.

More gas deposits were found at Thalin (1) well at the offshore block, said the minis-

try, adding that further exploration and drilling will be conducted to identify whether the gas reserves will be commercially exploitable.

According to the ministry, Myanmar's deep-sea offshore blocks have the potential to produce more natural gas following the discoveries at Thalin (1) well of AD-7 block and Shwe Yi Tun (1) well of A-6 offshore block. — Myanmar News Agency

Spirit of oneness has enabled proclamation of full sovereignty

The following is an unofficial translation of the message sent by Agga Maha Thare Sithu Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in honour of the 69th Union Day:

THE 69th Anniversary Union Day of today is an auspicious occasion for all national brethren residing in the country.

On this significant day, I extend my warmest greetings to all the nationalities living in harmony across the country.

Throughout the history of the country, the Union Spirit and anti-colonialism bound to national solidarity have provided a solid foundation for keeping the country in perpetuity. Thus, the spirit of oneness and togetherness has enabled the country to proclaim its full sovereignty.

Myanmar is home to a diversity of ethnic communities. Friendship and understanding will undoubtedly flourish when they respect and recognise one another's cultures, traditions, customs, languages and literature.

This solemn undertaking should reflect 'non-disintegration

of the Union' and the 'perpetuation of sovereignty' embodied in 'Our Three Main National Causes'.

It is absolutely necessary to create a society with the human resources to enable ethnic communities to enrich and cherish one another's languages, literatures, cultures, arts, traditions and historical heritages. In addition, all nationalities are now engaged in the development of the country as a national concern.

At this juncture, the issue of cementing national unity is of utmost importance. Greater emphasis has been placed on gradual relaxations of restrictions to push for pragmatic transition processes and to create a society where democracy can thrive through political changes.

As a result, leaders of the government, Parliament, Tatmadaw and eight ethnic armed organ-

isations signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement, which made history in the country's move toward peace on 15 October 2015.

Under the terms of the agreement, a political dialogue framework was drawn up on 15 December 2015, followed by the Union Peace Conference on 12 January 2016.

Efforts are being made to bring the remaining groups that did not ink the ceasefire deal yet into the peace process; the door is open to them.

It can be seen that all national races were able to express their desires for the country in the elections held recently. It was the fruit of implementing step-by-step democratisation process in accordance with the political situation.

As we all know, people's participation is imperative for the future of Myanmar while we build



a disciplined, flourishing, modern, developed and democratic nation. The government is working on the implementation of regional development undertakings in the areas where ethnic minorities live, thereby contributing toward the establishment of sound foundations in the political, economic and social sectors.

Moreover, the government has carried out reforms in the processes of ensuring national reconciliation based on the peace process and promoting national healthcare and education systems for the development of Myanmar society.

Free, fair and credible elec-

tions held successfully on 8 November 2015 proved the equality of ethnic minorities in the Union. Work is underway to hand over administrative duties to the next government to shape the country's future following the election results.

On the auspicious occasion of the 69th Anniversary Union Day, I would like to stress the need for cooperation and co-ordination among all stakeholders, including the government, Parliament, ethnic organisations, political parties and political forces to transform the nation into a modern, developed and democratic one, with everyone doing their part.



Fair-price housings in Mandalay. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Fair-price housing to implement in Mandalay

THE Mandalay Region government has instructed its development committee to implement fair-price housing projects in Chanmyathasi township with construction companies on a basis of mutual benefits.

The fair-cost housing pro-

jects are slated for starting in this fiscal year and will be sold to retirees and workers, said U Thet Naing Tun, joint secretary of the Mandalay City Development Committee.

The projects will provide 3,360 rooms, he said, adding

that an agreement has been reached between the committee and the construction companies, with the former receiving 30% of the profits and the latter 70%.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Subpublishing House)*

National Authority on Biological Weapons Convention meets

THE national authority on the implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) held its first meeting at the Ministry of Science and Technology in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an address by Deputy Minister Dr Aung Myat Kyaw.

In his address, the Deputy

Minister for Science and Technology called for collaboration between ministries on the collection of information needed for developing a report on Confidence Building Measures, as the ministry is tasked to serve as the focal ministry in the formation of the BWC national authority.

Next, U Kyaw Swa Soe, the permanent secretary of the ministry, elaborated on plans to implement the BWC. Then, the participants held discussions on future works. Myanmar became the 171st country to adopt the BWC on 1 December 2014.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice-President U Nyan Tun to attend US-ASEAN Special Summit

ON behalf of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Nyan Tun, Vice-President, will pay a visit to the United States of America in the near future to attend the US-ASEAN Special Summit, which will be held in Sunnylands, California from 15 to 16 February, 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar Ambassador presents credentials to Serbian President

U MYO AYE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolić, President of the Republic of Serbia, on 5 February, 2016, in Belgrade.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar Gazette

- The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as heads of service organisations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

(A) Name	Appointment
U Aung Myo Myint Managing Director Printing and Publishing Enterprise Ministry of Information	Director General Printing and Publishing House Ministry of Information
(B) Name	Appointment
Dr Aye Myint Rector Yangon Technological University Department of Technology Promotion and Coordination Ministry of Science and Technology	Director General Biotechnology & Substances Science Research Department Ministry of Science and Technology

- The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary U Than Naing Tun (Deputy Director General) of the Union Minister's Office under the Ministry of Immigration and Population as Director General of the Immigration and National Registration Department under the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Shan community in Kyaukme celebrates 69th National Day



69th Shan National Day in Kyaukme Township in progress. PHOTO: THEIN THAN

THE Shan community recently celebrated the 69th Shan National Day in Kyaukme Township, Shan State, with several entertainment programmes.

With the aim of paying respect to patriots who have fought for the nation and promoted unity

among Shan people, the Shan Literature and Culture Association organised the National Day celebration on 7 and 8 February. After hoisting the Shan national flag, U Sai Kham Kaw, a patron of the association, read out messages sent by President U Thein Sein and

Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat. At the celebration, local entertainers performed traditional songs and dances, sharing techniques with the audience.

Extempore talks will also be held during the two-day event. —Thein Than

69th Mon National Day to be celebrated in February

THE 69th Mon National Day will be celebrated on a grand scale on 24 February evening at People's Square and People's Park in Yangon, according to the Mon National Day Executive Committee.

"The ceremony aims to show unity and solidarity among Mon people," said Naing Soe Kyi, secretary of the committee.

The date was chosen to coincide with the anniversary of the establishment of the first Mon kingdom, the Hanthawaddy Kingdom, by the two princes—Samala and Vimala—on the 1st Waning of Tabodwe in the year 1116 of the Religious Era, according to Mon tradition.

Since 1947, Mon National Day has been held on that day.

This year's event will include entertainment by a popular Mon drama troupe, with

people of all ethnic nationalities invited to come and enjoy the free show.

As in previous years, the ceremony will include traditional songs and dances and other cultural performances.

The annual event formally takes place in Mon State, Yangon Region and other countries where Mon people reside.

Besides Mon State, significant Mon populations are found in northern Taninthayi Region, Yangon Region, Bago Region and Ayeyawady Region, as well as along the southern border between Thailand and Myanmar.

There are five million Mon people across Myanmar.

According to the Mon population survey taken in 2014, Yangon is home to more than 40,000 Mon nationals. —Ko Chit

Crime News

Car accident injures two people



A taxi seen capsized. PHOTO: MPF

A BUS from no 220 line collided head on with a taxi in front of a CNG gas filling station in Thamaing township on Monday, leaving two injured.

The 220 line bus, being driven by one Pyone Maung Maung, crashed into the taxi which was

being driven by Ko Myint San with Ma Thin Zar Win on board. The taxi car plunged into the drain. The collision injured Ko Myint San and Ma Thin Zar Win. Police are searching for the bus driver and have filed charges against him.—Myanmar Police Force

Man charged with motorbike theft

POLICE have filed charges against a man on suspicion of motorbike theft as he failed to identify a motorbike in his possession.

The police stopped Soe Moe Aung alias R Bit, 19, while he was pushing the motorbike near Myin Yadanar traffic lights on Tuesday.—Min Min Lat (Physics)

Three teens drown in Pyay

THREE teens drowned in the Ayeyawady River in Pyay yesterday.

The bodies of the three victims have been found, said local authorities to the Global New Light of Myanmar.

The three victims named Zin Min Khant, 16, Nyein Chan Aung, 15, and Tun Tun Lin, 14, drowned as two of the teens searched for their friend, the third victim, who disappeared in the river while cooling himself during a football match at around 2.30 pm on a sandbank in the river.

The victims were 10th grade students.—GNLM

Nearly 5,000 Yabba pills seized in Tamwe

MEMBERS of the police seized 100,000 Yabba pills from a car in Bahan township on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, local police searched a car being driven by Zaw Zaw Aung alias Phay Yut with Soe Naing alias Mamad Rofit on Tamwe road in front

of the Modern Teashop. Police also confiscated 3,900 pills at a house owned by one Soe Naing on Shwe Oo Daung road, Tamwe township. The suspects involved in these cases have been charged by local police.—Myanmar Police Force



Zaw Zaw Aung, Phay Yut, Soe Naing alias Mamad Rofit. PHOTO: MPF

Heroin and Yabba seized in Moemeik

LOCAL authorities seized heroin and yabba pills at a house owned by one Ma Eh Swe in Moe Haut village, Moemeik township on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police arrested Ma Eh Swe and Ma Aye Khan alias Daw Khan with four Yabba pills, a tiny amount of heroin and petty cash on them. When interrogated, they admitted to keeping 390 grams of heroin and 137 Yabba pills in an abandoned house next to their own.—Myanmar Police Force



Ma Eh Swe and Ma Aye Khan alias Daw Khan. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business



The Gokhteik viaduct is seen in Nawnghkio, northern Shan State.
PHOTO: TRIPADVISOR.COM

Scenic Gokhteik viaduct rides opened

A RAIL bus engine that can carry 50 passengers and cars with a capacity to carry 20 passengers are now offering riders sight-seeing opportunities along the Gokhteik viaduct, according to Myanma Railways.

The service costs K5,000 per person and includes 10-minute stops on both sides the bridge.

People can hire the service by contacting its Mandalay Office at 0235986 or the Myanma Railways Head Office at Nay

Pyi Taw Railway Station at 067 77118 and 77050. According to Myanma Railways, walking along the bridge has been prohibited in order to maintain the durability of the historic viaduct.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Low rubber prices leave Myanmar rubber market in hopeless position

Soe Soe Yu

THE Myanmar rubber market is in a hopeless position following tumble of rubber prices which continue to fall, according to an official from the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

“The price of rubber at home and abroad has continued to slump year after year. Price is expected to stay low this year. It is impossible for rubber farmers to store their products for a certain period to fetch good price as farm workers must be paid by selling rubber at the price they are given,” said U Khaing Myint, secretary of the association.

The secretary forecast that prices will not change this year.

Rubber latex collection season in Myanmar ends in mid May annually. Although some farm owners store rubber until the end of the rainy season it has not affected the price.

Rubber trading is at a price of US\$1250 a ton for RSS-3 variety on the world market but Myanmar rubber farmers fetch \$900 a ton for the variety grown here.

It is found that growers fail



Rubber latex is collected in a bowl. PHOTO: REUTERS

to accept the concept of growing high quality rubber to fetch good prices, said the secretary who is also a rubber farm owner.

Despite the market sending the price up and down, we never have a good price as the quality of our products does not meet international standards, said the farm owner, stressing the need to produce quality products to get a good price.

According to rubber planters and producers, Myanmar rubber cannot meet the quality as demanded by foreign buyers.

Annual per acre yield for rubber in Myanmar is about 700

pounds while farms of neighbouring countries have outputs from 500 to 1800 pounds an acre, they said.

U Khaing Myint highlighted the importance of knowing whether foreign varieties could be grown here.

Despite having 1.6 million acres across the country, rubber latex production comes from 600,000 acres of farmland. The country exported only 75,000 tons of rubber last year. We hope to export around 80,000 tons this year, the secretary of Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association said.

Onion exporting resumes

FOLLOWING a halt in the exporting of onions in late 2015, onion exporting has resumed with a new harvest in upper Myanmar.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, more than 220 tons of the kitchen crop was exported over borders in the last week of January reaching a total volume of 696 tonnes in January worth more than US\$

164,000.

Onions have been exported under normal trade conditions as of January this year. The government has given the green light to exporters to sell 300,000 kg of onion to Singapore.

The going price for onions is still higher than that it was this time last year, according to brokers in the area.—*Khin Saing*

K10m cars sells best

ONLY motorcars worth around K10 million have found buyers at market these days while cars valued over K20 or K30 million are at the bottom of the market in terms of sales, according to the automobile dealerships at Hlaine automobile sale station.

The auto market has been

cold, said the car dealers. Cars with vehicle registration number plates with the letters J,K, H, I in them see higher demand, said U Johnnie the car dealer.

To change the registered ownership name of cars valued around 10 million Kyats at the current state will cost around K3,000-K4,000.—163

Mobiles favourite for online marketing

THE Myanmar free online advertisement website www.ads.com.mm announced that 80 per cent of online marketing is based on mobile phones.

80 per cent of viewers who encounter advertisements are using a mobile phone while the rest are using laptops and tablets. Information Technology (IT) products are increasingly popular in Myanmar. The elec-

tronic imports continue and prices become more competitive.

People are widely using web advertising via the Myanmar free online advertisement website. The business, based on harnessing the online media market, has become widespread in Myanmar, said Mr. Elijah Htang, Head of Public relations from the website.—*Moon Oo Nadi*

Sagaing farmers to expand cowhage

FARMERS in Sagaing Region have shown a high interest in growing cowhage seeds, or velvet beans, on a commercial scale in the coming rainy season as they believe the crop will generate high profits for them.

“It is a marketable and medicinal seed,” said one farmer. “Farmers in Nyaungkai Village in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region, cultivated cowhage last season. Every commercial plantation produces good profits for them.”

“Growing of one tin of cowhage seeds can produce seven

baskets within 9 months,” Farmer U Myint Tun said. “We receive K8,000 (US\$6.48) per pyi (a traditional unit equal to 2.13 litres) of seeds.” Some growers who have cultivated cowhage seeds near their farms and homes sell roasted seeds to locals. The local demand for roasted seeds has gradually increased in the region, bolstering local interest in the crop.

The consumption of cowhage seeds provides valuable health benefits—the seed is said to be good for treating anxiety, heart diseases and diabetes.—*Sai Lu Min*

Energy Ministry gives press briefing

THE Ministry of Energy gave a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday that focused on its fuel distributions, officials said.

In its press release, the ministry explained its 24/7 distributions of compressed natural gas (CNG) from 46 stations in Yangon Region, the assessment of environmental impact the oil

and gas explorations can have on the nearby areas in Myanaung township, and possible cooperation with a foreign company in the import and distribution of oil products.

U Phe Zin Tun, permanent secretary at the ministry, responded to queries raised by correspondents.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Thai-Cambodian border market quiet, empty due to contraband crackdowns

BANGKOK — A Thai-Cambodian border market, which has earlier thrived on pirated and second-hand goods, will likely go out of business in the face of crackdowns on contraband merchandise, said a Thai business executive yesterday.

Daily businesses at Rong Klua market in Aranyaprathet District, some 230 km east of Bangkok and across from Poi Pet township in Cambodia, have turned from hectic to quiet as Thailand's Department of Special Investigation and police have been cracking down on pirated, copyright-infringing goods which would have been otherwise abundantly put on sale by Cambodian vendors.

Pramual Khiewkham, secretary general of the Sakaeo Chamber of Commerce, said daily trading at Rong Klua market will likely grind to a halt due to the ongoing crackdowns by the Thai authorities while most Cambodian vendors have closed down their shops and stalls since last week.

"The Cambodians will likely go out of business at Rong Klua market where they can no longer put their merchandise on sale. There's no way of running the market the way it used to be in the face of the crackdowns," said the executive of the chamber of commerce in the eastern Thai province of Sakaeo.

Most visitors to Rong Klua market, including Thai shoppers from Bangkok, would obviously look for low-priced, second-hand and pirated goods, many of which were smuggled across the border from Cambodia.

Large quantities of contraband items were abundantly put on sale ranging from shoes, clothes, hats, sportswear and automobile accessories to camping and fishing gear.

"Due to the unprecedented crackdown, the market has virtually become a deserted town," he commented.

One Cambodian trader was quoted as saying that his fellow vendors would indefinitely keep

their shops closed during the crackdown period which was said to last a few-months time.

He declined to tell whether the Cambodian vendors might possibly reopen their shops without any more pirated goods for sale at Rong Klua market.

Last week, a brief riot occurred at the border market as hundreds of Cambodian vendors blatantly expressed frustrations at the Thai crackdown mission. Some threw stones and other hard objects at the officials and others damaged government property.

Two young Cambodian males were arrested and sentenced to three months in jail on charges of attacking the Thai officials and vandalizing a van of the DSI border unit.

Bun Sokvibol, the Cambodian consul general attached to Aranyaprathet, made inquiry with the Thai police about the incident and planned to submit a report to Cambodian leader Hun Sen in Phnom Penh. —Xinhua

South Korea's opposition lawmakers condemn shutdown of inter-Korean factory park

SEOUL — South Korea's opposition lawmakers yesterday condemned the government for its decision to shut down a jointly run factory park with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), saying the government seemingly tries to use anti-DPRK sentiment in the upcoming general election in April.

Seoul decided Wednesday to stop operations at the Kaesong Industrial Complex in the DPRK's border city in response to Pyongyang's Sunday launch of a long-range rocket in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. The launch came a month after its fourth nuclear test on 6 January.

Rep. Lee Jong-Geol, floor leader of the main opposition Minju Party, told a meeting with party members that the government should have self-reflecting its own DPRK policy ahead of decision to shut down the industrial zone, expressing his wonders about the government's in-

tention to use anti-DPRK sentiment in the April general election.

Lee expected security threats to escalate further on the Korean peninsula as the last remaining cooperating project between the two Koreas was stopped, denouncing the government's DPRK policy as a very emotional response without any strategy and vision.

Past conservative governments in South Korea sometimes used anti-DPRK sentiment or deliberately caused security fears ahead of important elections as people tend to vote for the governing party under such situations.

The minor opposition People's Party told a press briefing that the permanent shutdown of the Kaesong complex means a disappearance of a line of hope for reunification between the two Koreas, urging the government to maintain the line of hope with a temporary suspension. —Xinhua

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Dozens face riot charges over Hong Kong Lunar New Year violence



Riot police guard a street where a fire was set by protesters at Mongkok district in Hong Kong, China, on 9 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HONG KONG — Dozens of people in Hong Kong were charged yesterday with taking part in a riot after a dispute between vendors and police on the first day of the Lunar New Year holiday blew up into city's worst violence since pro-democracy protests in 2014.

Sixty-four people have been arrested in connection with the Monday night violence that saw protesters hurl bricks at police and set fire to rubbish bins in Mong Kok, a tough, work-

ing-class neighbourhood just across the harbour from the heart of the Asian financial centre. Thirty-seven were charged yesterday.

Police fired two warning shots into the air, almost unheard in the former British colony which reverted to Chinese rule in 1997 and is considered one of Asia's safest cities.

More than 130 people were wounded in the clashes.

The violence has compounded a sense of unease since

an "Occupy Central" pro-democracy movement in late 2014 that saw thousands of protesters block major roads, including in Mong Kok, to demand Beijing's Communist leaders allow full democracy in the city.

At least one of those charged in connection with this week's trouble belongs to a group called Hong Kong Indigenous, one of a cluster of outspoken groups calling for greater Hong Kong autonomy and even independence from China, the

group said. Hong Kong Indigenous confirmed to Reuters that one of its members, Edward Leung, had been arrested. Leung, who had been planning to contest a by-election for the Hong Kong legislature, was one of those who appeared in court yesterday.

The head of the University of Hong Kong student union, Billy Fung, said three of its students were also in court. Students from the university were at the forefront of the 2014 protests.

Thirty-eight people, including 35 men and 3 women aged between 15 and 70, were charged with participating in a "riot", the police said in a statement. The 15-year-old was due to appear in a juvenile court on Friday.

The defendants, who appeared one after another before the court including one with a bandage on his head, were granted bail though ordered to stay away from areas where the clashes took place.

The next hearing will be on 7 April, following a request by prosecutor David Leung to allow authorities time to gather evidence.

Rioting carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

The violence broke out after police tried to clear hawkers selling snacks and trinkets at stalls on the first day of the Lunar New Year holiday. —Reuters

Australian looks set for climate sceptic deputy PM

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull will likely inherit a hard-right, climate change sceptic for his deputy after the retirement of his current No.2 yesterday, an appointment that could block any revamp of an emissions trading scheme.

Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce, an outspoken lobbyist for the nation's farmers and for tougher controls on foreign investment, is the leading candidate for the job traditionally held by the coalition government's minor partner, the Nationals.

"We will likely see a more assertive Nationals under Barnaby," said University of Sydney political scientist Rod Tiffen. "He and Turnbull really have very opposing views on climate change and they will butt heads over this."

Australia is one of the world's largest exporter of coal and iron ore and one of the largest carbon emitters on a per capita basis thanks to its reliance on coal-fired power plants.

The country pledged to cut emissions by 26-28 per cent of 2005 levels by 2030 ahead of the Paris climate talks late last year. But a planned carbon trading scheme, which would have been



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (L) speaks to Australian Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce (C) as Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss sits next to them in the House of Representatives at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on 11 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

the world's third biggest, was axed by previous conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott to fulfil an election pledge.

Turnbull who ousted Abbott in a party coup last year, is a carbon trading advocate who supports progressive climate policies. Infact he lost the Liberal Party leadership to Abbott while in opposition in 2009 because of

his support for the then Labour government's carbon trading scheme.

"While Turnbull has put an emissions trading scheme on the backburner, he would want to revisit it at some point," said Tiffen. "That would be impossible with Barnaby."

Joyce, the sole candidate standing for election to replace

outgoing deputy prime minister Warren Truss, did not comment ahead of a party ballot scheduled for later Thursday.

Joyce has repeatedly said he does not believe Australia's extreme weather events, like drought and floods, are linked to man's impact on the climate.

Turnbull and Joyce are the odd couple in relation to more

than climate change.

Turnbull, an urban multimillionaire former tech entrepreneur, is a careful thinker and erudite speaker who wants Australia to focus on a future in innovation.

Joyce, who is known for speaking off the cuff, is concerned with support for regional Australia, including tougher rules on foreign investment in Australian farmland.

In 2015, he made international headlines when he threatened to euthanase Hollywood actor Johnny Depp's dogs, Pistol and Boo, after biosecurity officials learned the animals had illegally entered the country — telling them to "bugger off back to America".

The change of deputy leader paves the way for possibly a significant Cabinet reshuffle ahead of a federal election expected in September or October.

Turnbull is under pressure from within his splintered government. He faces rear-guard actions from a conservative wing, led by Abbott, on a range of social issues including same sex marriage. Earlier this month he ruled out an increase in the consumption tax under pressure from within his own party.—Reuters

Elephant on rampage in India's West Bengal smashes structures, cars

NEW DELHI — A wild elephant Wednesday went on a rampage in India's eastern state of West Bengal, smashing at least 100 residential structures of people and cars in its way, besides forcing panic stricken people to run away for safety, locals said.

No one was injured or killed by the wild animal, who was later on tranquillised by wildlife officials and taken to the forest.

The incident took place in Siliguri town, about 566 km north of Kolkata city, the capital of West Bengal.

Video footage broadcast by television news channels showed the elephant running amok through streets trampling parked cars, motorbikes and structures. Huge crowds of people gathered to watch the wild animal on rampage from balconies and roof tops.

Officials told media the elephant had wandered from the nearest Baikunthapur forest.

"The elephant didn't attack the people instead it went on rampaging everything that came in its way," an official said. "It seemed the animal was scared and trying to find its way to the forest back."

Following the hours of disturbance, the men from forest department fired tranquilliser

darts to control the wild animal.

"After shooting couple of tranquillisers, officials brought a crane to lift it into a truck and take it away from the town," local resident Rishikesh Banerjee told Xinhua over telephone. "We were told it would be released back in the forest area."

Unconfirmed reports put the number of damaged structures at 100. However, the number of damaged cars and motorbikes was not known immediately.

Experts say wild animals

stray into residential areas usually in search of food. However, the human presence makes them insecure, following which they resort to attacking people. At times these creatures are attacked by scared villagers in retaliation which also proves fatal for them.

In India the man-animal conflict is on increase because of the growing human population and expansion of towns, cities and residential areas.

There are strict laws in

force in India against the killing of wild animals.

On Sunday, wildlife officials in Bengaluru city captured a leopard from a school after it mauled six people.

Wildlife expert say mass urbanisation, denudation of forests, encroachment of forestland, vanishing of buffer zones in the forests and extraction of medicinal plants are some of the reasons responsible for increasing conflict between humans and wild animals. —Xinhua



A wild elephant stands still after it was tranquillised in Siliguri, India, 10 February 2016. The mammal had wandered from the Baikunthapur forest Wednesday, crossed roads and a small river outside the town and ran amok trampling parking cars and motorbikes before being tranquillised, according to local media. PHOTO: XINHUA

ASEAN urges DPRK to comply with UN resolutions after rocket launch

JAKARTA — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has "strongly" called on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to comply with all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

"ASEAN follows closely the situation in the Korean Peninsula and shares common concern of the international community over the recent developments in the said region," said a statement dated 10 February on the association's website. "ASEAN strongly urges the DPRK to comply with all the relevant UNSC resolutions," the statement said. The statement added that ASEAN reaffirms its support for the early resumption of the six-party Talks, and to bring about the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through peaceful means.

The six-party talks were launched in 2003, but stalled in December 2008. The DPRK quit the talks in April 2009. The talks involve China, the DPRK, South Korea, the United States, Russia and Japan. The DPRK state news agency reported on 7 February that a Kwangmyongsong-4 satellite was successfully launched in DPRK's space center. The launch was widely seen as a disguised test of long-range ballistic missile technology.—Xinhua

OPINION

Motivation comes from recognition

Kyaw Thura

IT is natural that people want to receive recognition for their commitment to the organisation or institution they work for. It is, however, unhealthy for a person to merely fancy being recognised by people in power and from above. Employers tend to use recognition in order to motivate their employees to expand their capacity for high performance.

One important thing to note in this respect is that recognition by superiors and authorities alike is prone to produce a class of self-seekers. It is recognition by peers and people around us that drives a sustainable source of motivation and morale. It is, therefore, better for leaders of all organisations to encourage a culture of peer recognition so that they can make sound judgement about employee performance. In addition, it is necessary for leaders at all levels to better leverage the skill sets of their subordinates by utilising all available resources.

Undeniably, awards in recognition of excellent performance have the potential to make people more productive and engaged in their work. There are incidents in which awards have gone to those who did not deserve recognition. This is

why leaders ought to be smart enough to reward those who deserve to be rewarded based on their ability and hard work rather than on favouritism. After all, leaders are responsible for creating a decent environment in which their workers are inspired to improve their levels of performance through unbiased recognition.

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.

AS the country is rapidly opening up to the world, we are witnessing the influx of foreigners into the country today. Some come on business and most are on vacations. These are very welcoming; to have more and more tourists visiting our country. As the tourism industry could generate much income, they are good for our economy and would also create job opportunities. However, are we prepared to cope with the invasions---the invasion of cultures, the invasion of behaviours, invasion of the safety and security, etc?

A few days ago, while I was surfing the Facebook webpage, I came across a very disturbing photo of two tourists, a male a female, and on the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, clad in shorts with foot-wears on. That is a sacred place where such improper attires and foot wears are prohibited. Their mannerism, according to the written post was even more outrageous. The person who posted the photo wrote that, when she saw the offensive sight, she reported the matter to a member of the pagoda trustees. However, that person did not do anything. So the young lady took it upon herself to confront the offenders and told them of their inappropriate manners. The response from the tourists was hostile.

I'm not a religious extremist but a liberal Buddhist. However, in my opinion such disrespectful manners should not be tolerated. Such mannerism, shown by for-

eign nationals on our sacred grounds could be deemed as an act of provocation. It could be viewed as an insult not only to our religion but also to our people. Their actions could have resulted in unpleasantness. The trustees should have intervened.

Such undesirable incidents should be anticipated to become more frequent in future, with the surge in the number of tourist arrivals. Thus, it would be necessary for the departments con-

by the respective tourism departments. I believe our country too has such arrangements at present. However, more attentions should be given to get all the foreigners to know and understand and observe them.

Even with such systematic arrangements, Thailand is having much trouble with tourists from a certain country. The root cause, in my opinion, is the differences in social, religious and cultural customs and norms.

wears by the Europeans at Buddhist sacred places. So, it could not be wrong to assume that such prohibitions had nothing to do with religion or culture, but more related to political sentiments.

Most people may not agree with my assumptions. However, as they are based on my experiences gained while traveling to other Buddhist countries, I deemed it my duty to validate them. Once when I visited the Temple of the Buddha's Sacred

alized later that they are practical, when I went to a famous pagoda in Myanmar during the afternoon, while the concrete pavements were scorching hot. It was very difficult to walk over to the hot concrete pavements without getting the feet blistered.

Today at some monasteries in our country, the residing Sayadaws with practical and rational outlooks, permit foot-wearing on the temple grounds. Such thoughtfulness spared the visitors to those places, from the discomforts of having to tread bare-footed on the scorching concrete pavements or, in some cases, sharp-edged gravels strewn grounds. This fact led me to assume that the prohibitions of foot wears on the premises of the sacred places are just optional but not compulsory and have nothing to do with the religion.

Undoubtedly, the surge in the number of foreign visitors to the country would benefit many sectors, however, we should be wary of the negative impacts they could inflict. Especially, such incident as mentioned above could bring about conflicts that could result in undesirable consequences. To avoid them in future, we should make some adjustments to our outlooks on norms and values in regard to religion and culture. On the other hand, although we should encourage the growth of the tourism industry, care should be taken not to compromise the religion, culture and above all the security and safety of the citizens.

Foreign Tourists are Flocking In. But!

Khin Maung Myint

cerned to provide clear informations, to every foreigner entering the country, concerning the rules, regulations and cultural and religious customs that need to be observed. The tour operators should be tasked to make their clients aware of the information concerning the "DOs" and "DON'Ts" in our country.

In some neighbouring countries, I had observed that such information are widely promulgated by mentioning them in the air lines' inflight magazines, brochures or pamphlets distributed

I would like to discuss my views on the prohibition of foot wears at sacred Buddhist shrines and temples. We should seriously consider the practicality of prohibiting foot wears on the premises of the said places. These prohibitions had caused controversies between the foreigners and the locals since the colonial days. In those days this issue had created quite a row as our peoples' nationalistic spirits were high because of the animosity against the colonialists. Thus they opposed, ardently, the wearing of foot

Tooth in Kandy, Sri Lanka, I was surprised to find that I could wear my shoes on the temple premises and needed to take them off only when entering the shrine hall where: the Sacred Tooth was kept. Also in Thailand, I had seen that foot wears are allowed on the premises of the temples and even cetis (pagodas), except inside the shrines. Foot wears are allowed right to the foot of the cetis and Bhudda images if they are in the open, with no roofs over them. At first, I was surprised to see such strange practices. However, I re-

Aviation academy awards full scholarships to 10 trainees

THE Myanmar Aviation Academy has awarded scholarships worth US\$65,000 each to 10 trainees from the academy's third and fourth batches. The academy was established by the Htoo Foundation.

A total of 36 trainees were accepted in to the two batches

this year, 10 of whom will have their fees covered.

"The training course fee is \$65,000. Those who were awarded scholarships will have their training, food and accommodations covered," said U Kyi Win, chairperson of the MMA.

In general, trainees can pay

for the MMA's 20-month programme in three instalments.

"Among the candidates who have been granted scholarships, some are descendants of farmers who are interested in aviation and show high potential but cannot afford the programme financially. The programme can be paid for

in three instalments of \$22,000. As such, trainees who pay in instalments will be charged an additional \$1,000," said by U Htun Myint, the CEO of MMA.

Among the first batch of 24 trainees, ten were awarded full scholarships, but no scholarships were offered to the second batch.

MMA is the first civilian aviation training course in Myanmar. It was established in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region. Trainees' educations will include theoretical and practical studies at the Yangon Aviation Academy headquarters as well as at MMA.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Bamboo Baskets being carried on a motorbike. PHOTO: PHYO KO LIN (NYAUNG WINE)

Demand for Bamboo Baskets from Ottwin increases

THE demand for bamboo baskets made by a family business in Ottwin Township, Bago Region has become higher as local farmers are harvesting beans.

Demand has risen in Kyauk-

taka, Kyaukkyi and Pyu townships.

The basket makers are selling a bamboo basket at 1,200 Kyats. They sell around 40 baskets per day.

Since we cut and weave them ourselves, the family is employed and can make savings, said Tun Naing who sells baskets from Ottwin Township.

— Phyko Ko Lin (Nyaung Wine)

Department of Fisheries, Myanmar Fisheries Federation to attend ASEAN forum

THE Department of Fisheries, which falls under the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, along with the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), will attend a fisheries discussion forum and drafting committee meeting to be held in Thailand in March this year.

The discussion forum will run for four days between 1 and 4 March and is financially supported by the Japanese Trust Fund and Sweden Project from the South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC).

“We haven’t yet selected [representatives] from the fisheries federation to attend the event. I have proposed Daw Toe Nandar Tin to attend. She’s also very knowledgeable when it comes to fishing enterprises. One additional person must also be chosen. The specifications of fishing industries within ASEAN region differ from country to country. Of course, one is going to work for a way that best suits one’s own situation,” said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of the MFF.

tary of the MFF.

Requests will be made during the coming discussion forum by Myanmar representatives to secure international assistance for the development of Myanmar’s fisheries and for Myanmar fishermen working abroad to be able to do so legally and to receive appropriate work opportunities.

“The information that comes out of this dialogue will be used to draft appropriate legislation for each country. We must assess to what extent can the management of appropriate policies be carried out in one’s country while also maintaining job opportunities for citizens,” said U Han Htun, the executive vice president of the MFF.

Discussion will be held in a bid to increase the competitive capacity of seafood products produced in the ASEAN region and to crack down on illegal fishing activities. Delegates will also discuss the obstacles facing the development of the fishing sector in the region today.—Myitmakha News Agency



Tomato plantations in Myingyan. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

Tomato cultivators in Myingyan face losses

GROWER’S tomato plantations in Phet Yin village, North part of Myingyan, Mandalay Region are experiencing lowered prices of their stock.

Though the farmers have seen a good harvest of the seasonal crop, they expressed distress at the decreased price of tomatoes.

“When I’m starting a plantation, one viss (1.6 kilograms) jumps up to K1000. But when we harvest, the price downed

to K100 and then K50. I planted roughly half an acre and I plucked around 15 baskets at one time”, said a local farmer.

“Over 500 visses are yielded from my farm. But only the growers who are harvesting early get a good price”, he added.

A local market has offered K130 and K80 for one viss but local farmers have to pay 20 per cent of one viss for transportation.—Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

Permitted tonnage of vehicles crossing Pathein suspension bridge halved as repairs commence

REPAIRS are being made to the Pathein – Chaung Thar suspension bridge after ten blots broke off, causing the bridge to start sagging by around four inches on the morning of 7 February. As such, the tonnage weight limit of vehicles permitted to cross the bridge has been halved.

“Orders have been placed for materials needed to repair the bridge from the Steel factory. We will conduct repairs as soon as these parts arrived. The blots broke away from daily reverberations made by large vehicles crossing the bridge. There is nothing to be concerned about,” explained U Aye Win, an engineer from the Department of Public Construction and Bridges.

He also mentioned that prior to the sagging of the bridge, vehicles weighing less than 60 tonnes were permitted to cross the Pathein suspension bridge. Now however, as repairs are still being made, only vehicles weighing less than 30 tonnes have permission to cross, with the weight of vehicles being inspected at toll gates on both sides of the bridge, he said.

Officials and designers from the Department of Public Construction and Bridges came to inspect the bridge and found that

blots between 100 – 200 tonnes must be used to mitigate the same incident from reoccurring. The department also made it known that there is no need for concern over other hanging suspension cords.

“To be honest, whether it’s once every six months or once a year, inspections should be carried out on the bridge. Only by conducting such regular inspections can we mitigate these kinds of things from happening in the future,” said U Ye Win, head assistant engineer of the Pathein township development committee. The Pathein suspen-

sion is the only bridge which links the town with the coastal regions of Ngwe Thauung Yan, Ngwe Saung, Kyaung Thar and surrounding villages of Nga Yoke Kaung and Tharbaung towns.

The Pathein cast iron and concrete suspension bridge, which crosses the Ngawun river, was completed in November 2004 by the Ministry of Construction. It is 2,040 feet in length and features a road for vehicles 28 feet in width, with a four foot wide pedestrian path on either side.—Myitmakha News Agency



Pathein suspension bridge. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

EU warns UK deal 'fragile' as Paris, East seek changes

BRUSSELS — A draft accord to help keep Britain in the European Union is “very fragile”, a top EU official warned on Wednesday as France and eastern states pushed for changes before leaders meet to try and seal the deal next week.

European Council President Donald Tusk, who agreed reform proposals last week with British Prime Minister David Cameron, said they were “balanced and solid” and he hoped to finalise them when he chairs a Brussels summit next Thursday and Friday.

“However, let me be clear — this is a very fragile political process,” he added, announcing that he had cleared his diary and would travel to Paris, Berlin and eastern Europe early next week “to secure broad political support for my proposal”.

Tusk spoke on the eve of a second round of talks among the 28 EU leaders’ top aides and envoys in Brussels. Officials said they will discuss a new draft with small, technical tweaks.

The first meeting of “sherpas”, on Friday following Tusk’s circulation of his reform propos-

als, saw participants broadly welcome a first draft as a way to help Cameron win a referendum in the coming months to prolong Britain’s 43-year membership.

But on Wednesday, France, the traditional pro-European sparing partner of eurosceptic Britain, demanded significant changes, particularly to Cameron’s effort to secure protections for the sterling-based City of London from possible EU measures favouring the majority of states which uses the euro. Finance Minister Michel Sapin told lawmakers in Paris that the current draft must be amended to avoid skewing EU rules in favour of London, the bloc’s leading banking centre: “There are ... several ambiguities in the texts,” he said. “Treatment must be as identical as possible. That’s why we’re fighting.”

French concerns focus on British-based banks benefiting from different regulations to those in the euro zone — less onerous capital requirements, say — while retaining full access to the single European Union market in financial services. And while Cameron

has insisted he has not sought a veto over the euro zone’s affairs, Paris also argues that the current wording of a new British right to delay euro zone decisions which it fears could hurt its interests must be amended to place tighter limits on how long London could hold up the process.

Eastern European negotiators also plan to seek amendments to limit the extent that their citizens may be penalised by a new “emergency brake” mechanism on EU immigration. Under the Tusk proposal, governments who persuade their EU peers that immigration is jeopardising their welfare system will be able to deny benefits to other Europeans for up to four years after they start work in that country. That stretches EU rules which ban discrimination among EU citizens on national grounds.

A draft statement seen by Reuters that was prepared by Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic — collectively the Visegrad Group — broadly endorses the effort to appease London but says the welfare issue is a “primary concern”. —Reuters

NATO agrees Russian deterrent but avoids Cold War footing



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (C) addresses a NATO defence ministers meeting at the Alliance’s headquarters in Brussels on 10 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — NATO agreed on Wednesday its boldest steps yet to deter Russia from any attack in the Baltics or eastern Europe, setting out ways to rapidly deploy air, naval and ground forces without resorting to Cold War-era military bases.

In an effort to dissuade Moscow after its 2014 annexation of Crimea, NATO defence ministers will rely on a network of new alliance outposts, forces on rotation, warehoused equipment and regular war games, all backed by a rapid-reaction force.

“Russia is a threat,” Lithuanian Defence Minister Juozas Olekas told Reuters at an alliance meeting in Brussels. “It is Moscow’s actions in Crimea, their support for separatists in Ukraine and their snap exercises that concern us”. The measures, which British Defence Minister Michael Fallon said proved that “NATO

means what it says”, showed a unity the West has not been able to muster against Russia in Syria, where the United States faces criticism for not stopping the Russian-backed assaults on rebel-held areas of Aleppo.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said he will meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the Munich Security Conference later this week to stress the defensive nature of NATO’s strategy for the Baltics and eastern Europe. “We believe that especially when times are difficult, as they are now, it’s even more important that we have political dialogue, channels open, between NATO and Russia,” he said. Russia denies it has acted aggressively. Moscow blames the West for stirring anti-Russian feeling across the east, particularly in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, which it considers its

historic sphere of influence.

The crisis in Ukraine, where the West accuses Russia of fomenting a separatist rebellion, and the Western economic sanctions on Moscow have raised concerns about a new Cold War.

Non-NATO member Georgia, which fought a five-day war with Russia in 2008 that left two of its regions occupied by Russian military, also warned NATO to be on alert. “With the Kremlin, nothing can be excluded,” Tinatin Khidasheli, Georgia’s defence minister, told Reuters. “They cannot show weakness.” Poland’s new conservative government has been the most vocal in calling for permanent NATO bases on its territory and while Warsaw has now agreed to the new lighter military presence, its defence minister Antoni Macierewicz signalled that difficult talks over troop numbers lie ahead. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh upholds death sentences over 2004 attack on British envoy

DHAKA — A Bangladesh court upheld death sentences yesterday for three members of an outlawed Islamist militant group in connection with a grenade attack on the British ambassador in 2004.

The Islamists, including the head of the Harkat-ul Jihad Islami group, were sentenced to death in 2008 for the attack in which three people were killed and about 50, including the then British high commissioner, Anwar Choudhury, were wounded.

“The high court today upheld death sentences for three, including the HUI leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, and life imprisonment for two others in the attack,” Sheikh Moniruzzaman Kabir, a public prosecutor, told reporters.

The attack came after Friday prayers at a Muslim shrine in the northeastern district of Sylhet. The Bangladesh-born British envoy was wounded in the leg. —Reuters

Greek navy helicopter crashes in Aegean, killing three

ATHENS — A Greek navy helicopter crashed early yesterday off the small island of Kinaros in the eastern Aegean Sea, killing a crew of three, a Greek Defence Ministry official said.

“The Agusta Bell helicopter was taking part in a military exercise. It had taken off from a frigate sailing in the area and disappeared from radar around 0045 GMT. Wreckage has been found near Kinaros,” the official said.

Kinaros is an islet near the island of Amorgos.

The official said Turkey had issued a Notice to Airmen saying the Greek rescue operation was within its maritime search and rescue region and that all efforts should be coordinated with Turkish authorities. —Reuters

Turkey, Greece seek NATO mission in Aegean — German official

BRUSSELS — Turkey and Greece have agreed to ask for a NATO mission to monitor refugee flows in the Aegean Sea and combat people smugglers, a senior German government official said late on Wednesday.

“Turkey and Greece are both asking NATO to develop an overview of the situation with the national coastguards and Frontex,” the German official said, referring to Europe’s border protection agency.

Struggling to stop refugees streaming into Greece despite a deal between Ankara and the European Union to combat the flood, Germany and Turkey surprised partners this week by saying they would raise the issue with NATO.

Turkey has also said it is prepared to take back refugees who are rescued at sea or picked up by NATO, the official said. Information gathered by NATO should also be passed on to Turkish authorities to go after people smugglers, the official added.

“It is not NATO’s remit to push back or stop refugee boats,” the official said. —Reuters

Six killed in French school bus crash

PARIS — At least six were killed in a school bus crash in France’s southwestern department of Charente-Maritime yesterday, local medias reported.

A school bus carrying 18 teenagers collided with a truck at 07:15 local time (0615 GMT), news channel iTele said.

“Government fully supports the families of the bus accident’s victims in Rochefort and sharing their distress,” Segolene Royal, the Ecology Minister wrote in her tweet account.

Royal and Education Minister Najat-Vallaud Belkacem will visit the crash scene later in the morning, according to the report. —Xinhua

DPRK expels all South Koreans in Kaesong Industrial Zone

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) announced yesterday that it is expelling all South Koreans in the Kaesong Industrial Zone (KIZ) and closing the joint-run complex.

The DPRK “will expel all persons of the south side in the KIZ till 5 pm, 11 February, 2016,” the official news agency KCNA reported, citing a statement released by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea (CPRK). —Xinhua

The banker at centre of Swiss bank BSI, 1MDB relationship

SINGAPORE — A private banker, caught up in Singapore's money laundering probe linked to 1Malaysia Development Bhd, was a key link between the embattled state investor, a Swiss private bank and a Malaysian businessman connected to the troubled fund.

Yak Yew Chee, a senior banker at Swiss-based BSI Singapore, has emerged for the first time as a key figure in Singapore's money laundering probe, according to documents released at Singapore High Court last week.

Yak was not personally at the Singapore High Court on Friday, when he sought to unfreeze his Singapore funds to pay taxes and legal fees. His lawyer agreed to withdraw the petition after the prosecutor raised no objection in allowing Yak to transfer S\$1.76 million (\$1.3 million) from his overseas bank accounts.

In an affidavit filed at the court, he denied any wrongdoing or getting unlawful benefits from managing the accounts of 1MDB or its affiliates.

Yak handled the lucrative 1MDB account after he joined Swiss private bank BSI in Singapore in 2009, a person who worked with him at the bank said. He was on unpaid leave for five months last year while BSI investigated him for alleged misconduct related to client accounts, the court documents say, but did not disclose details of the internal probe.

Yak went back on BSI's payroll in October and was last paid his monthly salary of nearly S\$83,000 on 27 January, according to his court affidavit.

Singapore authorities are conducting a money laundering probe into bank accounts linked to 1MDB, whose activities have triggered legal action across three continents.

Some of the accounts Singapore is probing belong to Yak and have been frozen together with S\$9.7 million of his funds, according to the court documents, the first to emerge from Singapore's probe into 1MDB announced last July. Malaysia said in March 2015 that 1MDB had transferred \$1.1 billion from the Cayman Islands into BSI Singapore.

Yak did not respond to Reuters request for comments. BSI declined to comment.

The court disclosures about the money transfers in Singapore linked to 1MDB are another hit to the Malaysian government's efforts to put a lid on the scandal-hit fund, which is chaired by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Malaysia's Attorney General last month cleared Najib of any wrong-doing in the case, and 1MDB has denied the graft and money-laundering allegations. But Switzerland's chief prosecutor said a criminal investigation into 1MDB had revealed that about \$4 billion appeared to have gone astray.

Yak was among 100 Asia-



Foliage partly covers a 1 Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) billboard at the funds flagship Tun Razak Exchange development in Kuala Lumpur. PHOTO: REUTERS

based bankers who left rival RBS Coutts mostly from its Singapore office in late 2009 for BSI, lured by promises of hefty bonuses, three banking sources in Singapore said. It was then the biggest such defection in Asia's private banking sector, they said.

BSI was turning to Asia at that time amid concerns a wide-ranging US tax investigation into Swiss banks could weaken Switzerland's wealth management industry.

Yak started with an annual salary of S\$500,000. His clients included Brazen Sky Ltd, a financial vehicle owned by 1MDB which was holding \$1.1 billion worth of fund units in BSI Bank in Singapore, 1MDB says on its

website.

The bank was making between \$15 million and \$20 million in fees from the Brazen Sky account, said a person familiar with the situation. Reuters could not independently confirm this.

Another client was Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, court documents show. Jho Low, as he is more popularly known, was an adviser to Terengganu Investment Authority, which later became 1MDB, but he never had any position with 1MDB, the Malaysian fund said in a statement. Jho Low did not respond to Reuters request for comment.

Yak said in his affidavit he believed the reason his bank accounts were seized was "due to

ongoing investigations into Low Taek Jho". Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department declined to comment on whether Jho Low is under investigation.

Yak's career blossomed at BSI Singapore. "He was a big success and the way he brought in business was constantly showcased," one person who has worked with Yak, told Reuters.

His bonus rocketed from S\$649,294 in 2011 to S\$10.44 million by 2014, according to his court affidavit.

BSI Singapore was also prospering. Its staff had grown to over 200 by end-2010 from 30 in 2009 to become the Swiss bank's biggest overseas subsidiary, the bank's annual report shows. In the 2014 annual report, BSI said its Singapore unit had almost doubled its net profit compared to 2013.

But the relationship between the banker and its star banker appeared to sour last year, the court documents show.

Yak asserted in the court documents that the bank was trying to terminate him and deny him some of the S\$8.8 million of bonus that he says has not yet been paid.

BSI declined to comment on any aspect of Yak's case.

BSI has been put up for sale by its owner, investment bank BTG Pactual, which is rushing to sell assets to raise cash and shore up investor confidence following the arrest of its founder André Esteves in November.—Reuters

Flight to safety sends gold surging above \$1,200 after Yellen



A salesman arranges jewellery at a shop at the gold souk in Deira. PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Gold surged to its highest in 8-1/2 months yesterday as investors bet that the Federal Reserve could find it hard to hike US interest rates this year, while safe-haven demand amid a tumble in equities and the dollar also boosted the metal.

The Fed is unlikely to reverse its plan to raise interest rates further this year, but tighter credit markets,

volatile financial markets, and uncertainty over Chinese economic growth have raised risks to the US economy, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said on Wednesday.

Yellen said she expected continued US economic growth would allow the Fed to pursue its plan of "gradual" rate hikes, but her comments kept the central bank's options open. A slowing of rate hikes

could help bullion, keeping down the opportunity cost to hold it.

Spot gold jumped to an intra-day high of \$1,213 an ounce, its highest since 22 May, before paring gains to trade up 0.8 per cent at \$1,206.10 by 0222 GMT.

US gold rose to an intra-day high of \$1,215.30 an ounce, a near-nine-month peak. "Stop loss orders are being triggered on the break of

\$1,200," said MKS Group trader Jason Cerisola. Silver is also well bid, with the 200-day moving average providing critical support at \$15.10, he said. Silver rose 0.5 per cent to \$15.35 an ounce, not far from a three-month high reached earlier this week.

"Yellen made it clear that while the Fed still expects to continue on its gradual tightening path, policy was not on a pre-set course and would respond appropriately to developments," ANZ analysts said in a note, adding that gold prices will likely get some support from the dovish Fed outlook. Bullion was also supported by inflows into safe-haven assets as investors fretted over the Fed's rate hike path. Asian shares sputtered on Thursday as Yellen's tone of guarded optimism led to an indecisive finish for Wall Street. The dollar fell to its lowest since October against a basket of major currencies, and to a 15-month low verses the Japanese yen.

Longer-term US debt rallied hard as investors wagered that either the Fed would be unable to tighten at even a gradual pace, or that if it did hike it would only hasten the arrival of recession and deflation. Yields on 10-year Treasuries fell to their lowest in a year.—Reuters

TSMC will be sole supplier of processors for next iPhones



A man tests a mobile phone, an iPhone 6 by Apple in a shop in Munich, Germany. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (2330.TW) (TSMC) will be the exclusive supplier of mobile processors for Apple Inc's (AAPL.O) next iPhones, South Korea's Electronic Times reported yesterday citing unnamed industry sources.

TSMC beat rival chipmaker Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) to make the processors using 10-nanometre manufacturing technology, the report said. Samsung and TSMC both supply the processors for the iPhone 6S and iPhone 6S Plus.—Reuters

FBI tightens grip on final occupiers at Oregon wildlife refuge



FBI agents man the entry to the Burns Municipal Airport in Burns, Oregon on 30 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

PORTLAND — Federal agents on Wednesday closed in on the last four anti-government militants still holed up at a national wildlife refuge in Oregon after a 40-day armed occupation protesting federal land control in the West.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation said no shots have been fired and that negotiations to end the standoff without violence were continuing as the FBI escalated pressure on the protesters refusing to leave the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in remote eastern Oregon. It was not immediately clear how much further law enforcement officers would go in the latest confrontation, which the FBI said began after one

of the protesters was seen riding an all-terrain vehicle outside the encampment.

A number of the occupiers were relating their account of events as they unfolded via an independent Internet broadcast, "Revolution Radio," that is known to be sympathetic to the occupation. The militants said FBI agents had moved to within 50 yards (45 metres) of the occupiers' position in the compound, and one reported seeing FBI snipers perched on a nearby hillside with high-beam vehicle lights trained on the compound.

"If they tear gas us, it's the same as firing on us," said one of the occupiers, who identified herself as Sandy Anderson. "Don't

come in. Don't do it."

She later reported that federal agents were trying to coax the protesters out of hiding, but added, "We're not leaving without our weapons." Nevada state Assembly member Michele Fiore, a Republican supportive of the protesters, identified herself over the broadcast as she talked with the occupiers via telephone. She said she was in Portland waiting for an FBI escort to Malheur, roughly 300 miles (480 km) to the southeast, in order to help broker a peaceful resolution to the standoff. The broadcast was frequently interrupted by the sounds of the protesters shouting and law enforcement officers calling out to them by bullhorn.

Fiore repeatedly tried to calm the occupiers by leading them in prayers over the phone. The four remaining protesters were indicted last week along with 12 others previously arrested on charges of conspiring to impede federal officers during the occupation.

The takeover at Malheur, which began on 2 January, was sparked by the return to prison of two Oregon ranchers convicted of setting fires that spread to federal property in the vicinity of the refuge. The occupation, led by Idaho rancher Ammon Bundy, also was directed as a protest against federal control over millions of acres public land in the West. —Reuters

Russia concerned over possible deployment of air defence system in South Korea

MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday expressed concerns over possible deployment of US missile defence system in South Korea.

The Pentagon said Monday that the United States and South Korea have begun negotiations on the issue in response to the missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 7 February.

The Russian ministry noted that the action of DPRK was used by Washington to expand the deployment range of the US global missile defence system, according to an online statement. "The emergence of elements of the US global missile defence system in the region, characterised by a rather difficult security situation, could provoke an arms race in northeast Asia and will further complicate the solution of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula," the statement said. "This step could only enhance the destructive impact of the US global missile defence system on international security and strategic stability." Accusing DPRK of disregard for international law, the ministry urged for creating comprehensive peace system in northeast Asia that would take into account the security interests of all regional countries. "We hope that Washington and Seoul will contemplate the possible consequences that can result from such developments and draw appropriate conclusions,"

the ministry said.

The DPRK said Sunday that it had successfully launched a Kwangmyong-song-4 Earth observation satellite into orbit, which was widely seen as a disguised test of long-range ballistic missile technology. Earlier in the day, head of Russian Foreign Ministry's security and disarmament department Mikhail Ulyanov also said the deployment of US missile defence system, as well as the current developing trend of events, would benefit neither Pyongyang nor Seoul.

Meanwhile, Ulyanov warned that the US is developing air defence systems that could in the future influence Russia's capability in providing nuclear restraint.

"Russia does not pose a real threat for NATO countries," Ulyanov said, vowing "adequate reaction to any changes of the military-political landscape in Europe." Recent media reports said that NATO plans to step up military deployment along the European border with Russia. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova on Wednesday warned that increased NATO military presence near Russia's borders threatens European stability and security.

"Unfortunately, this is not an issue of threatening Russia. This is preventing the European continent from achieving common security," she said, suggesting that the NATO's move was aimed at containing Russia.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BITUNG VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BITUNG VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. / 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (143W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (143W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.2.2016 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOKYO TRADER VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOKYO TRADER VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.2.2016 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

Short of options, Sri Lanka turns back to Beijing's embrace

COLOMBO — Just over a year after a new leader was elected and Sri Lanka's business ties with China came under close scrutiny, Colombo is reversing course by resuming a stalled port project and naming Beijing as the front runner for a new special economic zone.

India is nervous about losing influence over the island nation off its southern tip, while China's push into the Indian Ocean, and the possibility of dual purpose civilian-military facilities in Sri Lanka, are raising alarm further afield.

The ouster of President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who steered Sri Lanka towards China until 2015, was a setback for ties, as his successor reviewed projects to check if they were fair and legal.

Now Maithripala Sirisena's government, faced with falling foreign reserves, a balance of payments crunch and few, if any, alternative investors, is heading back into Beijing's embrace, albeit on better terms than before.

"The stance on China has completely changed," cabinet spokesman Rajitha Senaratne told Reuters. "Who else is going to bring us money, given tight conditions in the West?"

Most of the focus has



A worker looks on at the Colombo Port City construction site, which is backed by Chinese investment, in Sri Lanka, on 2 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

been on the \$1.4 billion port city China wants to build in the commercial capital, Colombo, where cranes and diggers have sat idle for months.

But according to International Trade Minister Malik Samarawickrama, Chinese investors have also expressed interest in a special economic zone (SEZ) in Hambantota, southern Sri Lanka, where a \$1.7 billion seaport and airport built by the Chinese are operating at a fraction of capacity.

"We will agree to that. They will invest their own money. That's the way to

go forward," Samarawickrama told Reuters.

Beijing's rehabilitation does not mean the door is closed to other potential investors in Sri Lanka's \$79 billion economy.

Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj held talks with Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe for an SEZ in Trincomalee last week, according to an Indian official. And New Delhi said it was not unduly worried by China's return to pole position in talks with Colombo. "The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is robust, is getting stronger," said

Renu Pall, joint secretary in the Indian foreign ministry in charge of the Indian Ocean region.

But so far, only Beijing had come up with specific proposals for a trade zone, an official at Sri Lanka's Board of Investment said.

Beijing has already pumped hundreds of millions of dollars into roads and ports since the end of Sri Lanka's civil war in 2009, when Colombo was largely shunned by Western investors over its human rights record.

China's interest is seen as part of its ambitions to

build a "Maritime Silk Route" to the oil-rich Middle East and on to Europe.

That makes some countries, including India and the United States, nervous, with Sri Lanka sitting near shipping lanes through which much of the world's trade passes on its way to China and Japan.

Western diplomats have expressed particular concern over Hambantota, located in Rajapaksa's stronghold on the southern tip of the country, because they say it could have both civil and military use.

Sri Lanka's government says such fears are misplaced and that it plays host to a far higher number of ship visits by other foreign navies, including India's.

The SEZ in Hambantota is the biggest of four proposals made by the Chinese to Sri Lanka's Board of Investment, the official there said. He did not provide details about others.

The SEZ is one of 45 projects the government plans to help lift growth at a time when public finances have deteriorated and Colombo is seeking an emergency IMF loan to avert a balance-of-payments problem.

Trade Minister Samarawickrama said the government decided to go

ahead with the Colombo port city project after proposing to the Chinese to reduce the land area and limit the environmental impact.

Already, the suspension of work has cost \$380,000 a day overall, according to state-owned China Communications Construction Co Ltd (CCCC), which is financing the project.

"During negotiations, the new Sri Lankan government understood the reality and also the fact that they were legally bound by the contract," said an official at CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd, the local company handling the project.

Sri Lanka and the Chinese government also discussed loan terms, which critics said were too onerous on the host country, Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake told Reuters.

"Everything is going well. If there were 7 per cent (interest) loans, we have reduced to lower-regime loans," he said, without detailing which loans were being renegotiated.

China said it looked forward to working closely with Sri Lanka.

"We believe Sri Lanka ... will continue to deepen practical cooperation with China," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying.—Reuters

German train crash investigators focus on signal controller

BAD AIBLING/BERLIN — German prosecutors and police investigating a head-on train crash in Bavaria that killed ten people are focussing on the actions of a signal controller, a source involved in the inquiry told Reuters on Wednesday.

However, investigators said it was too early to speculate on the cause and that they have recovered two of three black boxes from the two passenger trains that

collided at peak commuter time on Tuesday morning.

"The investigations are focussing on the controller," said the source, who declined to be named. The single track stretch was opened for both trains, the source said.

The source did not name the controller. Reuters was unable to determine the identity of the controller or what actions were under scrutiny.

In addition, Reuters could not determine if other individuals were also under scrutiny.

A spokeswoman at state-run railway, Deutsche Bahn [DBN.UL], which is responsible for the track, said the company was working with investigating authorities.

"We do not want to pre-empt the results of the investigation," she said.—Reuters

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(2 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-074(15-16)	600 Series Well Head Equipment & Accessories (2) Sets	US\$
(2)	IFB-075(15-16)	900 Series Well Head Equipment & Accessories (1) Set	US\$
(3)	IFB-076(15-16)	1500 Series Well Head Equipment & Accessories (4) Sets	US\$
(4)	IFB-077(15-16)	Mud Agitator Unit with (15KW) Motor (4) Sets	US\$
(5)	IFB-078(15-16)	Spares for GM 8V-71 Engine Ex Cementing Unit (21) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-079(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Butterfly Valves(12)Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-080(15-16)	Spares for Drawwork and Catwork(28)Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-081(15-16)	Adaptors, Flanges and Gate Valves(24)Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-082(15-16)	Rig Floor Handling Accessories (41) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-083(15-16)	Fire Fighting Truck (5000 L) (1) Unit	US\$
(11)	IFB-084(15-16)	Low Bed Trailer (50 Ton) (2) Nos	US\$
(12)	DMP/L-013(15-16)	Generator (18KVA) with Diesel Engine (1) Set	KS
(13)	DMP/L-014(15-16)	95mm ² Cable, 1 Core, Aerial Bundle Cable, AL / XLPE (3500) Meters	KS
(14)	DMP/L-015(15-16)	10 HP Induction Motor Complete with Motor Starter (10) Sets	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 9-3-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 10th February, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. +95 67-411097/411206

Harry Potter returns in '8th story' script of London play



People look at a model of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry which is part of the Warner Bros 'The Making of Harry Potter' studio tour in Leavesham, England, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Harry Potter is coming back — for everyone.

Nine years after publication of the last novel in the best-selling series about the boy wizard, what has been billed as the “epic 8th Harry Potter story” will be published worldwide in July.

“Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I & II,” a script version of the upcoming, sold-out London play, will be published in physical book form in North America and Britain, and globally as a digital ebook. The book will read like a play rather than a narrative novel.

The play, based on an idea by author J.K. Rowling, is set 19 years after “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.” It features a grown-up Potter as an overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic and father of three children who is grappling “with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs,” US publishers Scholastic, UK publishers

Little, Brown, and global digital company Pottermore said on Wednesday.

David Shelley, chief executive of Little, Brown Book Group, said the script was being published due to public demand.

“J.K. Rowling and her team have received a huge number of appeals from fans who can’t be in London to see the play and who would like to read the play in book format— and so we are absolutely delighted to be able to make it available for them,” Shelley said in a statement.

Potter fans squealed with delight at the news. “On behalf of all potterheads, thank you thank you very much indeed. OMG I’m so happy,” tweeted Lazi on Wednesday.

The book script will be published on 31 July, Potter’s fictional birthday, and the day after the play opens in London.

The play, which stars Jamie Parker as Potter and black actress Noma Dumezweni as an adult Hermione Granger, is already sold out through January 2017. The original Hermione was played in the movies by Emma Watson, who is white.

The play opens ahead of the much-anticipated November 2016 movie version of Rowling’s Potter spinoff book “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” starring Eddie Redmayne, and the opening in April of a second Harry Potter attraction within a theme park, this time at Universal Studios in Los Angeles.

More than 450 million copies of the seven original Harry Potter books have been sold worldwide in 79 languages. The movie franchise has grossed more than \$7 billion worldwide. — Reuters

I used to dread the big 30: Megan Fox



Megan Fox. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Actress Megan Fox says she was scared to turn 30. The “Transformers” beauty hits the age marker in May and admits she no longer dreads becoming a 30-something, reported Contactmusic.

“When you’re young, that sounds so old. When you’re in high school or even when you’re in your early 20s, it still sounds like, ‘By

the time I’m 30, I should just give up. What’s the point of going on at that age?,” she said.

Now Fox is on the verge of a new decade, she has realised she feels exactly the same as she did a few years ago. “What makes it even weirder is that you don’t feel any different. And then you turn 30... (and) you don’t feel any older at all.—PTI

Kate Winslet goes ‘properly evil’ for crime thriller ‘Triple 9’

LONDON — With bouffant hair and lots of bling jewelry, Academy Award winner Kate Winslet adds a somewhat different role to her acting repertoire in crime thriller “Triple 9”, portraying a “properly evil” mafia boss.

The “Titanic” actress, in the running for another Oscar this year for her role in “Steve Jobs”, stars alongside Woody Harrelson, Casey Affleck and Chiwetel Ejiofor in the action-packed movie about corrupt police and the criminal underworld.

“... When I read it, I just thought ‘God, why on earth would they want me to be in this film?’ This is nothing like I ever did before and something very different,” she told Reuters at a London screening of the film on Tuesday night.

“It’s a contemporary heist movie. I play a Russian Israeli mafia boss, I mean ... she’s properly evil. And I wanted that challenge.”

Winslet, who puts on a thick accent in the film, added she worked early on with director John Hillcoat to create her character Irina Vlaslov’s appearance. “The look was really quite specific. When he first showed

me pictures of these rather sort of Versace hairstyles, I couldn’t quite believe that he was going to be that daring,” she said.

“But that was what he wanted and that was what we gave him. And it was a heck of a lot of fun for me.”

Set in Atlanta, the film follows the planning of a major heist, with plenty of guns and bloodshed thrown in.

“It’s a comment on where America’s at at the moment ... in terms of the criminal landscape, the stakes are much higher out there,” Hillcoat said.

“Breaking Bad” actor Aaron Paul portrays a former cop turned gang member in the film, which he called “the darkest thing” he had ever worked on.

“I just love super dark, intense, gritty dramas and this is just that,” he said.

“Triple 9” hits UK cinemas on 19 February and US theaters on 26 February. — Reuters



British actress Kate Winslet. PHOTO: REUTERS

In Kenya's Rift Valley, blood and bulls mark gateway to manhood

BARINGO COUNTY, (Kenya) — In an isolated region in Kenya's Rift Valley, young men spear a bull in a ceremony that marks a gateway to adulthood.

Far from the bustling capital of Nairobi, locals gather at dawn, men on one side, women on another, to witness the event in a community where cattle play a central part in life.

The men, aged between 18 and 20, are part of a small Pokot community of herdsman who tend cows, goats, sheep, camels and donkeys in Baringo County. The initiation is called Sapana in the Pokot language.

A Reuters photo essay at shows the ritual killing of the bull, young Pokot men drinking clogged blood from its carcass, clashes between some initiates during the ceremony, the smearing of participants with the contents of the bull's stomach, and Pokot women dancing in celebration. "In our culture, Sapana is the most important rite for a man to be able to gain authority within his community," says Hassan Tepa, an elder.

It is a jolting, three-hour drive to this region from the lowland town of Marigat, close to Lake Baringo. Kenya has about 620,000 Pokots, 2009 census statistics show, and some also live in

neighbouring Uganda's Karamoja region. As Kenya develops and more people migrate to the cities in search of work, such traditional practices are on the wane. However in this remote region, ceremonies such as Sapana still hold sway.

The ritual allows men to sit with local elders and take part in their community's decision-making. Sapana also gives improved access to marriage, once the man and his family have accumulated a dowry of cattle.

A man as old as 30 can also undergo the rite. The initiate's age depends in part on when he and his family can afford to spare a bull for the killing in a community where cattle are precious.

The Pokots can have several wives, and men are allowed to marry women many years their junior. Livestock are everything for the Pokots, representing wealth and social status. And in an isolated region with no permanent police presence, elders deal with disputes. Those who have broken the law are often required to pay a fine in the form of animals.

The Sapana ceremony begins the day before, usually at dusk, when locals gather and fires are lit for the night. Then begins the dancing, singing and drinking of fermented local wine. Many stay

awake through the night.

The young men stay at home, waiting for the morning's initiation rite. As the sun rises, the young man walks toward the bull, fixes his aim and pierces the animal with a spear on its right side. According to tradition, the bull must be speared several times before death as a way to respect its life – to consider that a single blow could fell a bull would be to dishonor the animal.

Village men open up the slaughtered animal, taking it in turns to eat clots of blood. Most of the blood is kept in a container to be mixed later with milk, a traditional delicacy to be shared.

Men take their place in a semi-circle and wait for the choicest parts of the animal to be cooked and served to them. Women and children await their turn at a distance. Every single part of the animal is eaten or put to use. In one of the most important, final stages of the ceremony, a respected elder smears the contents of the animal's stomach on the initiate.

As Tepa explains, this concluding rite seals the young man's entrance to adulthood, conferring a new status on him.

"Only then will he be able to speak to elders," he says. "In return (he will) be listened to and respected."—Reuters



Pokot women dance in celebration the day before an initiation ceremony for young men in Baringo County, Kenya, on 19 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

British Vogue fetes 100 years with photo exhibition

LONDON — From Second World War photographs to shoots with famous models, British Vogue magazine marks its 100th birthday this year with an exhibition of fashion, beauty and portrait prints.

Opening at London's National Portrait Gallery yesterday, "Vogue 100: A Century of Style" features more than 280 photographs from publisher Conde Nast's archives that the magazine has commissioned over the decades. It includes the work of

renowned photographers such as Cecil Beaton, Irving Penn, David Bailey and Mario Testino, portraits of celebrities including Marlene Dietrich, Britain's Princess Diana and David Beckham and shoots with famous models such as Kate Moss and Linda Evangelista. "This ... was a great opportunity for us to replay Vogue's greatest hits," exhibition curator and British Vogue Contributing Editor Robin Muir told Reuters.

"... I wanted to have all of these slightly well known imag-

es and balance it perhaps with ones people had not seen before. And one of the guiding principles of the show is that we wanted to show original vintage photographs."

Among the highlights are "a rare vision" of Horst P. Horst's 1939 Mainbocher Corset photo, which inspired the music video for Madonna's "Vogue" song and Peter Lindbergh's 1990 cover shot "that defined the supermodel era", according to organisers. —Reuters

Storyful editor to join Facebook to manage journalism partnerships

NEW YORK — The managing editor of News Corp's social media news agency Storyful said on Wednesday she is leaving to manage journalism partnerships at Facebook Inc, as the social network broadens its push into news.

Aine Kerr said in a blog post on Storyful's site that she would leave later this month. She linked her announcement to a separate post from Storyful Chief Executive Rahul Chopra who announced her departure, as well as the appointment of Mandy Jenkins as head of news, and Joe Galvin as director of news.

"I leave so excited about the possibilities for journalism, for the role Facebook plays as a source of valuable, newsworthy content, but also as a destination with the largest online audience in the world and advertising revenue models to match," Kerr wrote.

Facebook did not respond

immediately to requests for comment on Wednesday.

Facebook has pushed to include more news on its site, including a change to its algorithm to surface higher-quality and more relevant news. It also launched last year Instant Articles, a partnership with nine news publishers that lets them publish articles directly into the News Feed, rather than directing users to another website that has a slower load time.

Founded in 2010 and based in Dublin, Ireland, Storyful finds and verifies social media content for its clients so that the content can be trusted for use in print.

Kerr joined Storyful in 2011, according to her post. Prior to becoming managing editor, she was political editor and head of content at the agency, which News Corp acquired in 2013.

Her former boss, Storyful founder Mark Little, left last year to join Twitter Inc.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(12-2-2016, Friday)

6:00 pm

• Alinka Wut Yee Music Troupe

6:20 pm

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:40 pm

• Fashion Show

7:50 pm

• TV Drama Series

8:35 pm

• Stories

9:05 pm

• Dramatic Arts

9:40 pm

• Colours of ASEAN

9:55 pm

• Myanmar Video

From 12.2.2016 (Friday) 06:00 Pm

To 13.2.2016 (Saturday) 06:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.



Myanmar International

(12-2-2016 07:00am ~ 13-2-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

06:30	Am	Union Day Flag Hoisting Ceremony
07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Union Day
08:39	Am	Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
08:53	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Entrepreneur: Dr. Thin Nwe Win
09:34	Am	Shrinking Footprints
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
10:39	Am	Equestrian Contest on Pa-O Land
10:50	Am	Colourful Threads

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:44	Pm	Elegant and Exquisite Myanmar Cotton Fabrics
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-4)

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

Sharapova withdraws from Qatar Open with arm injury

MOSCOW — Former world number one Maria Sharapova has withdrawn from this month's Qatar Open due to a persistent arm injury, the Russian said on Wednesday in a statement from tournament organisers.

The five-times grand slam champion has been troubled by her left forearm since the start of the year when she pulled out of an Australian Open warm-up tournament in Brisbane.

She was also unable to play for Russia in last week's Fed Cup quarter-final defeat by the Netherlands. "Unfortunately, I will not be able to

play the Qatar Total Open because of my left forearm injury," Sharapova said.

"I would like to wish the tournament and all the great fans in Doha a great week of tennis. I hope to see them next year." World number one Serena Williams is the top seed for the tournament which begins on 21 February.—Reuters

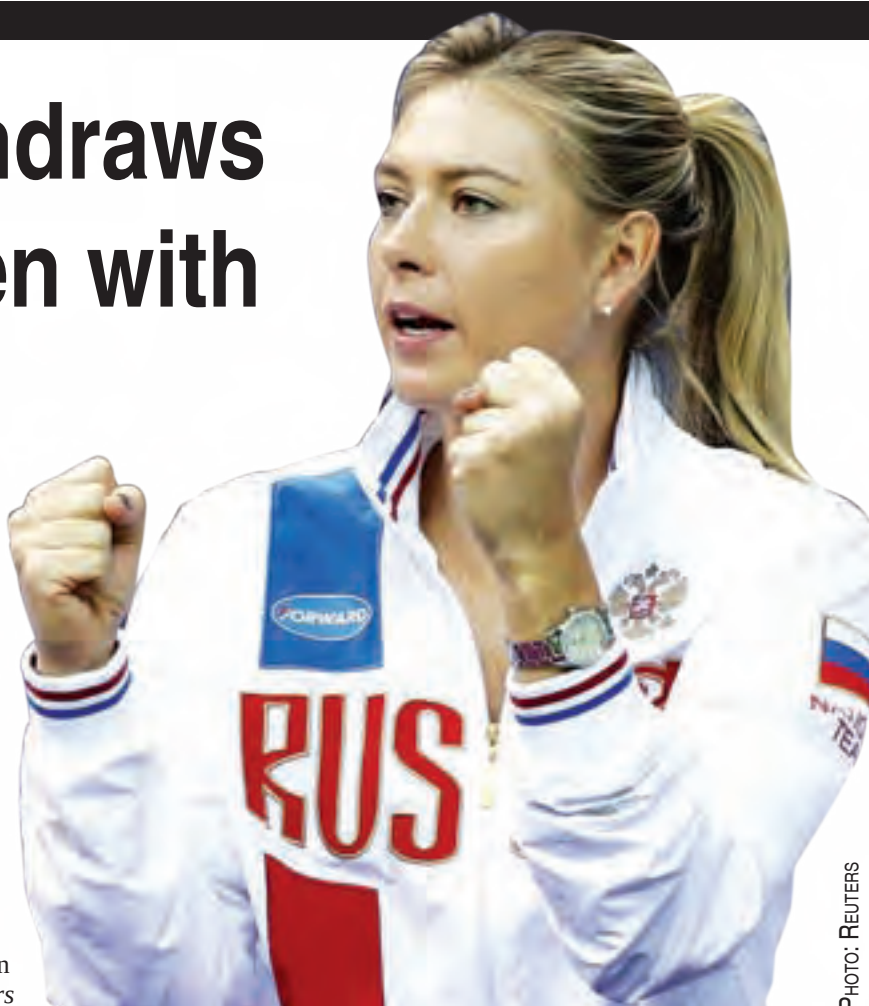


PHOTO: REUTERS

Barca salvage 1-1 King's Cup draw against improved Valencia

MADRID — Cameroonian teenager Wilfrid Kaptoum scored a late equaliser to give Barcelona a 1-1 draw at Valencia that wrapped up an 8-1 aggregate success in their King's Cup semi-final on Wednesday.

The second-leg result, which denied home coach Gary Neville a much-needed first win in four matches, was academic after Barcelona had crushed Valencia 7-0 in the first leg at the Nou Camp.

Barca, who went through to their sixth final in eight seasons, will face Celta Vigo or Sevilla in the showpiece match.

"I'm very happy to play another final... It's one of the nicest matches of the season," Barca coach Luis Enrique told reporters.

The draw was Barcelona's 29th match unbeaten and Luis Enrique's side surpassed the previous best mark set by former boss Pep Guardiola in the 2010-11 season.

Alvaro Negredo put Valencia in front in the 39th minute after goalkeeper Marc-Andre Ter Stegen had parried his first effort but the ball fell nicely back to the striker to tap home.

It was Valencia's first goal

in four games since Rodrigo scored in the second leg of their Cup quarter-final win over Las Palmas on 28 January.

Kaptoum found the net two minutes after coming on as a substitute eight minutes from time.

Luis Enrique rested nearly all his first-choice players, making eight changes from the first leg with Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez, Neymar, Javier Mascherano and Gerard Pique all missing the game.

"This club has a capacity for reinventing itself, a clear footballing idea, a profile of unique

players who stand out and enjoy what they do," said Luis Enrique of the young players he drafted seamlessly into Barcelona's typical passing game.

He commented on the lack of atmosphere in the half-empty Mestalla stadium.

"It was a bit strange due to the (7-0) result we brought here," he said.

Neville, his eye on Saturday's critical La Liga match at home to Espanyol when he will be looking for a first win in 10 league games in charge, also rested a number of first-choice players.—Reuters

West Brom sneak past Peterborough on penalties

LONDON — Premier League West Bromwich Albion won a penalty shootout 4-3 to beat third tier Peterborough United in a dramatic FA Cup fourth-round replay on Wednesday.

The game finished 1-1 after extra time, Peterborough taking the lead having dominated the first half when winger Jon Taylor found space to slot home from 15 metres after 55 minutes.

Midfielder Darren Fletcher grabbed West Brom's equaliser with a crisp half-volley from the edge of the penalty area.

Lee Angol missed the decisive spot-kick in the shootout for Peterborough and West Brom will travel to championship side Reading in the fifth round.—Reuters



Peterborough's Harry Beautyman in action with West Brom's James McClean during FA Cup Fourth Round Replay at ABAX Stadium, on 10 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ibrahimovic double helps PSG sink Lyon in Cup

PARIS — Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice in four second-half minutes as Paris St Germain breezed into the French Cup quarter-finals with a 3-0 home victory over Olympique Lyonnais on Wednesday.

After a goalless first half at the Parc des Princes, Ibrahimovic opened the scoring on 63 minutes when he converted Lucas's cross from close range. The Swede added to his tally and effectively made the game safe when Serge Aurier's cross from the right found him in acres of space on the penalty spot to finish left footed.

Adrien Rabiot scored from a Maxwell cross to complete the rout with 15 minutes left. PSG have not lost in any competition since defeat by Real Madrid in the Champions League in early November and they have gone 21 matches with only one drawn one game.

St Etienne needed extra time to beat Troyes 2-1 away as did Nantes, who reached the last eight with a 4-3 win at Girondins Bordeaux. FC Lorient thrashed fourth tier Sarre Union 4-0.—Reuters

PSG coach Blanc extends contract until 2018

PARIS — Paris St Germain coach Laurent Blanc has extended his contract until 2018, the Ligue 1 club said yesterday.

"I want to thank the club for the faith they put in me," said Blanc, whose existing contract was expiring at the end of the season.

The former France defender, who won the World Cup in 1998, joined the club in June 2013 replacing Carlo Ancelotti one year after ending his term as the Les Bleus coach.

He led PSG to two successive Ligue 1 titles and an unprecedented treble of league, League Cup and French Cup titles last season.

The capital side lead the Ligue 1 standings by a massive 24 points after 25 games. They play Chelsea in the first leg of the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday.—Reuters