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A fish farm worker feeds his stock.

PHOTO: FILE PHOTO THE MIRROR



Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut.

US-ASEAN to co-operate strategically

THE US-ASEAN summit was held on 15 and 16 of this month with the first day concerned with business development whereas the second day dealt with peace, development and security within the Asian-Pacific region, said Minister for Information U Ye Htut.

Discussions focused on the use of IT and digital technology to improve economic enterprises. The US offered three projects for ASEAN members to implement. All three projects were accepted by ASEAN. The second day was concerned with the South China Sea issue, the transnational organised crime issue, infectious diseases and trafficking in persons. This summit has proved to be greatly beneficial, added U Ye Htut.

The US will not lend money to ASEAN. They will only provide technical assistance to enable us to be competitive, said U Ye Htut.

The US wants scientists and researchers to move freely between America and ASEAN. They want to encourage women and youths to be engaged in invention and innovation.

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THAT TIME OF YEAR

El Niño warning puts fish farmers on alert

Soe Soe Yu

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) yesterday warned of the impact of El Niño on fish farming, calling for necessary measures to be undertaken to avoid possible losses.

High temperatures caused by El Niño can kill farmed fish, said

the MFF, expressing worries over the possible death of farmed fish while the country's fish farms are in the stage of recovery in the aftermath of the floods last year.

Last year's flooding destroyed more than 30,000 fish farms in several parts of the country, said Dr Myint Swe, secretary of Myanmar Fish Farmers

Association under the federation.

The more damage there was to infrastructure, the slower the recovery, he added.

According to the MFF, there is a prediction that the country's fisheries sector is likely to get worse in 2016 than in previous years due to natural disaster-affected inland fisheries and short-

age of fish stock to catch in the waters of the country.

According to statistics, fish stocks caught in Myanmar waters was 1.1 million tons in the 1980s but there has been a gradual decrease in the country's fish production since 2013, declining to 103,000 tons.

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Pyithu Hluttaw forms three committees

THE Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday discussed the formation of a committee for banks and monetary affairs development, a committee for agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery development and a committee for education promotion.

Deputy Speaker U Ti Khun Myat briefed the parliament on the responsibility, power, rights and tenure of each committee, followed by parliamentary approval of the three committees.

Speaker U Win Myint

appointed Dr Than Myint of the Hlaingthaya constituency as chairman of the Banks and Monetary Affairs Development Committee, U Yan Lin of the Kyaiklat constituency as chairman of the Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Development Committee, and Dr Tin Aung of the Kyaukse constituency as chairman of the Education Promotion Committee. The committees are staffed by 15 members each.

—Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw



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

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets foreign guests



British parliamentary delegation poses for photo together with Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and MPs. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received a British parliamentary delegation and a delegation from the Australian Defense Force Academy separately in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The British delegation was led by Mr. Paul Scully of the House of Commons of the UK

Parliament while the Australian delegation by Professor Dr Morten Pedersen.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, chairmen and secretaries of parliamentary committees and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—

Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw approves, forms parliamentary committees

THE Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held its seventh day session yesterday, approving and proposing parliamentary committees.

Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than announced parliamentary approval of the formation of the Ethnic Affairs Committee chaired by Daw Shila Nan Taung alias M Nan Taung of Kachin State Constituency, the Farmer Affairs Committee by U Ba Myo Thein and the Women and Children's Rights Committee by Dr Mya Thaung, with 15 members each. Next, the Speaker proposed the Education Promotion Committee, the Local and Overseas Employment Committee and Citizens' Fundamental Rights, the Democracy and Human Rights Committee to be formed with 15 members each, announcing the list of chairmen and secretaries.



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Dr Win Myat Aye of Bago Region Constituency 7, U Kyaw Htwe of Yangon Region Constituency 8 and Dr Htay Kywe of Yangon Region Constituency 1 were named chairmen of the

proposed three committees respectively.

The second Amyotha Hluttaw's first regular session continues for its eighth day today.—

Myanmar News Agency



A child receives polio vaccine in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Millions of under-five children to receive polio vaccines on 20-22 Feb

THE Ministry of Health launched a national immunisation programme in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday as part of reducing the under-five mortality, with an address by Union Minister Dr Than Aung.

The nationwide immunisation campaign, scheduled from 20 to 22 February, is expected to see 4.6 million children under five vaccinated against polio.

The union minister said that the country has conducted vaccination programmes for children under five years of age before, giving fresh momentum to the campaign since 1996.

All ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, including Myanmar, were declared polio-free in March 2014, he quoted the World Health Organisation as saying.

The vaccination campaign conducted last month covered 2.45 million children under the age of five from 171 potential pandemic townships across the country with the union minister estimating the vaccination rate at 99.8%.

Two cases of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (VDPV2) have been confirmed by officials in Myanmar in December

last year.

A 16-month-old boy who developed acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) on Oct 5 tested positive for VDPV2. The child had received oral polio vaccine (OPV), which on rare occasions can cause the disease, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The WHO also said that a 28-month-old child who developed AFP on Apr 16 also tested positive for the same VDPV2 strain. Both children live in the same township in Rakhine state in southwest Myanmar on the Bay of Bengal.—

Myanmar News Agency

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Garuna Gabar Home for the Aged construction site

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the Garuna Gabar Home for the Aged which is under construction in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the Home for the Aged for retired Tatmadawmen and their families, the Senior General heard reports on progress in construction of the Home and arrangements being made to accommodate the aged.

In his discussion, the Senior General highlighted the importance of ensuring health care services for the aged including adequate supply of ambulance, medical staff and medicine.

Construction of the Home at the corner of Shwekyarbin and Yadana Myintzu roads in Dekkhinathiri Township began on 27 October, 2015. Nearly 45 per cent of construction has been completed so far.— *Myawady*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects construction of Garuna Gabar Home for the Aged. PHOTO: MYAWADY

US-ASEAN to co-operate strategically

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The US is also interested in finding ways and means as to how the universities and research institutions will co-operate to effectuate economic development in a sustainable manner—i.e. They want ASEAN members to keep pace with the changes in the system of conservation of the environment, said Minister Dr Kan Zaw.

He added that CEOs from IBM, CISCO System and Microsoft discussed the use of technological innovations in order that

ASEAN can bridge the development gap between the rural and urban areas within the region.

The summit also discussed extremist activities. Their activities have become widespread, sparing no region. Regarding this issue, we've had very frank and friendly discussions. ASEAN will now enjoy strategic co-operation with the US. This was a very successful summit, said Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw.



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin.

El Niño warning puts fish farmers on alert

>> From page 1

Despite being supported by the ministry concerned for recovery of the country's aquaculture sector with the provision of fingerlings worth K150 million, a certain length of time is needed for the farmed fish to be ready for public consumption, said the secretary.

For this year, the volume of fish stocks to produce for self-suf-

ficiency is more important than exports, added the secretary, predicting an increase in prices of fish due to the destructive impacts of floods on freshwater fish farms last year.

Although Myanmar earned US\$86 million from the export of 7.9 million tons of fish stock in 2015, reaching the \$120 million fish export target will be impossible for this fiscal year, said the MFF.

MNHRC holds human rights talks for senior military officers in Kalaw

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission held human rights talks for senior military officers from Defense Services Command and General Staff College under the Ministry of Defense in Kalaw yesterday.

MNHRC Chairman U Win

Mra and member U Yu Lwin Aung gave lectures on human rights to trainees who are taking Course No.63 and instructors of the colleges, totaling 220 personnel and held discussions with them.

According to the MNHRC,

human rights courses for senior military officers have been conducted since 2014. It has been learned that the commission plans to conduct human rights talks for military officers from the Army Combat Forces Schools in Bahtoo and Bayintnaung Forts.— *GNLM*

Myanmar delegation attends COMMIT task force meeting in Thailand

A MYANMAR delegation attended a meeting of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking Task Force in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

The Myanmar delegation to the meeting was led by Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun of the

Myanmar Police Force. Reviewing two subjects each presented by six member countries on the sub-regional plan of Action 4 (SPA-IV) and works to be done for the COMMIT Youth Forum and the CSO Platform were carried out on the first day of the meeting set to last for two days.

According to the agenda, those present held discussions on arrangements for holding COMMIT Task Force meetings, senior officer meetings and the drawing up of a framework for the enhancement of the task force's operations.— *Min Naing (Anti-human trafficking)*

Inedible food removed from shops in Mandalay

THE Mandalay City Development Committee yesterday confiscated bean paste, chili powder and fish paste that were deemed unfit for public consumption. Action is being taken against those who sold the inedible food.

The confiscation of the foodstuff took place at four markets in Mandalay following the combined efforts of the committee's three departments dealing with sanitation, health and markets and slaughterhouses.

According to laboratory experiments, dyes and formalin were found in the three types of food being sold at the markets, said Dr Thwin Kyaw Kyaw of



Officials inspect food at a market in Mandalay. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

the MCDC.

Such tampered foods are not allowed to be sold for public consumption as the misuse of formalin and dyes in the preservation of bean paste, fish paste and chili powder is very bad for public health, said the MCDC member.

All the food that was seized from the shops will be incinerated immediately and those who failed

to meet food safety measures will be fined and their businesses will be banned, he added.

According to the MCDC, regular and surprise checks are being carried out in markets across the country to remove unsafe food from shops and to ensure better public health by strengthening food safety measures.— *Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-printing)*

LOCAL Business



KB Kookmin Bank teams up with KOICA to cooperate in supporting developing countries including Myanmar. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

KB Kookmin Bank and KOICA to cooperate in supporting developing countries

KB Kookmin Bank signed an MoU with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in Seoul yesterday regarding cooperation in supporting developing countries, including Myanmar.

Accordingly, KB will act as the financial advisor for the project feasibility evaluation and its competences in housing finance that will be applied to KOICA's Saemaul Undong project, Korea's new village movement model, and urban development projects.

Both parties will also cooperate in carrying out joint CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) activities including financial

education for the rural areas where Saemaul village development projects are under way, overseen by KOICA.

A KB official said that such collaboration will become the exemplary case of public-private partnerships in developing countries.

To initiate, KB and KOICA will carry out joint activities in Myanmar.

Currently KOICA is participating in evaluating infrastructure development projects, the Saemaul Undong Project, MDI(Myanmar Development Institution), MYANTRA(Myanmar Trade-Investment Promotion Agency) project, etc. in

Myanmar.

KB Kookmin Bank has been working closely with its local partner, CHD Bank(Construction & Housing Development Bank), to transfer its housing finance competences since 2014.

In addition, KB has been participating in many other CSR activities since opening its representative office in 2013. KB has been sponsoring the KB Korea Language Centre for Myanmar youth and carried out joint activities with YMCA (Yangon) to aid rural area development. KB has also participated in relief programs for flood victims.—GNLM

Brine shrimp bred in Mon State salt fields as feed for fish and prawns

PLANS are being made for the breeding of artemia shrimp, known as brine shrimp, within salt fields as a source of feed for fish and prawns, according to the Myanmar Prawn Entrepreneurs Association (MPEA).

"The extremely salty water of the salt fields allows for breeding of brine shrimp. A breeding farm is the main important factor to make breeding successful. They also require to be fed," said chairperson of the MPEA, U Hnin Oo.

The association has made

it known that the species of brine shrimp are to be bred in order to provide a source of feed for fish and prawns which have become scarce and expensive.

"A contract has been signed with the MPEA to collaborate together in the salt field of Dr. Aung Kyaw Zaw to breed brine shrimp as salt enterprise is going through a rough patch," explained U Soe Htun, vice chairperson of MPEA.

European experts are currently giving free technical

trainings for the breeding of brine shrimp in the Mon State townships of Mawlamyine and Ye, while plans are currently being made so that such trainings can also be given in the Ayeyarwaddy Region township of Labutta which was devastated by cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Brine shrimp are being bred in neighbouring countries of Thailand and Viet Nam whereby a kilo, dependent on quality, can fetch for anywhere between K30,000 – K80,000.—Myitmakha News Agency

Bamboo sellers in Mon State face low demand

BAMBOO sellers in Thaton, Mon State face financial problems as demand for forest products continue to decline year by year, dealers say.

"In past years we received more demand for bamboo and thatch products than we could supply before the monsoon," a

local dealer said.

As locals turn to using copper or zinc roofs rather than the forest products sales have been steadily declining.

"Currently we have very little demand for bamboo and dried leaves. We estimate that demand will likely to be higher in March,

April and May this year," the dealer added.

A local said, "I bought zinc roofing for my house. It is more expensive than bamboo and thatch but it is more suitable for protecting against natural disaster than forest products."—Thet Oo (Thaton)

Tour operators hold talks to boost Myanmar group tours to Thailand

DISCUSSIONS have been held to coordinate cooperation between Thai and Myanmar tour operators to accommodate Myanmar companies on holiday in neighbouring Thailand.

More Myanmar tourists in Thailand travel for pleasure, seeking relaxing breaks and shopping. As such, independent travel is still the main form of tourism. In order to develop group tour enterprises, discussions were held between the Thailand conference and event bureau and Myanmar tourism operators.

"The only types of trips made to Thailand by Myanmar people are for shopping, relaxing and for medical related trips, such as having blood tests. There aren't yet hundreds of companies, associations or groups travelling to Thailand for meetings or retreats. These discussion groups are the begin-

ning of implementation plans to allow for these," said Nopparat Maythaveekulchai, chairperson of the Thailand Conferences and Events Bureau.

Further talks will be held in August in the Mon State capital of Mawlamyine between 20 Thai tourism enterprises, plus the department of international civil aviation, the Bangkok civil aviation department, hotels, event centres and project management companies, along with fifteen Myanmar tourism operators.

"Myanmar's tourism industry is expected to grow by as much as 10 per cent following the change in government. The Thai embassy and Thai government will also provide financial assistance so that safe and reliable travel services can be provided to travellers," said Nopparat Maythaveekulchai.—Myitmakha News Agency

SHINHAN Bank provides US\$50 million to clinker grinding mill plant project

A KOREAN developer signed a reservation agreement with MJTD yesterday on the building of a clinker grinding mill plant.

Under the agreement, Korean's Yojin Construction and Engineering will build the clinker grinding mill plant in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (Phase-2).

The plant is expected to pro-

duce one million tons of cement a year. Construction will take about one and half year and total investment cost will be around US\$ 80 million.

On the same day, SHINHAN Bank signed an MoU with Yojin for providing financial advice and the arrangement for US\$ 50 million to go towards the project.—GNLM



The clinker grinding mill plant would be built on 24 acres and expected to start the work on construction of the plant in September this year.

Shinhan Bank, a trustful Companion of Myanmar

Shinhan Bank always puts in effort to get one step closer.

Area	Project
Education	Scholarship programs for students of universities of foreign languages in Yangon/Mandalay (120 students)
	Support for construction of Hlegu region's rural school
Sports	Support for Myanmar representative athletes in Asian Games
	Contribution to Myanmar's hosting of the SEA GAMES
Rural Development	Provision of trade finance to import and distribute modernized farming machines to Min of Cooperatives(USD 85million)
	Donation to Korean NGO for providing micro-financing to low-income farmers
General	Contribution to relief from flood in Myanmar
Medical Support	Support providing free surgeries to 18 children by korean medical team
	Invitational training program for 5 medical doctors to korea
Banking	Development of educational program together with AYA/CB/YOMA Bank and GLZ
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The Strongest Bank in South Korea
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- The Asset 2015 Best Domestic Bank in Korea



Australia accused of dragging feet on Syria refugee intake

SYDNEY — Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton yesterday rejected charges his country was dragging its feet in resettling refugees from Syria and Iraq, having resettled just 26 in the same time it took Canada to process 26,000.

Former Prime Minister Tony Abbott last September pledged to accept 12,000 refugees from Syria on top of Australia's current humanitarian intake programme of 13,750 people.

Dutton said the pace of resettlements was determined on national security grounds. Border security is a hot-button political issue in Australia, which is scheduled to hold a national election later in the year.

"The Australian public demands that the government does everything possible to make sure that first and foremost our national security is protected and secondly to make sure that we're bringing the right people into our country so that they can start a new life," he told reporters in Washington.

At a Senate estimates hearing last week, immigration officials said just 26 Syrian refugees had arrived since the 12,000 intake was announced in September. According to the Canadian govern-



Iraqi refugee children walk near trees with clothes hung to dry in an Iraqi refugee camp in the village of Mabrouka, Western countryside of Ras al-Ain, Syria, on 6 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

ment's main website, 21,313 refugees have been resettled since November, while a further 4,687 have had their asylum applications approved but not yet arrived.

The Refugee Council of Australia noted that neighbouring New Zealand had resettled 82 of 200 Syrian refugees it agreed to accept last year under a similar

programme. "Our government is dragging its feet while the rest of the world is acting much more quickly to meet their promises," said refugee council chief Paul

Power. "It is a shame for all concerned that the Australian resettlement programme is so bogged down in bureaucratic delays, when the governments of Canada and New Zealand have proven that it is possible to move much more swiftly."

The Australian decision to accept 12,000 people fleeing Syria and Iraq came in response to a call by the United Nations for more cohesive asylum policies to deal with the growing numbers of refugees flooding into Europe to escape the four-year-old Syrian conflict. The number of asylum seekers trying to reach Australia is small in comparison with those arriving in Europe, but under its tough immigration policies, anyone intercepted trying to reach the country by boat is sent for processing to camps in Nauru and Papua New Guinea's Manus Island.

They are never eligible to be resettled in Australia. Australia's High Court this month rejected a legal test case that challenged its right to deport 267 refugee children and their families who had been brought from Nauru, about 3,000 km (1,800 miles) northeast of Australia, for medical treatment.—Reuters

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Chief Executive Officer -

Nakagawa Kiyoshi
gnlmdaily@gmail.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
khinmaungaye.hotmail@gmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Chief Reporter

Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,

Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg
jgold.news@gmail.com

Alec Wilmot

alec.wilmot.gnlm@gmail.com

Editors

Ye Htut Tin
mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,

International news

Tun Tun Naing

tunyaing@gmail.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin
juniorlwin25@gmail.com

Tun Aung Kyaw

tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translators

Hay Mar Tin Win

haymarfat@gmail.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Computer Team

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung,

Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,

Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

adv.gnlm@gmail.com

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South Korea brushes off China's concerns on deploying antimissile system

SEOUL — A South Korean official yesterday brushed off China's concerns that the anticipated deployment of a US missile defence system in South Korea would threaten its security interests.

"We are explaining to the Chinese side (that deploying the missile system) is being considered as a defensive measure to be prepared for North Korea's nuclear and missile threats," Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho June Hyuck said during a press briefing.

"There is virtually no impact on China's security interests," he added.

Cho's comments came after

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Wednesday that China has "expressed firm opposition" to South Korea's deployment of the antimissile system, known as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence.

Hong said deployment of the THAAD system in South Korea would "damage China's national security interests."

But Cho said South Korea's position is to approach the issue of THAAD deployment "in the context of our security and national interests." As part of efforts to cope with North Korea's nuclear and missile threats, the United States and South Korea

jointly announced earlier this month that they will begin formal talks on the feasibility of THAAD deployment.

THAAD is designed to intercept ballistic missiles flying at high altitudes inside and outside the atmosphere. China and Russia oppose the deployment of THAAD in South Korea, saying the missile system could hamper their strategic interests.

The United States has dismissed their concerns, insisting the missile system will be focused solely on defence against North Korea, which recently launched a rocket and conducted a nuclear test in defiance of UN resolutions. —Kyodo News

India's Congress leader to call on president on student leader arrest, violence at court

NEW DELHI — India's opposition Congress vice president Rahul Gandhi and the chief minister of the Indian capital Arvind Kejriwal will call on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee Thursday over the arrest of a student leader and violence at court.

The Congress had also accused the Delhi Police of doing nothing to stop the repeated at-

tacks in Patiala House court in central Delhi by rightwing lawyers upon students, journalists and their supporters, calling it "jungle raj" (rule of jungle).

Police arrested a student leader at the Jawaharlal Nehru University for alleged "sedition" last week and a court in Delhi authorized his detention till next month. The act has triggered widespread protests by leftwing

parties, students, intellectuals and journalists.

Some Hindu rightwing lawyers attacked the accused student, Kanhaiya Kumar, some journalists as well as their supporters on Tuesday and Wednesday within the premises of a court here.

Police stood by doing nothing to stop the attackers, according to media reports.—Xinhua

India plans to launch 60 space missions in 5 years

NEW DELHI — India is planning to launch at least 12 space missions every year for the next five years, a top official of the state-owned space agency has reportedly said. "We have already launched 55 missions during the past five years and we are looking at 12 launches per annum in the next five years," Y.V.N. Krishna Murthy of Indian Space Research Organisation said. Murthy, who is Secretary (science) of the space agency, told the media Wednesday on the sidelines of the Make in India week celebrations in Mumbai.

"We have already launched two missions this year and two more will be launched next month, and the space agency's budget will be around 1.1 billion US dollars this year," he said. According to the space official, the next lunar mission, Chandrayan-II, will be launched in 2017-18 and this mission will be different from the earlier one. "Unlike Chandrayan-I which was having only Orbiter and Probe, Chandrayan-II will be having Lander and Rover too, and the Rover will move on the samples and transmit the data to Earth," he added.—Xinhua

North Korea could conduct 5th nuke test without warning: US institute

WASHINGTON — North Korea has made it even harder for intelligence authorities to detect its preparations to carry out a nuclear test and could now conduct its fifth nuclear test “with little or no warning,” a US institute that monitors the test site said Tuesday.

The US-Korea Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Washington said on its 38 North website that the fourth and latest test by North Korea on 6 January indicated that Pyongyang “appears to have altered its past test preparation practices” and test preparations can no longer be detected simply by analysing satellite imagery.

North Korea said last month it successfully conducted its first hydrogen bomb test, in defiance of repeated international warnings. Many countries are skeptical of North Korea’s claim that it detonated a hydrogen bomb.

The institute released commercial satellite images dated 1 February and 7 February showing the Punggye-ri nuclear test site in North Hamgyong Province. The institute said the images show “unidentified objects in various locations” near the test tunnel, which could be a survey team making an assessment of the 6 January nuclear test, preparing for another test, or sealing the tunnel to prevent radiation

leakage.

“While detecting nuclear test preparations is, under the best of circumstances, an inexact art, in the North Korean case it may be the result of careful planning to avoid detection by commercial satellites as they pass overhead or by instituting a practice of gradual, low-key preparations that take place over months — activity almost indistinguishable from construction, tunnel excavation and maintenance,” the institute said.

The institute also warned that North Korea “may have tunnels already completed and ready for a test should it decide to move forward.”—*Kyodo News*

US flies F-22 fighters over South Korea after North’s rocket launch



US F-22 stealth fighter jets fly over Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, on 17 February 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

OSAN — The United States flew four F-22 stealth fighter jets over South Korea yesterday in a show of force following North Korea’s recent rocket launch and ahead of the allies’ joint military drills next month aimed at deterring Pyongyang’s threat.

The flight of the radar-evading F-22s, based in Okinawa, Japan, is the latest deployment of key US strategic military assets to the South after the North defied warnings from world powers and conducted a fourth nuclear test last month.

South Korea and the United States said the North’s rocket launch on 7 February was a long-range missile test and violated UN Security Council resolutions

that ban the use of ballistic missile technology by the isolated state.

The US military said at the weekend that it had deployed an additional Patriot high-velocity missile interceptor unit to South Korea in response to recent North Korean provocations.

The allies were also expected to begin discussions on the deployment of the advanced Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) missile defence system.

Last month, the United States flew a B-52 bomber capable of carrying nuclear weapons on a low-level flight over the South following the North’s 6 January nuclear test.

The joint military drills scheduled to start in March, which in most years last eight weeks and involve hundreds of thousands of South Korean and US troops, will be the largest ever, according to South Korean officials.

There are 28,500 US troops stationed in the South as part of combined defence with the South’s military of more than 600,000.

The North has an army of 1.2 million. North Korea claims the annual drills are war preparations. South Korea and the United States say the exercises, which have been conducted for years without major incident, are defensive.—*Reuters*

China installs missile system on South China Sea island: US report

WASHINGTON — China has deployed an advanced surface-to-air missile system on one of the disputed islands in the South China Sea, Fox News said Tuesday, with Taiwan authorities also confirming the deployment.

Civilian satellite imagery Fox News obtained shows that China has installed the missile launchers and a radar system on the Chinese-controlled Yongxing Island in the Paracel Islands, according to the broadcaster.

Viet Nam and Taiwan also claim the island, which is also known as Woody Island.

The broadcaster said the deployment is “more evidence that China is increasingly ‘militarizing’ its islands in the South China Sea and ramping up tensions in the region.”

A US official confirmed the accuracy of the photos and that the imagery appears to show the HQ-9 air defence system, which has a range of about 125 miles (200 kilometres), according to Fox News.

The system would pose a threat to any airplanes, civilian or military, flying close by, the broadcaster said.

The report comes as US President Barack Obama suggested his administration will continue with military operations to counter China’s maritime activities in the sea after a summit with leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in California.

China is also constructing

large-scale facilities, including airstrips, on artificial islands it created in the Spratly Islands, another contested area in the sea, prompting the United States and other countries to worry the move could lead Beijing to declare an air defence identification zone over the sea.

US Defence Department spokesman Bill Urban said, “While I cannot comment on matters related to intelligence, we do watch these matters very closely.”

The US Navy last month sailed a destroyer near another disputed island in the Paracels to protest at China’s unilateral activities to claim sovereignty, and to defend US interests in the sea.

The Chinese-controlled Zhongjian Island, also called Triton Island, is claimed by Taiwan and Viet Nam.

In October the US Navy also sent a destroyer within what China claimed to be territorial waters near the artificial island Beijing built on Subi Reef in the Spratlys.

In Taiwan, a National Defence Ministry spokesman said authorities have confirmed the missile deployment and that Taiwan will “closely watch developments hereafter.”

He also warned that interested countries should refrain from “taking any unilateral steps that will intensify tensions” in the South China Sea region to maintain peace and stability, without directly naming China.—*Kyodo News*

China says missile deployment reports are creations of some Western media

BEIJING — Reports that China has deployed an advanced surface-to-air missile system to one of the disputed islands it controls in the South China Sea have been created by certain Western media, the country’s foreign minister said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi also told reporters he hoped Western media would pay more attention to the lighthouses China is building in the region. Taiwan and US officials told Reuters and other media outlets yesterday that China had deployed

the missile system.

At the same news conference, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, who is visiting China, urged restraint in the region and called on all sides to settle disputes peacefully, adding that Australia does not take sides on South China Sea claims.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion in global trade passes every year, and has been building runways and other infrastructure on artificial islands to bolster its claims.—*Reuters*

OPINION

A good beginning makes a good ending

Kyaw Thura

IT is interesting to note that researchers have identified early childhood quality education as critical to the children’s cognitive development in their formative years. This highlights the importance of high-quality teachers capable of setting students on the path to academic and social success.

In this respect, the government, the parliament and civil society should come together to provide the

emotional support for teachers to be able to create effective teaching in their classrooms with greater autonomy. There is every reason to believe that effective teaching produces better outcomes for children. It is, therefore, imperative for policymakers to take a crucial step in providing the educators with the training and resources they need.

In the past five years, private schools have been allowed to meet the rising demand for early education. Despite this, the quality they render is not that satisfactory. To ensure effective teaching, the government’s educational bodies need to consider the professional backgrounds of teachers, including their educational training and the years of their experience in the profession.

Thus, the education departments should give careful consideration to the fact that teaching young children is not a small matter. In addition, they should not assign the reform of the kindergarten syllabus to those

with higher degrees but with no experience in early children development. It should be noted that experience plays a more important role in teaching than knowledge. As Albert Einstein put it, education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think. Now is the time for all teachers to allow our children to think rather than learn facts by heart. A good beginning makes a good ending, after all.

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.

Compiling the list of former names of roads, thoroughfares and streets in Yangon local Areas

Tommy Pauk

RECORDING the old and historic buildings and monuments are rather interesting. So is the compiling the old names of roads and streets in Yangon. The Yangonites who are now in late thirties want to know Yangon’s old names of roads and streets. Therefore, they are told the former names of the Yangon’s streets by their grandparents who are still alive as they used to call

those names of the streets in Yangon local areas. The intended purpose of this article is to share general knowledge with the young local readers as well as those foreigners interested in collecting the old or former names of roads and streets in Yangon local areas.

Actually, this is not a complete list of former names of roads, thoroughfares and streets in Yangon local Areas. However, to some extent, the learners can find some of the former names of streets in Yangon matched with current names on the list.

During the British colony period, most of the streets were named after the prominent British personnel. Some of them are named after some prominent local people recorded in Myanmar history before independence period. Nowadays, they have already been changed into Myanmar names. Some Yangonites of septuagenarians remember the old names.

Former Name	New Name
Barr Street	Maha Bandoola Garden Street
Boundary Road	Dhamaseti Street
Brooklyn Street	Bogalayzay Street
Churchill Street	Aine Taw Yar Street (Dagon)
Campbell Road	Ngadatgyi Pagoda Road
Canal Street	Kyone Gyi Street (Lanmadaw)
Chancellor Road	Adipati Street (Kamayut)
Chiangchaung Avenue	Kanbawza Street
Commissioner's Road	Bogyoke Aung San Road (West)
Creek Street	Bo Myat Tun Street
Dalhousie Road	Maha Bandoola Road
Dufferin Road	Sandaku Road
Eden Street	Botahtaung Zay Street (Botahtaung)
Edward Street	Konzedan Street
Evenson Street	Mya Yar Kone Street (Mingalar Taung Nyunt)
Fraser Road	Anawratha Road
Godwin Road	Myoma Kyaung Street (Dagon)
Goodliff Street	Sayar San Stret
Halpin Road	Pyidaungzu Yeiktha Street
Hermitage Street	Tharthana Yeik Thar Street
Holmes Street	Pan Hline Street
Keileigh Street	Wa Tan Street
Kokine Road	Kaba Aye Pagoda Road
Kennedy Street	U Aung Myat Street (Mingalar Taung Nyunt)
Lancaster Road	Nawaday Road
Lands down	Yaza darit Street (Botahtaung)
Lewis Street	Seikkantha Street
Link Road	Shwe Gonedine Road
LownWiss Street	Inyamyaing Street (Bahan)

Martin Avenue	KhaPaung Street (Kamayut)
Masjid Road	Thamein Bayan Road
Maung Htaw Lay Street	Bo Sun Pet Street
Maung Khaing Street	Bo Ywe Street
Morton Street	Lan Thit Street
Merchant Road	Konthe Road
Mission Road	Ahlon Road
Mogul Road	Shwe Bontha Road
Montgomery Road	Bogyoke Aung San Road (East)
Pagoda Road	Shwedagon Pagoda Road
Phayre Street	Pansodan Street
Prome Road	Pyay Road
Park Lane	Nat Mauk Lan Thwae (1) (Bahan)
Park Avenue	Nat Mauk Lan Thwe (2) (Bahan)
Sapashaire street	Zewaka Street (Dagon)
Signal Pagoda Road	Alan Pya Pagoda Road (Dagon)
Sparks Road	Bo Aung Kyaw Road
St,Anthony's Street	U Pho Kyar Street (Mingalar Taung Nyunt)
St.John's Street	Min Ye Kyaw Swar Street
Stevenson Road	Hledan Road
Stockade Road and Judah Ezekiel Road	Theinbyu Road (South and North)
Suburban Street	Ngu War Street (Ahlone)
Strand Road	Kanna Street
Stevenson Street	Hledan Street (Lanmadaw)
Transport Street	Ahar Zar Ni Street (Dagon)
Thompson Road	Botataung Pagoda Road
Tower Lane Street	Bogyoke Aung SanPya Taik Street
Upper Phayre Road	Upper Pansodan Road
University Avenue	Tekkatho Yeik Thar Street
Voyle Road	U Wisara Road
Windermere Road	Thanlwin Road
Windsor Road	Shin Sawpu Road (San Chaung)
Windermere Crescent Street	Pan War Street (Dagon)
York Street	Yaw Mingyi Street

The compilation of the list was contributed by the septuagenarians who were born in Yangon (Rangoon). Some are taken from reliable reference books. Hopefully, this article will contribute to those who learn the history of Yangon. The scholars can acquire historical knowledge including the names of streets used in the past. Normally, each and every city has its own background history and the dwellers use to record or archive the things related to their native city. As we love our native city, we ought to learn or record or archive about Yangon’s former and current names of the streets, thoroughfares and roads.

This article could be informative and entertaining for the readers of both locals and foreigners who take keen interest in Yangon city. Thanks to the contributions made by Yangon city elders and reference of ollilaasanen.wordpress.

Evidences of ancient habitation discovered in Monywa

Ye Khaung Nyunt

EVIDENCES of human settlement in the early Bronze Age was found in two villages of Butalin Township, Sagaing Region following the discovery of remains and artifacts by Myanmar and French archaeologists recently.

"We unearthed skeletal remains, the burial of an infant in a pot as well as other pieces at old cemeteries in Nyaungkan village and Okaing villages of the township," said French Archaeologist Dr Thomas Oliver Pryce at a seminar at the French Cultural Centre in Yangon Wednesday.

The evidences of human habitation suggest that human settlement is dated to 2000-1000 BC, added the archaeologist.

Myanmar and French archaeologists began conducting exploration at the archaeological sites in 2001 after the Department of Archaeology in Mandalay uncovered remains buried with stone tools, pots and bronze items at an old cemetery near an extinct volcano in Nyaungkan village in 1998.

"Village people feel proud for having unearthed artifacts as there was human settlement at their loca-

tion around 3000 years ago," said Daw Kalyar Myat Myat Phyto, assistant lecturer at Dagon University who took part in the exploration of historical objects there.

But, the assistant lecturer warned of possible illegal artifacts trade in the region as archaeological remains can be easily found while farming, and said that the ancient sites will attract more foreign archaeologists when it is well-known.

It is the reason that Myanmar farmers who use conventional farming techniques plough their farmlands at a depth of 6 centimeters only, stated Dr Pryce regarding more discoveries of ancient artifacts in Myanmar than others in the Southeast Asia region.

According to the team of Myanmar and French archaeologists, some of unearthed remains will be used for scientific experiments, and reports about the archaeological discoveries in Myanmar will be published in academic journals and online.

They are set to make further excavation at Hanlin archaeological site where they aim to focus on the history of humans and how they lived and ate at that time.



PHOTO: HLA MOE

Ministry steps up conservation efforts for golden deer

CONSERVATION efforts for the Myanmar golden deer have been accelerated in Magwe Region's Shweseztaw Wildlife Reserve after studies projected the extinction of the species to occur by the year 2020.

"If you compare the area of Myanmar's forest in 1989

to today, it has nearly halved in size because of logging activities, along with the expansion of human populations and the use of forest areas for cultivation activities. A distinct decline in the number of golden deer is evident from the destruction of grazing areas and

over-hunting," said the administrator of the wildlife reserve.

Results of field studies carried out by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and the Wildlife Conservation Society show an alarming decline of the species over the past 45 years in

Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Magwe regions. The first study, conducted in 1960, showed the deer thriving in 60 townships across those regions. However, the population dropped by half by 1992, with the deer living in just 34 townships. This number dropped to 18 townships by 1992, and the deer were found to be living in just 14 townships in a 2007 study.

In 1989, the golden deer lived in an area of 71,500 square kilometres. By 2014, the population was found to live in an area of just 32,000 square kilometres. Records estimate that just over 1,600 golden deer still remain.

"Bit by bit, the forest area in which golden deer graze is shrinking because of logging activities; the expansion of human populations and farmland; the construction of dams and roads; and firewood and charcoal production," said Ko Kyaw Kyaw from the Youth Charity and Environmental Conservation Group. Streams and ponds within the wildlife reserve regularly dry out during the summer months. Projects are being drawn up to provide water to the golden deer year-round and to create grazing areas for them.—Myitmakha News Agency



Golden Dseen in Shweseztaw Wildlife Reserve. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

New highway terminal in Thanbyuzayat to launch in March

A NEW highway terminal in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State is scheduled to be officially launched in March, according to the township development committee.

"We put in more effort to open the newly-established terminal on Mon State Day which falls on 19 March," a spokesperson of the committee said.

The construction of the new highway terminal was initiated in August last year with construction finishing in January of this year.

With the aim of reducing traffic congestion in the township the project was implemented at a cost of early K8 million funded by the government. Kaungsuaye Co. constructed the terminal on 4.5 acres of land, which allows about 20 bus lines to operate.

Thanbyuzayat Township normally sees bus lines operated on the Yangon-Mandalay-Nay Pyi Taw route. In the past, all highway buses stopped beside and along the highway road as there was no highway terminal in the township.

After celebrating the official opening of the new bus terminal the authorities will allow all bus lines to stop only within the compound of the terminal.—Mudon Maung Maung

Farmers across Pale Township receive agricultural water for summer paddy

WITH the aim of establishing summer paddy plantations and other crops, Myaukyama Dam in Pale Township in Sagaing Region, has distributed agricultural water to farmland.

Farmers across Pale and Yinnabin townships in Sagaing Region have received agricultural water. The process began in mid-February.

"We, the Pale Township Irrigation Department, normally supply water to nearly 6,000 acres of farmlands via the Myaukyama Dam," The irrigated area may be increased by as many as 4,120

acres if farmers change their irrigation system.

The 100,000 acre-foot Myaukyama Dam is able to distribute an adequate supply of agricultural water to around 10,000 acres of farmland.

Thanks to the dam, farmers in Pale Township are able to regularly operate their agricultural businesses year round, even though they are farming in a dry area.

Last year, farmers established 2,790 acres of plantation space including 400 acres of paddy field.—*Min Khant Soe (Zeyamye)*



Myaukyama Dam. PHOTO: MIN KHANT SOE (ZEYAMYE)

Crime News

Yabba seized in Loilem



Myo Kyaw Htoo (alias) Kyaw Htoo Aung and Kyaw Zay Tun (alias) Pho Kyaw. PHOTO: KO YE

A LOCAL anti-drug squad seized yabba and heroin from a car on Loilem- Namsan road, Loilem township, on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police searched the car being driven by one Myo Kyaw Htoo alias Kyaw Htoo Aung with one Kyaw Zay Tun alias Pho Kyaw on board when they found 5,000 yabba pills and 1.05 kilograms of heroin.

Similarly, police seized 1,600 yabba pills from a motorbike being driven by one Ko Sai

alias Nyi Kham near Municipal park, KoneKhar ward, Mabein town on 14 February.

On that same day local authorities seized 656 yabba pills and K10,000 at a house in Kyaw Khine road, Dawtama ward, Loikaw town owned by one Ma Nan Moh Kham alias Lin Lin Thaw. One Hlaing Myint Toe was found with the host. Police have filed charges against the suspects under the anti-Narcotic and psychotropic substances law.—*Ko Ye*

A man arrested for attempted rape in Nay Pyi Taw

POLICE arrested a man who have attempted to rape a nine-year-old girl at Gate-1 Public toilet, Nay Pyi Taw on 12 February.

The girl came back from the toilet when she met with Aye Kyaw, 25, who was on security duty. Aye Kyaw forcibly took her by the hand to the toilet back and attempted to rape about 10 minutes.

At the same time, the child's father arrived at the toilet and found two legs of a man on the ground. As he became suspicious, he looked over the partition only to find Aye Kyaw attempting to rape his daughter. He informed to the police, who filed a lawsuit against Aye Kyaw under section 376/511.—*Ko Pauk (Okkar Myay)*

Con-men caught impersonating military officers

POLICE have filed charges against two men on suspicion of cheating money from a woman in Taunggyi town, Shan State, on 10 February.

According to an investigation, Ma May Khine Latt received a phone call from an unknown man claiming to be one Major Aung Thein from the Yangon Region Finance & Revenue Ministry. This man informed the victim that her phone number had won a lucky draw prize of K50 million from the government's project for reducing poverty but that she had to give K150,000 to the government in taxes for the prize and put down K105,000 as a first installment.

Ma May Khine Latt transferred the money from her bank to the man in the name of Zaw



Zaw Min Oo.
PHOTO: ZAW MYO NAING

Min Oo. The victim had no further contact from the man and so alerted police.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff



Soe Moe Aung.
PHOTO: ZAW MYO NAING

from the Yankin police station arrested one Zaw Min Oo, 36, from Hmawby and one Soe Moe Aung, 25, from Yankin at the Kyaukkone KBZ bank.—*Zaw Myo Naing*

Fire destroys a factory in Insein



Outbreak of fire caused by electric short circuit.
PHOTO: TIN WIN LAY (KYIMYINDINE)

AN outbreak of fire caused by electrical short circuit destroyed a factory on Bayintnaung road, Gyogon ward, Insein township on Tuesday. According to an investigation, the fire began from an overheated air compressor. The factory was owned by Daw Than Than Aye. U Thawdar, Deputy Director of the Yangon Region Fire Services Department said that the fire began at 4:15pm and was called in at 4:20. The fire was brought under control by firemen at about 5:00. It took 59 fire engines and over 150 firemen to put out the blaze with 35,000 gallons of water used.—*Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)*

Obama to make historic trip to Cuba in coming weeks, official says

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will visit Cuba in the coming weeks, a senior administration official said on Wednesday, making a historic trip in the final year of his presidency that will mark a turning point in US relations with a long-time Cold War foe.

The White House plans to announce the visit on Thursday. The Cuba stop will be part of a broader trip to Latin America.

The visit to Havana by Obama would cap what administration officials see as one of his legacy foreign policy achievements: normalising relations with Cuba and taking steps toward expanded commercial relations after a 54-year freeze. Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro shocked the world in December 2014 by announcing the former adversaries would move to normalise relations.

The Republican majority in Congress has defied Obama's call to rescind the five-decade-old embargo, so he has used his executive authority to relax trade and travel restrictions. Republican presidential candidates Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, both sons of

Cuban immigrants, have been sharply critical of his opening to Cuba in the absence of political change there. A visit by Obama to Havana in late March would correspond with the finalisation of a peace deal for Colombia that was encouraged and sponsored by Castro. The Colombian government and the FARC rebel group are expected to finalise a peace deal by 23 March in Havana that would end a 50-year civil war in the South American nation.

Obama said in a December interview with Yahoo News that he hoped to visit Cuba in 2016 but only if enough progress had been made in bilateral relations and he was able to meet political dissidents as part of an effort to "nudge the Cuban government in a new direction."

A Cuban foreign ministry official said in reaction to the December interview that Obama was welcome to visit Cuba but not meddle in its internal affairs.

It was not immediately clear what detailed arrangements would be made for the trip or how diplomats from the two nations proposed to bridge that divide as part of the plans. Washington and Ha-

vana restored diplomatic ties in July but commerce remains limited by the US trade embargo, which includes a ban on American tourism to the island. On Tuesday, American and Cuban officials signed an arrangement to restore scheduled air services between the two countries after half a century.

Rubio wasted no time in criticising the reported plans for the trip. Asked at a CNN town hall event in South Carolina whether he would visit Cuba, Rubio replied: "Not if it's not a free Cuba."

At the same event, Cruz also criticised Obama's move, saying he would not go to Cuba "as long as the Castros are in power."

"What Obama has shown to our enemies is weakness and appeasement," Cruz said, lumping together Obama's steps toward improving US relations with Cuba and Iran. "I think it's a real mistake. I think the president instead ought to be pushing for a free Cuba," he said. Instead, he will go and "essentially act as an apologist."

The last and only sitting US president to visit Cuba was Calvin Coolidge in 1928.—Reuters



Migrants wait to cross the border from Slovenia into Spielfeld in Austria, on 16 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Austria to cap refugee flow at 3,200 a day, with Slovenia's help

VIENNA — Austria will limit the number of migrants it lets in at 3,200 a day from Friday, the country's interior minister said, turning an annual cap on asylum claims into a daily entry quota that is likely to cause backlogs on the main refugee route into Europe.

Austria, the last stop on the way to Germany for the hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants who have flocked to Europe since September, is increasingly diverging from its big neighbour by taking steps to restrict the influx.

"We must apply the brakes step by step," Interior Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner told re-

porters. Austria's move to tighter border controls is seconded by Slovenia, which plans similar policies in solidarity.

"A backlog could develop, but Slovenia will also take further steps in agreement with us," she said. Germany is also likely to announce its own border restrictions, Mikl-Leitner said, without elaborating.

The Slovenian Interior Minister Vesna Gyorkos Znidar said that Slovenia would step up controls on the border with its European Union neighbour Croatia, which is not part of the Schengen zone of free movement within Europe.

"The number of migrants

Slovenia will receive will be within the (daily) quota imposed by Austria," she told a news conference.

After initially throwing open its borders with Germany six months ago, Austria has progressively tightened its entry restrictions, first largely in step with Berlin, and now apparently without Germany's approval.

Around 1,000 migrants a day have been arriving at Austria's busiest crossing, on the border with Slovenia. That is far fewer than the 15,700 who came from Hungary in one day at the height of the migration crisis, but the pace is expected to pick up in spring.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain scrambles fighters to intercept Russian bombers

LONDON — British Typhoon fighter jets intercepted two Russian Tu-160 bomber planes heading towards British airspace on Wednesday, a spokeswoman from the Ministry of Defence said.

The British aircraft were scrambled from a Royal Air Force base in eastern England and escorted the Russian planes while they flew in an area which is closely monitored by Britain, but outside its territorial airspace.

"At no point did the Russian aircraft enter UK territorial airspace," the spokeswoman said, without giving more specific details of the location of the incident. The Russian Defence Ministry did not respond to written questions submitted by Reuters.—Reuters

Egypt's Sisi says won't hesitate to send troops to Gulf if asked

CAIRO — Egypt will not hesitate to send military forces into the territory of Arab Gulf allies to offer protection if asked by the leaders of those countries, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Wednesday.

The most populous Arab state, the recipient of billions of dollars in aid from the Gulf, has entered a Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen but has yet to formally commit to sending ground troops. Sisi has often said that the Gulf's security is synonymous with Egyptian national security.

"The president made it clear that Egypt will not hesitate to send forces to brotherly Gulf countries to defend them if they face any direct threat or aggression," the presidency said in a statement. Sisi made his comments at a briefing with Kuwaiti journalists on Wednesday.—Reuters

Militants kill 9 tribal policemen, destroy girls' school in northwest Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least nine tribal policemen were killed in two separate attacks by militants who also destroyed a girls' school in Pakistan's northwest tribal area of Mohmand Agency yesterday, local media reported.

ARY News reported that in the first incident, some unknown militants attacked and killed two tribal policemen who were guarding a solar tube-well in Darwazgai area of Mohmand Agency, a restive tribal area along Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

The militants also set the tube-well on fire before fleeing the scene. In the other incident seven tribal policemen were killed when the militants opened fire at a check post in Pandyal area of Mohmand Agency. Several policemen also got injured in the attack and were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.—Xinhua

UN Security Council urged to protect Guinean peacekeepers

CONAKRY — Guinean President Alpha Conde yesterday urged members of the UN Security Council to protect his country's peacekeepers who are fighting terrorists in northern Mali.

Speaking during a meeting with diplomats and representatives of international institutions in Conakry, Conde appealed for security measures to be taken to avert barbaric attacks against Guinean soldiers based in Kidal, northern Mali. Conde said it was important to secure camps of peacekeepers operating under the UN Mission in Mali, by properly equipping them. Positions of Guinean peacekeepers in Kidal were targets of terrorist attacks on 12 February, which left seven Guinean soldiers dead and 20 others injured.—Xinhua

Japan's MSDF conducts joint drills with Viet Nam's navy

DANANG — The Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force conducted joint exercises with the Vietnamese navy for three days through Thursday in the Southeast Asian country and nearby waters.

An MSDF team was dispatched to Danang, central Viet Nam, along with two P-3C patrol aircraft for the drills aimed at reinforcing defence cooperation between the two countries and keeping a check on China amid territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Viet Nam, one of several states involved in disputes over reefs and islands in the waters, are at odds with China over claims to the Paracel and Spratly island groups. Just this week, China's deployment of an advanced surface-to-air missile system on one of the Paracel Islands came to light.—Kyodo News

US Republican presidential race erupts into four-way battle

CHARLESTON — The Republican race for the party's 2016 presidential nomination erupted into a four-candidate crossfire on Wednesday over who has the proper experience and is the most conservative, days before South Carolina voters put their stamp on the campaign. In TV interviews and campaign events, front-runner Donald Trump threatened to sue Senator Ted Cruz of Texas over a negative TV ad, while Senator Marco Rubio of Florida accused Cruz of lying about his record, and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush questioned Rubio's experience to serve as president.

Amid the squabbling, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley endorsed Rubio as the Republicans' best hope for winning the White House, a boost to Rubio and a blow to Bush, who had lobbied hard for her to pick him.

The endorsement gave Rubio, 44, a valuable ally to try to sway voters ahead of Saturday's South Carolina Republican primary, the third contest after Iowa and New Hampshire to pick a party nominee for the 8 November election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama. Bush had a tough day, learning of Haley's endorsement right before a town hall meeting in Summerville, South Carolina, where four members of the audience second-guessed his campaign strategy and offered tips on how to have a greater impact in the state.

Much of the debate took place over the television airwaves, as Trump, 69, a billionaire businessman and former reality TV star,



South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley (L) and US Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio react on stage during a campaign event in Chapin, South Carolina on 17 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

lobbed charges at his rivals at an MSNBC town hall, and Rubio and Cruz battled in back-to-back appearances at a CNN town hall in Greenville, South Carolina. Trump fumed about a TV ad put out by the Cruz campaign that brought up Trump's past position in support of a woman's right to an abortion.

Trump says he has evolved into a conservative and is now against abortion. "You look at a guy like Ted Cruz, he's a nasty guy," Trump said. "He doesn't have one Republican endorsement from the Senate and he works with the Senate. Think of it. Hard to believe."

Cruz dared Trump to sue him over the campaign ad, which featured a 1999 video clip of Trump saying he was "very pro-choice" on abortion. Cruz said Trump sent his campaign a "cease

and desist letter" demanding it drop the ad. At the CNN town hall, he said he laughed out loud when he got the letter threatening what he called a "frivolous lawsuit."

"In any defamation case, truth is a complete defense," Cruz said.

Questioners at the town hall pressed Cruz, 45, on charges levelled against him by Trump that he may not be eligible to be president because he was born in Canada, and that none of his US Senate colleagues liked him.

Cruz said he met the constitutional requirement that a president must be a "natural born citizen" because his mother was an American.

As for his Senate colleagues, Cruz said some may not like him because he serves the interests of his constituents, not fellow

senators.

The latest national Reuters/Ipsos poll showed Trump taking a more than 20-point lead over Cruz in the Republican race.

Trump had 40 percent support in the poll conducted from Saturday to Wednesday, compared with 17 per cent for Cruz, 11 per cent for Rubio, 10 per cent for retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson, and 8 per cent for Bush.

The results contrasted with those of an NBC News/Wall Street Journal national poll that put Cruz ahead of Trump among Republicans by 28 per cent to 26 per cent. Rubio, hoping to overtake Cruz for second place in South Carolina, where Trump leads in the polls, accused Cruz of spreading falsehoods with an ad attacking Rubio over his position on immigration.—Reuters

Ugandans start voting for president amid long delays

KAMPALA — Ugandans started casting their votes yesterday to decide whether to give Yoweri Museveni, in power for three decades, another term in office.

Voting at most polling stations in the capital, Kampala, was yet to start 90 minutes after the official opening of polling at 7 am local time (0400 GMT), leading to concerns among some voters. "If the voting time is reduced like this there will be many people who will not be able to vote," said Dickson Mamber, a 34-year-old history teacher, who had been waiting in line for two hours at Muyembe polling station in Kampala.

Voting at the station still had not started by 0545 GMT. All sides contesting the election accuse each other of stoking tensions and assembling vigilante groups, and the leading opposition candidates have predicted vote rigging.

Museveni, 71, has pleased Western allies by sending in peacekeeping troops to hotspots such as Somalia. He faces two main challengers — longtime opposition leader Kizza Besigye, who has run unsuccessfully in three previous elections, and former prime minister Amama Mbabazi, who until recently was a close ally.

Besigye told Reuters on the eve of the vote Museveni was "not going to go peacefully" and said his supporters may stage street protests to dispute the election outcome. Museveni meanwhile warned opponents to expect a tough response from security services if violence erupts.

The United States last week supported calls for a peaceful, transparent and

credible vote.

Museveni, who came to power in 1986 after waging a five-year guerrilla war, is hailed by many Ugandans as providing decades of relative peace and economic stability. His rivals, however, are drawing strength from a clamour for fresh leadership.

Uganda is an overwhelmingly youthful country, and all the candidates have sought to stir the enthusiasm of younger voters.

Museveni's rallies featured performances by leading pop stars, while Besigye and Mbabazi have centred their campaigns on pledges to boost employment and tackle corruption, issues that young voters emphasise.

On the streets of Kampala, most young voters identified themselves as Besigye supporters.

Joel Nyonyintono, a 26-year-old entrepreneur, said he was ashamed of the condition of Uganda's roads and hospitals and craved an innovative leader.

"We are so far behind. We need to open our eyes and move into the 'now' tense," Nyonyintono said as he sat near a church in Kampala.

Other voters say the idea of "change" makes them nervous.

Nanteza Beatrice, 56, a fruit vendor in a Kampala market, said she believed Uganda was not ready for a post-Museveni era.

"We have had peace for a long time and these young people are taking it for granted because they don't know how it was before him," she said.

Voting is scheduled to last for nine hours, ending at 4 pm. (1300 GMT)—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (025W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (025W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2016 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 ORIENT OVERSEA
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2016 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 CMA CGM LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

February 19, 2016

Invitation No. of IFB: LDC/KEDCF/15-16(70)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project

for FOC Backbone Network Construction

L/A No.: MYA-8

This invitation for bids is a rebidding on following the 1st bids' Invitation No. of IFB: LDC/KEDCF/15-16 (528) dated on September 19, 2015.

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from the Export-Import Bank of Korea from the resources of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) of the Republic of Korea in the amount of 55,874,000 (Fifty Five Million and Eight Hundred Seventy Four Thousand) US Dollars toward the cost of Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project and intends to apply a portion of the funds of this loan to payments under the contract for Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project.
2. The Project Executing Agency now invites the sealed bids from the eligible Bidders for Detailed Design, Supply, Construction, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project for FOC Backbone Network Construction on a turn-key basis which mainly consists of Transmission & Access Equipment, FOC & Civil Works, FOC & Civil Works materials & services, and Power Facilities in 37 nodes/cities of four (4) routes under the Project titled "Myanmar IT Infra-Network Expansion Project" with the implementation period of eighteen (18) months as per mentioned scope of work in the subsequent clauses in this Bidding Documents.
3. Bidding will be conducted through Competitive Bidding (CB) procedures specified in the Guidelines for Procurement under the EDCF Loans, and is open to all the eligible Bidders that shall have the nationality of the Republic of Korea identified in Section III. Eligible Countries and meet the following minimum qualification criteria.
4. In the case that the Bidder forms a Joint Venture or Association or Consortium (JVA), the number and amount of projects successfully completed by all participating firms will be examined by the sum of the member and amount calculated by each member's participating share-holding ratio in the successfully completed past projects and be summed up for the evaluation. The scope of all the partners of JVA must be mentioned in the JVA Agreement.
5. The qualification criteria for the eligible Bidders are as follows:
 - (a) The Bidder and its JVA members should have "Registration Certificate of Information & Telecommunication Construction" in the Republic of Korea;
 - (b) The Bidder or Main Bidder (Representative) of JVA should have a recent minimum five (5) years of implementation performance record in FOC and OSP (Civil Work) Network construction field;
 - (c) The CB (Corporate Bond) credit rating of the Bidder and its JVA members in case of JVA issued by a reputable credit rating agency located in the Republic of Korea should be equivalent to or higher than B-, or CP (Commercial Paper) or CB (Credit Bureau: Enterprise Credit Evaluation) credit rating of the Bidder and its JVA members in case of JVA should be equivalent to or higher than B-every year from 2013 to 2015 continuously;
 - (d) The Bidder or Main Bidder (Representative) of JVA should have at least one (1) successfully completed overseas FOC and OSP (Civil Work) Network Implementation Project as a prime or subcontractor, or joint venture partner or consortium for the last 10 years from the issuing date of the IFB. The contract amount, however, should be five (5) million USD or higher;
 - (e) The Bidder's and its JVA members' in case of JVA accumulated total contract amount of successfully completed FOC and OSP (Civil Work) network implementation project for the last 10 years from the issuing date of IFB should not be less than fifty (50) million USD (domestic and overseas);
 - (f) A copy of the Bidder's (and its members') company registration document in the country of residence of the Bidder should be issued by Government Authority (including National Tax Service or Regional Tax Service) of the Republic of Korea.

Minimum qualification of a Bidder, if it is JVA, is that the nationality of all partners should be the Republic of Korea and comply with the requirements in accordance with ITB. 6, and the above criteria (a) & (f).

6. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain and may review the bidding documents announced by the Myanma Posts & Telecommunications (MPT).
7. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any newly interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 600,000Kyats (Myanmar Currency) at 9:30 AM ~ 4:30 PM during 22nd of February ~ 26th of February, 2016. The method of payment shall be in cash. The document will be delivered directly to Bidder who purchased bidding documents with the purchase receipt at the below address. No bidding documents will be sold by post, e-mail, and internet. In case of firms who purchased the 1st bidding documents, it will be provided them with the rebidding documents for free by presenting the 1st purchase receipt during the above purchasing period.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address in BDS ITB 20.2 (a) (No. 103, 40th Street, Auto Telephone Office, MPT, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar) at 9:30 AM ~ 10:30 AM on 4th of April, 2016 MMT (Myanmar Time). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security (Bond) of One (1) million US Dollars. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address in BDS ITB 24.1 (No. 103, 40th Street, Auto Telephone Office, MPT, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar) at 1:00 PM on 4th of April, 2016 MMT (Myanmar Time).
9. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder and (ii) that violations are considered as fraud, which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future EDCF-financed procurements.
10. The Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.

Communication & Technology Office (1st floor),
Technology Department,
MPT, 125 Pansodan Street, Yangon, Myanmar
Telephone No.: +951 370 456
Facsimile No.: +951 370 458
e-mail: mgmgaye1516@gmail.com

“Wedding Announcement”

With the agreement of both parents and in the presence of the honourable guests, the wedding reception of

Maung Kyaw Zeya

B.S.EE (San Jose State University, USA),

MBA (University of Phoenix, USA)

residing at No-6300, Barnard Way, Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA

and

Dr Thandar Aye

MB;BS (Ygn), MRCP(UK)

residing at No.132, 18th Street, Latha Township, Yangon, Myanmar was successfully held at Western Park Royal Restaurant on 18th February 2016, Thursday.**Maung Kyaw Zeya + Dr Thandar Aye**

**MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRIC POWER PLANNING
REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

National Electrification Project**Credit No.: 5727-MM****Assignment Title: Project Management and Implementation Support Consultant****Reference No. C1-TA4**

The Ministry of Electric Power has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the following scope:

1. **Project Management and Supervision.**
2. **Power Distribution Design**
3. **Technical Specifications**
4. **Procurement Support Services**
5. **Institutional Capacity Building**

The National Electrification Project (NEP) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The **shortlisting criteria** are

1. Experience on similar nature projects is critical.
2. The interested consulting firm should have at least 10 years of experience in the area of power distribution systems and electrification projects.
3. At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 5 years;
4. The consultant shall have good design and engineering skills for the power distribution system projects to carry out the design and to review and approve all contractor's engineering designs.
5. The consultant should be experienced in the management of the implementation of distribution system projects; cost, quality and schedule control; commissioning and acceptance of works; good reporting and communication skills; good contractor management skills;
6. The firm should have experience of the financial Management at similar project.
7. The firm should have experience of working in the Client's Country or developing countries in South East Asia.
8. The firm should have extensive experience with institutional capacity building, including training and on-the-job training.
9. The firm should have good experience in developing and applying design standards for power distribution networks.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's

Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers, July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality-and Cost-based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours 09:30 to 16:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **March 11, 2016**.

Attn: Director General
Department of Electric Power Planning
Ministry of Electric Power
Office No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Tel: +95 67 410205, 67 8104216
Fax: +95678104209
E-mail: nep.ppmoe@gmail.com

Radioactive material stolen in Iraq raises security concerns

BAGHDAD — Iraq is searching for "highly dangerous" radioactive material whose theft last year has raised fears among Iraqi officials that it could be used as a weapon if acquired by Islamic State.

Baghdad reported the stolen material to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in November but has not requested assistance to recover it, the UN nuclear watchdog said on Wednesday.

The material, stored in a protective case the size of a laptop computer, went missing from a storage facility near the southern city of Basra belonging to US oilfield services company Weatherford (WFT.N), an environment ministry document seen by Reuters showed and security, environmental and provincial officials confirmed.

A spokesman for Iraq's environment ministry said he could not discuss the issue, citing national security concerns.

Weatherford said in a statement that it was not responsible or liable for the theft. "We do not own, operate or control sources or the bunker where the sources are stored," it said.

The material, which uses gamma rays to test flaws in materials used for oil and gas pipelines in a process called industrial gamma radiography, is owned by Istanbul-based SGS Turkey, according to the document and officials.

An SGS official in Iraq declined to comment and referred Reuters to its Turkish headquarters, which did not respond to phone calls and emails.

The US State Department said it was aware of the reports but has seen no sign that Islamic State or other militant groups have acquired it.

The environment ministry document, dated 30 November and addressed to the ministry's Centre for Prevention of Radiation, describes "the theft of a highly dangerous radioactive source of Ir-192 with highly radioactive activity belonging to SGS from a depot belonging to Weatherford in the Rafidhia area of Basra province". —Reuters

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Actress Winslet says playing a Brit 'would be ultimate challenge'

LONDON — Having put on an array of foreign accents in her award-winning career, British actress Kate Winslet says she really wants to play an English character, adding it would be “the ultimate challenge”.

The “Titanic” star has pretended to be American, Australian, Polish-Armenian and in her latest film, crime thriller “Triple 9”, a Russian-Israeli mafia boss.

“My M.O. (modus operandi) is just keep doing the unexpected. Although I do also keep trying to play an English person but that just doesn't keep happening for me at the moment,” Winslet told Reuters in an interview.

“That would be the ultimate challenge and then I'd have no dialect coach at all. No one to have my back and I would be all by myself and probably more terrified than ever before. Wouldn't that be novel?”

Winslet plays the bejeweled and designer-clad Irina Vlaslov in action-packed “Triple 9” about corrupt police and the criminal underworld — a role she said

“felt very out of my comfort zone”.

“I don't know anyone like this woman. I didn't like her. I didn't empathize with her. I wanted that challenge of playing a character who really felt like a character,” she said.

Winslet is in the running for an Academy Award for her portrayal in “Steve Jobs” of the late Apple co-founder's colleague Joanna Hoffman.

She won an Oscar for “The Reader”, an Emmy Award for “Mildred Pierce”, a Best Spoken Word Album For Children Grammy for “Listen to the Storyteller”, meaning she is just missing a Tony Award to complete the “EGOT” acronym of all four major entertainment honours.

Asked if going to Broadway was next, Winslet said: “Well I suppose it probably is now. And that's more because of my 12-year-old son Joe, who ... is just obsessed with records.”

“So since he has learnt about this ‘EGOT’ thing, he's



PHOTO: REUTERS

like, ‘Mum you've gotta do it.’”

Winslet has backed her “Titanic” co-star Leonardo DiCaprio to win the best actor Oscar this year for “The Revenant”.

Both have been honored this awards season, reuniting on the red carpet, much to the delight of “Titanic” fans, something that surprised Winslet.

“It's crazy but it's wonderful how people still get such a kick out of the (“Titanic” characters) Jack and Rose combo.”—Reuters

Conductor Ozawa to share delight of winning Grammy with orchestra

KYOTO — Japanese conductor Seiji Ozawa expressed his joy Wednesday at winning the Best Opera Recording award at the Grammys, saying he wants to share this delight with the other performers.

“I am surprised. I am happy we were able to receive this kind of award and I would like to share my joy with members of the Saito Kinen Orchestra,” Ozawa, 80, said at a press conference in the western Japan city of Kyoto, where he is staging a performance.

His opera recording won at Monday's 58th Grammy Awards, which are considered the top honors in the US music business. It was Ozawa's first Grammy award after being nominated eight times.

Ozawa's award-winning recording is of a performance of Ravel's “L'Enfant et Les Sortilèges” (The Child and the Spells) given in August 2013 in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, by the Saito Kinen Orchestra as part of the orchestra's festival.

The conductor, who has led top orches-

tras such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, called the Saito Kinen Orchestra his “dream orchestra” and said he will work hard not to let any health concerns get in the way of his future performances.

Ozawa has been based in Kyoto since early this month for opera performances to be performed on Thursday and Saturday.

Known for his activities in and out of Japan, Ozawa was also music director of Vienna State Opera.—Kyodo News

Composed Morricone hopeful for sixth time lucky Oscar

LONDON — Ennio Morricone is hoping it will be sixth time lucky at this year's Oscars, where he has been nominated for the musical score for Quentin Tarantino's “The Hateful Eight”.

“I hope that this time there will be (Oscar victory),” 87-year-old Morricone told Reuters in an interview.

Morricone's previous Oscar bids include his work for “Bugsy” and “The Untouchables”, but it is perhaps his loss for his critically-acclaimed “The Mission” score — when Herbie Hancock scooped the honor for “Round Midnight” — that is the sorest.

“I am not certain it will happen so I am going there tranquil, serene, hopeful that it goes well,” said Morricone, who received an Honorary Academy Award in 2007 for “his magnificent and multifaceted contributions to the art of film music”.

His “The Hateful Eight” work has already won a Golden Globe and a British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) award which he received in London on Tuesday after being unable to make the official ceremony due to his tour commitments.

“This is something amazing, unexpected because in my type of work, you don't think of the positive or negative consequences,” Morricone said.

“In general there aren't



Italian composer Ennio Morricone. PHOTO: REUTERS

negative ones. But sometimes there can also be negative consequences, that is the film doesn't succeed or people don't like the music. But this time, everything went well, thank goodness. I am happy, amazed.”

Before the 28 February Oscars, Morricone will be honored with a star on the Walk of Fame, with Tarantino among the guest speakers at the ceremony on the famed Hollywood boulevard.

Born in Rome in 1928, Morricone began his film music composer career in 1961 with the Luciano Salce directed movie “Il Federale” and has since scored more than 450 films.

Asked if a particular period in his career stood out, Morricone said he had several preferred directors: “There are, but I won't say, some whom I prefer, because it is not just one. I prefer to stay quiet.”—Reuters

Lady Gaga vows never to turn fashion designer

NEW YORK — Pop sensation Lady Gaga has ruled out ever turning her passion for fashion into a side career, insisting she respects designers too much to intrude on their territory.

Gaga, 29, known for her unique sense of style, said she is happy to be dressed by her stylist and friend Brandon Maxwell, reported the *New York Post*.

“The thing is, at the end of the day, I have a real respect for fashion designers. And it's the reason I don't have my own line and the reason I never will.

“If I ever do anything in fashion, it will always just be as a muse or as an aesthetic, creative. I like to be a part of helping artists find themselves and feel good about who they are. I would never for a second claim

to be proficient in fashion design (just) because I know good looks,” she said.

Gaga goes on to express her admiration for Brandon, who she credits with helping to embrace her more girly side.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

မဟာသရေစဉ်သူဒုတိယစိုလ်ချုပ်ကြီးတင်ဦး (၁၅)နှစ်ပြည့်ကောင်းမှုဆုတောင်း

ကျေးဇူးရှင်ဖေဖေကြီး ဒုတိယစိုလ်ချုပ်ကြီးတင်ဦး၏ (၁၅) နှစ်ပြည့်မြောက်သည့် (၁၉-၂-၂၀၁၆) ရက်နေ့တွင် ဘုရားအမှူးရှိသော သံဃာတော် အရှင်သူမြတ်တို့အား ဆွမ်း ဆက်ကပ်လှူဒါန်းခြင်းနှင့် နေ့စဉ်လစဉ် ပြုပြုခဲ့သမျှ သော ကုသိုလ်ကောင်းမှု အစုစုတို့၏ အဖို့ဘာဂကို မြင့်မြတ်ရာ ဘုံဘဝတွင် ရောက်ရှိနေသည့် ဖေဖေကြီး အနေဖြင့် နိဗ္ဗာန်ဘုံသို့တိုင်အောင် အဆင့်ဆင့် တက်လှမ်း ရောက်ရှိနိုင်ပါစေကြောင်း ဆုတောင်းမေတ္တာပို့သ အမျှ ပေးဝေအပ်ပါသည်။

ဇနီး - ဒေါ်ခင်သန်းနွဲ့
သားသမီးများ - ဦးမောင်မောင်ကျော် + ဒေါ်ချိုလဲ့ဦး
- ဖြူဖြူတင်ဦး
- ဒေါက်တာမြတ်နိုး + ယဉ်မာဦး
- ဇော်ထွန်းဦး + ခင်သီတာ
- နေထွန်းဦး
မြေးများ - ဟိန်းထက်၊ ယဉ်မြတ်နိုး
- ဖူးငုံကျော်၊ သန့်သီဟန်ဇော် (ဖိုးသီလ)

German shorthaired pointer named CJ wins Westminster dog show

NEW YORK — A German shorthaired pointer named CJ won “Best in Show” at the 140th Westminster Kennel Club dog show in New York on Tuesday, besting more than 2,700 contestants over the two-day competition.

Westminster, which is the second longest continuously running sporting event in the United States behind the Kentucky Derby, drew entries from nearly 200 breeds and varieties and more than a dozen countries this year. “I couldn’t believe it,” CJ’s owner Valerie Nunes-Atkinson, from Temecula, California, said about the win. CJ stood stoically by her side and was occasionally rewarded his favourite chicken treats. “This is what we go to bed dream-

ing about.”

Nunes-Atkinson breeds German shorthaired pointers, medium-to-large size hunting dogs native to Germany, but she said she always knew three-year-old CJ was special. “He’s an old soul,” she said. Her champion dog will now head back home and celebrate the win with his best friend, a whip-pet named Ramona. CJ, who pranced across an expansive show floor at Madison Square Garden, will also receive a trophy and later embark on a media tour as the show’s champion. A Borzoi, named Lucy, was runner-up. As part of the Westminster competition, judges select the best of each breed and group, divided into seven categories — hound, toy, non-sporting, herding, sporting, working and terrier.

On Monday, the first night of events, Lucy the



Handler Valerie Nunes-Atkinson poses with CJ, a German Shorthaired Pointer from the Sporting Group, after they won Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog show at Madison Square Garden in New York on 16 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Borzoi won in the hound group; a flat-faced and pudgy bulldog named Anna-belle won in the non-sporting group; Rumor, a spirited German shepherd won in the herding group; and a silky-haired shih tzu named Panda won in the toy group. CJ won the sporting group; a Skye terrier named Charlie,

won in the terrier group; and a white and fluffy Samoyed, named Bogey, won in the working group on Tuesday evening. Head judge Dr. Richard Meen, a Canadian psychiatrist, said CJ had the intelligence and alertness he looked for in a winner. CJ “floated around the ring,” Meen said. —Reuters

USJ mulls rescinding plan to build new theme park in Okinawa

OSAKA — The operator of Universal Studios Japan is considering canceling its plan to open a new theme park in Okinawa due to concerns that the park may not be able to attract enough visitors to cover the expected massive investment required, sources familiar with the matter said yesterday. USJ Co. is looking into whether opening the park in the southwestern island prefecture would be profitable as its parent company, US media giant and cable operator Comcast Corp., has been reluctant to give the green light, the sources said. USJ opened in 2001 in Osaka city and has become a major tourist draw in western Japan. According to the sources, USJ had been thinking of

creating another US movie theme park in the Ocean Expo Park, which is a popular area featuring attractions such as Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, and preparations had been under way.

In July last year, Glenn Gumpel, former USJ chairman and CEO, visited Okinawa and agreed with Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga to cooperate over the USJ plan to build the new theme park by 2020.

But the plan was put on hold after Comcast’s acquisition of a 51 per cent stake in USJ in November.

At his first press conference on 1 February since becoming chief executive officer of USJ, Jean Louis Bonnier only said that the matter is being assessed

within the company. USJ had seen a drop in visitors at one point but numbers picked up again thanks partly to the addition of a zone based on the popular Harry Potter film series. In fiscal 2014, the theme park drew a record 12.7 million visitors, and the figure is projected to be higher in fiscal 2015. As talk about USJ opening in Okinawa continues, the idea of having a Disney Resort facility in the prefecture has also surfaced. In Okinawa’s Ginowan city, home to US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Mayor Atsushi Sakima has been pushing for Disney to build on the land to be vacated after the base is relocated. The central government has also expressed its support.—Kyodo News

Academy sues over \$200,000 so-called Oscar gift bags

LOS ANGELES — A “Vampire Breast Lift.” A laser skin-tightening procedure. A 10-day first-class trip to Israel.

Those are a few of the services included in the \$200,000 gift bags that one marketing firm has promised for celebrities attending the Oscars ceremony on 28 February. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hands out the awards, wants the public to know that it hasn’t approved any of those items. In a federal lawsuit filed on Tuesday in Los Angeles, the organisation accused Distinctive Assets of promoting the gift bags as official Oscars swag. “Distinctive Assets uses the Academy’s trademarks to raise the profile of its ‘gift bags’ and

falsely create the impression of association, affiliation, connection, sponsorship and/or endorsement,” said the lawsuit, which names the company’s founder, Lash Fary, as a defendant.

Neither Distinctive Assets nor a lawyer representing the company immediately responded to a request for comment early on Wednesday. Gift bags have been a persistent headache over the years for the Academy, which stopped giving gift baskets to presenters and performers in 2007 after the practice came under closer scrutiny by US tax authorities. Celebrities who receive gifts and free vacations at awards shows are expected to declare them as income and pay the appropriate taxes, according to the

Internal Revenue Service. The lawsuit said Fary was misleading media outlets by promoting the gift bags with slogans like “Everyone Wins Nominee Gift Bags in Honor of the Oscars(R),” adding that the use of the trademark symbol was a deliberate attempt to imply an official connection. The Academy cited numerous news articles that referred to the gift bags as “official” or as “Oscar Swag Bags,” arguing the coverage shows Fary has engaged in deceptive marketing. The lawsuit asked a federal judge to prevent Fary from using any Academy trademark and seeks compensation for damages as well as three times the amount of Fary’s profits and the academy’s legal fees.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(19-2-2016 07:00am ~ 20-2-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Highland with Peace and Charm
07:45	Am	Shan Novices To Be.....
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado Of Traditional Design
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Entrepreneur “Soe Nyi Nyi”
09:35	Am	19 Hours
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
10:39	Am	Toddy Palm Product Shop
10:51	Am	Kindhearted Pet Lovers

(11:00Am~03:00Pm)-ThursdayRepeat(07:00Am~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	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep - III)
07:37	Pm	Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture “The Golden Land”
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin
08:49	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Zaw Latt

(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)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(19-2-2016, Friday)

6:00 pm	7:50 pm
• Alinka Wut Yee Music Troupe	• TV Drama Series
6:20 pm	8:35 pm
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	• Stories
6:35 pm	9:00 pm
• Musical Programme	• Dramatic Arts
6:45 pm	9:40 pm
• Fashion Show	• Myanmar Video
7:00 pm	Midnight
• TV Drama Series	• Close Down

3:50 Pm 100Plus Stars Cup MFF Beach Soccer Championship 2016 (live)

From 19.2.2016 (Friday) 06:00 Pm
To 18.2.2016 (Saturday) 06:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

Ronaldo breaks Roma resistance as Real win 2-0

ROME — Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 12th Champions League goal of the season with a superb strike into the top corner as Real Madrid took a firm grip on their last-16 tie against AS Roma with a 2-0 first leg win on Wednesday.

The record 10 times European champions took the game to Roma, but were frustrated in the first half as the hosts kept men behind the ball, while looking to catch Real out on the break.

Ronaldo, however, ended their resistance just before the hour mark.

He audaciously controlled a fine pass from Marcelo on the left edge of the box, before unleashing a powerful, curling shot that deflected off Alessandro Florenzi and looped over keeper Wojciech Szczesny into the net.

The emphatic finish sparked a joyous celebration from the Portuguese who raced across to embrace coach Zinedine Zidane.

"It was a great match by him and the rest (of the team)," Zidane told beIN Sports.

"I'm happy (about the celebration) but above all because he scored," added the Frenchman, who was a Champions League winner with Real as a player in



AS Roma's Lucas Digne (R) in action during the match against Real Madrid during UEFA Champions League Round of 16 First Leg at Olympic stadium, Rome, Italy, on 17 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

2002 but was making his competition debut as coach.

"It's been a very special day, we played well but it was a difficult match because they (Roma) played well."

Substitute Jese added the Spanish team's second four min-

utes from fulltime with a solo run into the box and shot across the face of goal that flew inside the far post.

Two minutes earlier, Real goalkeeper Keylor Navas came out sharply to save at the feet of Stephan El Shaarawy after one of

Roma's fast and dangerous counter-attacks.

Ronaldo might have had a second goal a quarter of an hour from the end but his header at the far post was just wide from James Rodriguez's superb cross.

Karim Benzema then saw

his goalbound shot from another James cross hit Lucas Digne in the head.

At the other end, Roma substitute Edin Dzeko hit the side-netting with a header and Real were relieved when the home side were not awarded a penalty after a tackle by Dani Carvajal on Florenzi.

"It was our best performance of the season this evening against a top team," Florenzi told Mediaset.

"We're bitter because we played really well and to see this score is not pleasing."

Real did not have a single shot on target in the first half, but twice had Raphael Varane to thank for coming to their rescue, as the centre back superbly intercepted a ball from Mohamed Salah to Diego Perotti, before blocking a shot by El Shaarawy.

Zidane remains unbeaten since he took over from the sacked Rafa Benitez early last month and the coach was given enthusiastic backing from Real defender Sergio Ramos.

"We're all on the same wavelength as Zinedine Zidane, we're very happy with him," Ramos said.—Reuters

300-up Messi makes history as Barca open big lead

MADRID — Lionel Messi became the first player to notch 300 La Liga goals as his double blast powered Barcelona to a 3-1 win at Sporting Gijon that sent them six points clear at the top of the table on Wednesday.

"To have Messi is a privilege," coach Luis Enrique told reporters. "We are where we wanted to be."

Luis Suarez missed a second-half penalty but made amends soon after by scoring the third goal to take his tally in all competitions to 40 this season.

The match at El Molinon was originally due to be played in December but had to be switched because of Barca's involvement in the Club World Cup in Japan.

Barca now have 60 points from 24 matches, six more than second-placed Atletico Madrid and seven ahead of Real Madrid.

Messi grabbed his landmark 300th La Liga goal in the 25th minute when he cut in from the right, past two defenders on the edge of the box, and hit a left-foot shot into the bottom corner.



Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Sporting's Roberto Canella in action during match during Spanish Liga BBVA at El Molinon stadium, Gijon on 17 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The lead lasted two minutes before Gijon launched a fast counter-attack as Pablo Perez passed to left winger Alex Menendez and his low cross was turned home at the far post by striker Carlos Castro.

Messi, playing in his 334th La Liga match, restored Barca's lead just past the half hour when Suarez shielded the ball with his back to goal and laid it off to the Argentine who steered it into the net with the outside of his left foot.

Ivan Cuellar denied Messi a hat-trick a minute later when he parried his shot and Brazilian Neymar almost scored when he curled the rebound on to the far post.

Neymar was awarded a 62nd-minute spot kick when he

was brought down by Cuellar but the goalkeeper dived to his right to save Suarez's effort, the seventh penalty miss by a Barca player this season.

Suarez atoned for the miss when he fought his way past a defender on the right five minutes later and curled a fine shot in off the far post to take his total as La Liga's top marksman this season to 24.

"We'll have to work on this matter of the penalties (though) it doesn't worry me at all," said Luis Enrique.

"It's obvious we want to improve but we have confidence in Luis, Messi and Neymar because they are great penalty takers."—Reuters

Masters in mind for McIlroy on Riviera debut

PACIFIC PALISADES — Rory McIlroy says he is excited about his Northern Trust Open debut this week at Riviera Country Club as he starts his tournament build-up in the United States for the Masters in April.

While the opening major championship of the year will be firmly in his mind over the next two months, McIlroy has long desired to compete at Riviera, which is consistently ranked by the players as one of the top courses on the PGA Tour.

"I wanted to come here because of what I had seen on TV, and the great things that people say about Riviera," world number three McIlroy, 26, told reporters on Wednesday after playing in the pre-tournament pro-am competition.

"And this was the perfect timing. I had a week off after all the stuff I did in the Middle East (on the European Tour), and that gave me time to sort of regroup and get myself over to the West Coast. It just fitted into the schedule."

The iconic par-71 layout at Riviera is a ball-striker's para-

dise where long, medium and short hitters can all thrive.

"It's a real treat when you come to a golf course like this where it's not overly long, you don't have to really bomb it off the tee, but it's real strategic," said McIlroy, a four-times major winner.

"It's a real thinker's golf course and it's a real treat to play something like this because we don't get to play them that often anymore."

McIlroy will be making his first PGA Tour appearance of the year this week after recording top-six finishes in his last three events on the European Tour dating back to November — all three of them in the United Arab Emirates.

"A couple of things in Dubai I wasn't quite happy with, so I worked on those in Florida last week," he said, referring to his tie for sixth at the Dubai Desert Classic earlier this month.

"I tweaked my driver a little bit. I felt like I was struggling to turn it over from right-to-left, so I put the loft up. I felt like the rest of my game was in pretty good shape."—Reuters