THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. II, No. 324, 2nd Waxing of Tabaung 1377 ME | Thursday, 10 March, 2016

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600,000 students take matriculation exams

MATRICULATION examinations were conducted yesterday at 1,467 centres—16 abroad and 1,451 within Myanmar, with over 600,000 students registered to sit the exam.

In Yangon Region, a total of 101,765 students took the exam.

There were 17,490 examinees in Nay Pyi Taw, 27,192 in Kachin State, 4,633 in Kayah State, 13,561 in Kayin State, 9,843 in Chin State, 81,808 in Sagaing Region, 15,768 in Tanintharyi Region, 32,222 in Bago Region (East), 19,401 in Bago Region (West), 60,437 in Magwe Region, 91,687 in Mandalay Region, 19,681 in Mon State, 34,822 in Rakhine State, 3,883 in eastern Shan State, 22,962 in southern Shan State, 14,489 in northern Shan State and 64,501 in Ayeyawady Region.

Officials from the Higher Education Department went on inspection tours of the exam centres to ensure that students were taking their exams with peace of mind.

In accordance with the exam timetable, the students took the Myanmar language exam yesterday and will take the English language exam today.

School girls are seen after first day of the martriculation exam on Wedenesday, 9th March, 2016. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

90,000 students have taken matric exams in Mandalay

More than 90,000 high school students in Mandalay have begun their matriculation examinations for the 2015-2016 Academic Year yesterday.

Of the 95,656 who have registered to sit for the examinations, 91,687 students took Day One of the Myanmar language exams, said an official of Mandalay Region Education Officer's Office.

Officials concerned from districts and townships have been deployed to supervise the exams, said Dr Soe Myint Tun, regional education officer.

According to the regional education officer's office, 165 exam centers are being kept open in Mandalay and one supervisor is assigned to coordinate matters related to the examinations of every 800 students.

Figures from 43 exam centers in Mandalay district showed that 7,930 students took the first day of the examinations in Aungmyay Thasan Township while 3,177 sat the exam in Chanaye Thasan Township, 3,481 in Maha Aungmyay Township, 6,730 in Chanmya Thasi Township, 1,523 in Pyigyidagun Township, 2,415 in Amarapura Township and 1,441 in Patheingyi Township. Of registered students, 1251 failed to take the test on the first day of the examinations.

"Everything went smoothly in the examination room," said Mg Aung Lin, one of examinees.

Sources said that more than 14,000 students from monastic education schools and private schools in Mandalay also began their matriculation examinations. Five students took the exams at Mandalay General Hospital. — *Myanmar News Agency & Aung Thant Khaing*

Over 300 shops destroyed by Mingalar Zay blaze receive government loans

THE Department of Markets of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has made it known that over three hundred shops, destroyed by fire which engulfed the fourth floor of the Mingalar Zay market in Yangon's Mingalar Taung Nyunt township, have been issued with loans.

As part of a YCDC initiative, loans began to be given out to shopkeepers on 11 February. By yesterday a total of 301 shops had received loans worth K1 billion, it is known.

"All [remaining] loans will be given out by 31 March. So far more than K1 billion has been received by 301 shops." said U Kyaw Myint, head of the YCDC's Department of Markets for Yangon's southern district.

A total of 648 shops registered to receive loans out of 1,636 which suffered from outbreak of fire. However, only 318 shops will actually receive them, with 301 shops having been issued with loans so far. The remaining 17 shops will receives their loans before the month is out, it is known.

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Military officers must be role models in abidance by the law: SG Min Aung Hlaing

SPEAKING at the meeting with senior officers at the National Defence College, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said inter alia, that the Master of Defence Studies Degree Course will be of great benefit to the candidates because they can learn a lot from discussion, presentation and writing research papers as part of fufilment of their post graduate studies and that they will be better exposed to the political, economic, executive and defence concepts which can be applied to formulation of plans upon graduation.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing reminded the Master degree candidates of the military's role in the past. He emphasized that he would not accept deviations from the democratic path the military has paved. The Myawady Daily also quoted the Senior General saying, "The military is being involved in the national political sector to prevent the union from disintegration. Peace and stability count in effectuation of a democratic system suited to our country", he added.

Without stability and the rule of law, there will only be an arbitrary democracy. So, abidance by law matters to effectuate a disciplined democracy. If we really love and cherish democracy, and if we want it to last long, we need to abide by the law. In this regard, military personnel must be role models in living up to the law," the Senior General said.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the museum. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Present at the meeting were Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, high-ranking military officers from the C-in-C's office and the 79 master's degree candidate officers, among others.— *Myawady*

Deputy Culture Minister visits Bagan cultural region

Deputy Minister Daw Sandar Khin inspects conservation of mural paintings in Bagan. PHOTO: MNA

DEPUTY Minister for Culture Daw Sandar Khin visited ancient edifices and inspected restoration works being carried out at pagodas funded by UNESCO within the Bagan ancient cultural region on Monday.

In a meeting with departmental officials and locals the following day, the deputy minister elaborated on the works being carried out for preservation of archaeological monuments and having Bagan cultural region added to UNESCO's World Heritage List, calling for participation of all in the process. Next, the deputy minister and party made a field trip to Sulamani Pagoda together with a team from the Archaeology Survey of India (ASI) group which is conducting the restoration of Ananda Pagoda..—*Myanmar News Agency*

Over 300 shops destroyed by Mingalar Zay blaze receive government loans

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"Many of the shops [which registered to receive loans] mentioned that they no longer required them. A total of just 318 shops will receive loans. Since the number of shops to receive loans has decreased we can offer each remaining shop a loan of over K3.1 million." added U Kyaw Myint. Shopkeeper U Tin Myint says that he is having to struggle by himself to re-establish his business after his shop was destroyed by the Mingalar Zay blaze.

"I've decided against taking the loan as it will incur an annual interest of ten per cent. I'm having to survive on my own finances to restart my business." he said.

Those shops located within Mingalar Zay which escaped being engulfed by flames number 3,186 and have been temporarily relocated to nearby Shwe Mingalar and Mingalar Mun markets, according to the YCDC. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

YCDC orders 4 companies to halt construction in Myakyuntha Park

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has instructed four companies to stop their construction in Myakyuntha Park in Yangon, according to a committee member.

The notification came after YCDC's inspection team discovered that the buildings under construction were violating the terms of the companies' licences.

The YCDC team inspected the construction sites in the park on 4 March, with member U Khin Hlaing saying that notifications had been sent to the heads of the four companies—Magic Land, Nay La Pwint Service, Inya Palace and Rya Ji.

YCDC began leasing parts of the park to eight companies on 1 April 2013 at a rate of K1 million per acre for 60 years. Under the terms of the leases, the companies are required to construct buildings in accordance with planning regulations, which only allow certain types of buildings in the park.

The four companies that have not begun building in the park are Max Myanmar, Eden, Myanmar Golden Star and Good Shan Brother.

"We do not accept the construction of buildings similar to shopping malls in a public recreation centre," U Khin Hlaing said.—*Ko Moe*

Yangon Region saw nine homicides last month

YANGON Region saw nine homicides last month, down four compared to 13 murder cases last January, according to the regional police force.

The Yangon Region Police Force said that there were 33 cases of felony that include murder, robbery, rape, burglary and arm-related cases in February while 31 cases were investigated in January. According to figures, Yangon Region had 397 criminal cases, including 191 homicides, 67 robberies and 20 burglaries, last year.—*Ko Moe*

MMA to hold 10th annual meeting on March 19

MYANMAR Medical Association (MMA) (Central) Hospital Administration Society (HAS) is going to hold its tenth annual meeting on March 19, Saturday at 8 am at Auditorium (A), MMA premises, 249, Theinbyu Road, Mingalartaungnyunt Township, it is leant. Medical Superintendents of all public and private hospitals, and MMA HAS members all over the country and post graduate students are invited to attend the annual meeting, the announcement stated. Myanmar Medical Association (Central), Hospital Administration Society (MMA HAS) possesses human resources strength of 260 member doctors, data say.—*GNLM*

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits new Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital in Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Nay Pyi Taw receives third public specialist hospital

VICE-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the opening ceremony of the new Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital (EENT) in Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

First, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint and Nay Pyi Taw Council members Dr Paing Soe and U Phone Zaw Han formally opened the EENT specialist hospital, and the Vice-President unveiled the signboard of the hospital.

In his address, the Vice-President said that the public specialist hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, outside of Yangon, will bring great benefit to patients with eye, ear, nose and throat complaints, thereby promoting the country's health care services.

Regarding achievements in the sector, the Vice-President said that 225 more hospitals were opened, 100 hospitals were upgraded and free health care had been initiated over the last five years.

A total of 1,190 hospitals are currently operating, providing the public with heath care services including the newly-opened EENT hospital, the third public specialist hospital that cost Ks2.1 billion in Nay Pyi Taw, he added.

After the ceremony, the medical superintendent and officials conducted the Vice-President and party around the hospital.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation work committee meets

VICE-President U Nyan Tun addressed the coordination meeting of the rural development and poverty alleviation work committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, the Vice-President, who is also the chairman of the work committee, stressed the need to present tangible evidence to rural people as progress has been made yearly in the implementation of the 8-point rural development and poverty alleviation scheme.

He called on supporting committees and work committees to seek ways and means for constant implementation of the tasks in their own regions, stressing the need to ensure infrastructure development suitable for rural areas.

Next, Union Minister U Ohn Myint made recommendations for ensuring the development of agriculture, livestock, the fishery industry and private sectors.

Then, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw elaborated on data collection and evaluation in poverty reduction programme carried out in cooperation with the World Bank.

After hearing reports presented by the Union ministers, region/state chief ministers, deputy ministers and officials, the Vice-President called for sound advice to be given for the implementation of follow-up tasks.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers speech at the meeting of the rural development and poverty alleviation work committee. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General receives Ambassador of Turkey

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ambassador of Turkey to Myanmar Mr Murat Yavuz Ates in Nya Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on achievements in bringing community peace and development to Rakhine State, improvement of relations and cooperation between the two countries and future cooperation in military sector.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office.—*Myawady*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hold talks with Ambassador of Turkey to Myanmar Mr Murat Yavuz Ates. Photo: Myawady

Union Electric Power Minister inspects construction of new sub-power station for Yangon

UNION Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe inspected a sub-power station currently under construction in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon on Tuesday.

After hearing reports on the work progress of the 230/66/11 KV (2x125) MVA (GIS) sub-power station, the Union minister stressed the need of knowledge transfer from foreign experts who are working together with Myanmar engineers in construction of the facility.

He also highlighted the importance of timely completion of the project and worksite safety.

Upon completion of the facility, which is the first of its kind in Myanmar, the electric power will be distributed to Yangon's townships including Dagon Myothit (East), Shwe Paukkan, Waibagi, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North) and North Okkalapa Township, the electricity will be operated through four 66KV feeders.

According to sources, the new facility is set to cost US$18.7 million for electrical equipment and $11.3 million for construction.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Consultation on Right to Information Law (draft) held

A CONSULTATION on the right to information draft law, organised by the Ministry of Information and UNESCO, took place at the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, UNESCO Myanmar resident representative, and U Tint Swe, permanent secretary of the ministry, spoke on the occasion.

In his address, the MoI's permanent secretary said that the Right to Information Law drafted by the ministry will be handed over to the next government together with suggestions and recommendations recorded at the meeting.

Next, U Aung Shin, representing the information committee of the National League for Democracy, stressed the need to ensure media freedom in the country in line with the Declaration of the United Nations.

Then, U Ye Tint, director-general of the ministry's Information and Public Relations Department, clarified the draft law, followed by the presentation of the draft law by Mr. Toby Mendel of the Centre for Law and Democracy.

During the consultation meeting, those present including U Thiha Saw, secretary of the Press Council, and Daw Yin Yadana Thein, representative of Article 19, who made suggestions and recommendations for the draft law.

A total of 70 representatives from the ministry, local and foreign media organisations, UN agencies, the European Union, foreign embassies, the NLD party, CSOs and INGOs were brought together at the meeting.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Star tortoise population blooms in Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary

THE populations of star tortoises (Geocheloneplatynota) in the Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary is rising, The sanctuary is located across Minbu, Setoktaya, Sagu and Ngaphe townships in Magwe Region, covering an area of 213.4 square miles.

The Myanmar star tortoise is considered a critically endangered species by the IUCN because of its low population.

"We, members of the sanctuary's administration office, have bred the star tortoise outside the natural forest because its population has gradually decreased in the wild," one sanctuary official said. "A total of 297 star tortoises were brought to the sanctuary in 2014."

He added: "Since 2012, we returned three baby star tortoises to the forest and fed them natural products. The breeding of the Myanmar star tortoise is difficult; however, the project produced successful outcomes, resulting in population gains every year." The Shwesettaw Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1985 in order to protect and conserve the endemic Shwethamin deer (Cervus eldithamin), to conserve the Than-dahat Forest, which is part of the Dry Zone Ecosystem and is the natural habitat of the Shwethamin deer, and to preserve the Buddhist heritage of the Shwesettaw area.

Fourteen species of mammals, 43 species of amphibians, 39 species of butterflies, 113 species of birds and other rare animals have been conserved within the sanctuary.—*Than Naing Oo*

A tortoise seen in the farm. PHOTO: THAN NAING OO

Star beans now growing in Nay Pyi Taw

A FARMER has started to grow star beans in the compound of his house in PubbaThiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.

The seeds of star beans were bought from the Star Bean Association (Yangon).

As a method of growing the star bean, the hybrid seeds will be soaked in the water for three days, and dried under the sun for three more. After drying, each seed is put into each bag—6''x8'' in size-- which places soil in it.

Litozin liquid is sprayed on the seeds twice a day.

After 15 Days, sprouts come out from the seeds, and on the 20th day, the saplings are moved to one square foot holes, which are 6 feet apart from each other, in rows.

Five hundred and twenty star bean plants can be grown per acre, and expenses for hybrid seeds, bags, labour charges. The cost of cultivation, and plant tonic is K120,000 per acre. A farmer can earn K2 millions per year .

For four months after the growing of the star beans, blooming takes place out of the seeds, and at the eighth month the farmers can harvest the beans for sale. Star beans are used for medicine and cosmetics. Organic edible oil is produced from the star beans.

The star beans have been grown on a commercial scale in Keng Tung Township, Tachilek Township, and upper of Sagaing Region.—*Shwe Te Yint (Oaktara IPRD)*

Saplings of Star Beans seen at the plantation. PHOTO: SHWE YE YINT

Crime NEWS

Woman wounded in motorbike accident

A WOMAN sustained injuries in a motorbike accident between mileposts 5/3 and 5/4, near Tarkauk village, Kyaunggone township, Ayeyarwaddy region on Sunday. According to an investigation, a trailer driven by one Hla Myo had a collision with a three-wheel motorbike being driven by Than Chaung alias Than Soe accidentally before the motorbike turned over. The accident injured Daw Mow Swe. The driver has been charged by police. — *Win Kyaing (IPRD*

Yabba seized in Mabein

A LOCAL anti-drug squad in Tachilek seized 2,350 yabba pills from one Min Thu Tun on 14th Street, Wan Kaung ward, Tachilek town, on Monday.

Similarly, police discovered 1,200 yabba pills inside a vehicle being driven by one Kyaw Naing Tun near milepost 0/3, Mabein-Ngar Oh village road, Mabein township, on 6 March.

Futhermore, police seized 837 yabba pills at a house owned by one Khun Maung Hein in Aung Chan Tha ward, Hsi Seng town, on Monday. The police have filed charges against the suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

Min Thu Tun. PHOTO: MPF

Car accident kills two, injures fourteen

A TRAFFIC accident occurred near Wandwin township, Mandalay region yesterday, killing two passengers and injuring 14 more.

According to the police investigation, a vehicle heading for Mandalay from Yangon being driven by one Maung Kyaw Naing Soe, 29, crashed into the back of a Man Shwe Myodaw passenger bus.

The accident killed U Zaw Than Oo, 52, and Ma Moe Thidar on the spot while another fourteen were seriously injured. The injured were rushed to Meiktila general hospital. The driver has been charged by local police.—*Chan Thar (Meiktila)*

Damaged car seen at the site of the accident. PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)

Fire destroys a flat in service quarters

AN outbreak of fire caused by electric short circuiting destroyed a flat at the Dockyard service quarters, ward 4, Kamayut township,Yangon on Tuesday. The accident occurred in the bedroom of U Myo Tint Aung and Daw Khin Swe Oo. The fire took six fire engines and 40 firemen to put out. The police have filed charges against U Myo Tint Aung.— *Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)*

Car accident kills man in Ye U

A VEHICLE being driven by one Thawdar Min Htet, 17, ran over a man who was working on the road. The car lost control on Ye U- Monywa raod, Aung Chan Thar ward, Ye U town on 6 March, causing the accident. The accident killed U Mar Khin, 60, on the spot. The driver has been charged with careless driving by police.— *Than Htet (Ye U)*

LOCAL Business

Tapping sap from a rubber tree. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rubber prices have yet to bounce back from two-year slump

RUBBER farmers in eastern Shan State are facing an array of hardships as the value of rubber has yet to show any signs of appreciating since it began declining in 2014.

"We were issued permits to plant and tap rubber trees, so we are restricted from planting alternative crops to alleviate our woes. People are selling off their rubber plantations because the fall in the value of rubber isn't cost-effective anymore with all the expenses needed to maintain plantations," said Ko Pauk, a rubber farmer from the town of Kengtung. The current price for a kilo of raw rubber from eastern Shan State fetches between K600 and K800, with most of it exported to neighbouring China.

"An acre [of rubber trees] produces on average 800 pounds [of rubber]. Since the price of rubber production doesn't make a profit, we have to give words of encouragement and support to rubber farmers in order to cheer them up," said U Kyaw Zeyar, district head of the Department for Industrial Crops Development in Kengtung.

Eastern Shan State features a total of over 100,000 acres of rubber plantations, with 4,459 acres of rubber trees planted and tapped within Kengtung Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Vietnamese company to build animal feed processing plant in Yangon

THE Myanmar Aqua Feed Association has announced that Green Feed Viet Nam Corporation will team up with the Fisheries and Feed Development Public Company to build an animal feed processing plant in Yangon.

"We are striving to work together with a Vietnamese company to ensure an adequate supply of animal feed within the country. The Vietnamese company and a domestic private company have finished studying animal feed processing plants and the state-owned plants that were shut down by the government," said Dr Thet Hmu, chair of the Myanmar Aqua Feed Association.

Myanmar currently boasts six state-owned feed processing plants and over 10 private enterprises, but a scarcity of raw food materials and financial investment has led to the closing of all the state-owned plants and half of private ones.

Dr Thet Hmu added that three potential locations in Yangon Region—Ywathar Gyi, Myaung Daga and the Thilawa SEZ—are being considered locations for the plant, but a final decision has yet to be made.

The current appreciation in the value of livestock feed has forced some fish breeders in the Ayeyawady Region to build chicken farms on stilts over their fish ponds to supplement their livelihoods as they are unable to afford fish feed anymore.

More animal feed processing plants will be built in other parts of the country, with plans in place for the construction of chicken, swine and fish feed processing plant in Mandalay in 2018, also in partnership with the Vietnamese company.

"The business entrepreneurs who actually follow through with their proposals should be given permission [to build animal feed processing plants]. Regardless of whether they are Myanmar entrepreneurs or locals collaborating with foreign companies, they should be allowed to conduct [their business]. Myanmar will become more technologically aware if [the government] allows business ventures with foreign companies," said U Than Lwin, chair of the Myanmar Fishery Entrepreneurs Association.

Because of shortages of domestic raw feed, 10,000 tonnes of fish feed were imported into Myanmar during the 2014-15 fiscal year from foreign countries, with as many as 30,000 tonnes imported into the country during the current fiscal year.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Demand for animal feed outpaces domestic supply

CHINESE breeders and Thai brokers have increased their demands for animal feed from Myanmar, and they have begun purchasing feed through a competitive bidding system.

Sunflower, bran and maize are the major crops used for animal feed and are collected by both local and foreign brokers.

Therefore, local farmers face difficulties in collecting raw feed for their own farm animals as they cannot buy the feed at the increased rates. Local farmers have been forced to rely on imported animal feed from India and Argentina.

Currently, demands for raw animal feed are greater than the supply in the local market, said Dr Thet Hmu, chairman of the Myanmar Aqua Feed Association.—*Htet Nay*

Five companies granted YSX underwriting licences

THE Securities Exchange Commission of Myanmar (SECM) announced that it has given underwriting licences to applicants that are ready to begin their operations.

Among the 10 companies that were selected by SECM as underwriting companies at the Yangon Stock Exchange, KBZ Securities Co Ltd and Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre Securities Co Ltd were granted licences on 26 February 2016. Aya Trust Securities Co Ltd, CB Securities Co Ltd and KTZ Ruby Hill Securities Co Ltd were licensed on 1 March. The Yangon Stock Exchange was inaugurated on 9 December with plans for six companies to start trading in March.—*GNLM*

Myanmar likely to delay 2.6GHz spectrum auction

MYANMAR'S communications ministry is likely to delay the 2.6GHz spectrum auction scheduled for this month as it now considers finalising the country's spectrum roadmap before moving ahead with the sale.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) is weighing commentary from industry sources calling for the regulatory framework to be completed before the auction is held in late March, the Myanmar Times reported.

"We didn't expect such a range of contrasting views on the process," said Posts and Telecommunications director U Than Htun Aung, noting that the auction may not be completed by the end of March.

Both Telenor and Ooredoo have said the auction should come only after the regulatory roadmap is in place.

The ministry in early February called for 140MHz of 2.6GHz spectrum to be sold on 24 March, with the final auction framework to be released on 22 February. Ooredoo Myanmar CEO Rene Meza said it is still waiting for the auction guidelines.

Meza noted that to conduct "a hasty, insufficiently planned auction is truly putting the cart before the horse".—*Mobile World*

Collection of admission charges changes hands

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation will take charge of collecting admission charges from tourists visiting Bagan, an area of rich cultural heritage, the Ministry of Culture announced.

The transfer was reported having won the government's approval, with the joint general secretary of the MTF saying that the announcement was made to inform its travel agencies.

Last Year, Bagan earned K6 billion (US$4.9m) from 247,140 tourists. Each tourist will have to pay K25,000 ($20) for admission to the Bagan cultural heritage zone.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Japan court rules against operating restarted Takahama reactors

People hold up banners in front of the Otsu District Court in the western Japan prefecture of Shiga on 9 March 2016, to welcome the court's ruling that ordered Kansai Electric Power Co. not to operate two nuclear reactors at its Takahama plant despite their having cleared a set of new safety standards introduced after the 2011 Fukushima disaster. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

OTSU (Japan) — A Japanese district court yesterday ordered Kansai Electric Power Co. not to operate its two reactivated nuclear reactors, delivering a blow to the government's push for nuclear power under new safety requirements introduced after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

In issuing the injunction on the Takahama plant, the first of its kind affecting reactors that resumed operations under the post-Fukushima rules, the Otsu District Court cited "problematic points" in planned emergency responses for major accidents and "questions" remaining on tsunami countermeasures and evacuation planning.

The Takahama plant in Fukui Prefecture is one of two nuclear power stations that are currently online. The injunction will force the operator to shut down the No. 3 unit, which was restarted late January, and keep offline the No. 4 unit whose operation was recently suspended due to equipment trouble. Kansai Electric said it will "swiftly start procedures to file an objection to the court's decision" after confirming the detailed content of the court decision and will "make all-out efforts to have it revoked at an early date."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference that the government will continue to seek the resumption of reactors that have cleared what it calls the "world's toughest (safety) standards."

On whether the court judgment could affect the country's overall nuclear policy, the top government spokesman only said, "I have not heard the details. Anyway, I believe Kansai Electric will first appropriately deal with the issue." The injunction had been sought by residents of neighbouring Shiga Prefecture, a tiny part of which falls within a 30-kilometre-radius of the Takahama plant. The plaintiffs living within 70 km of the complex argued that safety measures are insufficient and that many residents could be exposed to radiation if a severe accident occurs.

While the central government has expanded evacuation preparation areas to a 30-km radius of a nuclear power plant from the previous 10 km, safety concerns remain in Shiga Prefecture because in the March 2011 disaster some people living beyond the 30-km zone around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant also had to evacuate.

Under the revamped safety regulations, which took effect in 2013, utilities are for the first time obliged to put in place specific countermeasures against severe accidents like reactor core meltdowns and huge tsunami — the direct cause of the Fukushima disaster that began on 11 March, 2011. But Presiding Judge Yoshihiko Yamamoto said there are problems even in the latest safety measures, such as in the designing of the quake-resistance standards. And he also criticised Kansai Electric for its failure to offer sufficient explanations regarding the safety of the Takahama plant.

Kansai Electric reactivated the Takahama Nos. 3 and 4 reactors on 29 January and 26 February, respectively. But the process was plagued with problems, with the No. 4 unit shutting down automatically just three days after it was rebooted.

In a separate case concerning the two reactors, the Fukui District Court issued in April last year an injunction banning Kansai Electric from restarting the units, citing safety concerns. But the same court lifted the injunction in December, allowing the utility to resume operations at both reactors. Plaintiffs appealed the court decision to the Kanazawa branch of the Nagoya High Court, where the case is pending. —*Kyodo News*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Philippines to lease planes from Japan to patrol disputed sea

MANILA — The Philippines is to lease from Japan five aircraft to help patrol the disputed South China Sea, President Benigno Aquino announced yesterday, as China expands its military presence in the region.

The Philippine military, for decades preoccupied with domestic insurgencies, has been shifting its focus to territorial defence, allocating 83 billion pesos ($1.77 billion) until 2017 to upgrade and modernise its air force and navy.

Speaking at an air base south of Manila, Aquino said he had done more to build the air force than three previous governments, increasing the number of planes and helicopters to move troops and supplies and guard maritime borders. "All this new equipment will enhance the capability of the air force to guard our territory," Aquino said.

Allies the United States and South Korea have already offered help to bolter air capabilities and Aquino announced the arrival this year of two refurbished C130 transport planes from the United States.

"We are also leasing from Japan five TC-90 training aircraft to assist our navy in patrolling our territories, particularly in the West Philippine Sea," he said, referring to the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea.

He did not say when the Japanese aircraft would arrive.

South Korea has supplied two light fighters and will give 10 more up to 2017, he said, adding that his government would award contracts for six close air support and two long-range patrol planes. Three air surveillance radars are also due be installed.

Already in the military's plans is the acquisition of a squadron of multi-role fighters, air-to-ground missile batteries, early warning aircraft and drones.

The Philippines has made the modernisation of its air and naval forces a priority as China deploys missiles and fighters on a number of artificial islands in the South China Sea.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, where about $5 trillion worth of ship-borne trade passes annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims to parts of the sea.

Last week, the Philippines and Japan signed a deal on the transfer of military equipment and technology, a document Japan needs to allow it to export weapons and guarantee they will not be transferred to a third party.

A Philippine military spokesman, Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla, said the deal for the Japanese aircraft was being finalised.

"We are not yet aware of the actual terms and conditions of the lease agreement, including the cost and duration," he said. —*Reuters*

Over 12,000 aftershocks occurred since March 2011 quake

TOKYO — Over 12,000 aftershocks have occurred in the coastal areas of eastern Japan since a powerful earthquake struck the region in March 2011, the Japan Meteorological Agency said Tuesday.

Quakes that are considered aftershocks of the magnitude 9.0 temblor are becoming less frequent but their frequency is still at double the level before the great quake five years ago and is expected to remain so for some time, according to the agency.

As of Sunday, 12,077 quakes that could be felt by humans had occurred in coastal areas stretching from Chiba Prefecture to Aomori Prefecture and farther offshore.

During the past year, 615 quakes occurred in the areas, compared with 306 on average between 2001 and 2010.

During the first year since the powerful quake, 8,112 temblors occurred, followed by 1,583 quakes in the second year, 1,023 quakes in the third year and 744 quakes in the fourth year.

Many of the quakes that still hit have originated in coastal areas.

Occasionally, however, temblors with a magnitude of 7 or greater hit farther offshore. The agency has not detected a significant change in the number of quakes originating onland before and after the 11 March, 2011, quake.

After Japan was hit by the powerful quake, the agency designated as an aftershock zone an offshore area in eastern Japan stretching about 600 kilometers from north to south and around 350 km from east to west.—*Kyodo News*

North Korea's Kim says country has miniaturised nuclear warheads

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (C) smiles as he guides a test fire of a new multiple launch rocket system in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 4 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the country has miniaturised nuclear warheads to mount on ballistic missiles and ordered improvements in the power and precision of its arsenal, state media reported yesterday.

Kim has called for his military to be prepared to mount pre-emptive attacks against the United States and South Korea and stand ready to use nuclear weapons, stepping up belligerent rhetoric after coming under new UN and bilateral sanctions for its nuclear and rocket tests.

US and South Korean troops began large-scale military drills this week, which the North called "nuclear war moves" and threatened to respond with an all-out offensive. Kim's comments, released yesterday, were his first direct mention of the claim, made repeatedly in state media, to have successfully miniaturised a nuclear warhead, which has been widely questioned and never independently verified.

"The nuclear warheads have been standardised to be fit for ballistic missiles by miniaturising them," KCNA quoted Kim as saying as he inspected the work of nuclear scientists, adding "this can be called a true nuclear deterrent".

"He stressed the importance of building ever more powerful, precision and miniaturised nuclear weapons and their delivery means," KCNA said.

Kim also inspected the nuclear warhead designed for thermo-nuclear reaction, KCNA said, referring to a miniaturised hydrogen bomb that the country said it tested on 6 January. Rodong Sinmun, official daily of the North's ruling party, carried pictures of Kim in what seemed to be a large hangar speaking to aides standing in front of a silver spherical object.

They also showed a large object similar to the KN-08 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) previously put on display at military parades, with Kim holding a half-smoked cigarette in one of the images.

South Korea's defence ministry said after the release of the images that it did not believe the North has successfully miniaturised a nuclear warhead or deployed a functioning ICBM.

That assessment is in line with the views of South Korean and US officials that the North has likely made some advances in trying to put a nuclear warhead on a missile, but that there is no proof it has mastered the technology. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, speaking by telephone to US Secretary of State John Kerry, described the situation on the Korean peninsula as "very tense" and called for all parties be remain calm and exercise restraint, China's foreign ministry said.

North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test on 6 January claiming to have set off a miniaturised hydrogen bomb, which was disputed by many experts and the governments of South Korea and the United States. The blast detected from the test was simply too small to back up the claim, experts said at the time.

The UN Security Council imposed harsh new sanctions on the isolated state last week for the nuclear test. It launched a long-range rocket in February drawing international criticism and sanctions from its rival, South Korea.

South Korea on Tuesday announced further measures aimed at isolating the North by blacklisting individuals and entities that it said were linked to Pyongyang's weapons programme.

China also stepped up pressure on the North by barring one of the 31 ships on its transport ministry's blacklist. But a UN panel set up to monitor sanctions under an earlier Security Council resolution adopted in 2009 said in a report released on Tuesday that it had "serious questions about the efficacy of the current UN sanctions regime."

North Korea has been "effective in evading sanctions" by continuing to engage in banned trade, "facilitated by the low level of implementation of Security Council resolutions by Member States," the Panel of Experts said.

"The reasons are diverse, but include lack of political will, inadequate enabling legislation, lack of understanding of the resolutions and low prioritisation," it said. *—Reuters*

Sri Lanka Prime Minister orders forensic audit of national accounts

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told parliament on Tuesday that he has ordered an International Monetary Fund-assisted forensic audit of the country's national accounts, and announced several new taxes and warned of an impending debt crisis.

He said that the country's government, led by President Maithripala Sirisena, who was elected in January 2015, has found more than $7 billion worth of loans taken have been left out of the national budget by the previous government, and fears that the final figure may in fact be 10 per cent higher.

These loans, taken by state organisations, have been presented as revenue, he said.

Wickremesinghe announced the re-imposition of a capital gains tax, after nearly three decades, but offered no details.

The Colombo bourse, reacting to news that the tax is in the offing, plunged 2.02 per cent on Tuesday, its biggest single day loss in recent years.

The premier said the country was snared in a debt trap and had to break free, but the global economic downturn had reduced space available for maneuver.

As well as the capital gains tax, value added tax will be raised from 8 per cent on services and 11 per cent on goods to a flat 15 per cent with immediate effect.

Lower corporate taxes announced in the 2016 budget last November will be suspended for one year.

The new taxes were announced a week after Fitch reduced the country's credit rating a single notch from BB- to B+, a move attributed to mounting debt and falling foreign reserves.

Sri Lanka is now in talks with the IMF for urgent assistance, but neither side has revealed numbers. *—Kyodo News*

China says takes 'distinctly Chinese approach' to national security

China's President Xi Jinping attends the second plenary session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on 9 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China is taking a "distinctly Chinese approach" to national security with a raft of new laws, including one on counterterrorism, the third-ranked leader said yesterday, offering a strong rebuttal to Western criticism.

The US, Canadian, German and Japanese ambassadors signed a letter dated 27 January, voicing unease about the counterterrorism law, the draft cyber security law and a draft law on management of foreign non-governmental organisations. The ambassador of the European Union Delegation to China sent a letter expressing similar concerns. The cyber security and counterterrorism laws codify sweeping powers for the government to combat perceived threats, from widespread censorship to heightened control over certain technologies.

Critics of the counterterrorism legislation, for one, say that it could be interpreted in such a way that even non-violent dissidents could fall within its definition of terrorism. Zhang Dejiang, who heads China's largely rubber-stamp parliament, told its annual session that China had laid "a solid legal foundation for accelerating the establishment of a national security system and taking a distinctly Chinese approach to national security".

"In the face of a grave and complex situation in the fight against terrorism both at home and abroad, it is of crucial importance that China intensifies its anti-terrorism activities," Zhang said.

"The improvements to our counterterrorism laws will be of great importance for preventing and punishing terrorist activities according to law, for safeguarding national and public security and for protecting lives and property."

He made no direct mention of the criticism. This year China will "work on" the foreign NGO law and cyber-security law, Zhang added, without giving a timeframe for when they might be passed.

China has blamed attacks in its violence-prone far western region of Xinjiang on Islamist militants, though rights groups and exiles say anger at Chinese controls on the religion and culture of the Uighurs is more to blame for the unrest. China denies any repression in Xinjiang.*—Reuters*

OPINION

No research, no development

Kyaw Thura

RESEARCH has long been recognised as an indispensible tool for overall development in emerging economies. At a time when many developing countries are investing heavily in building and enhancing the capacities of their human resources with the support of government institutions and international aid agencies, we must convince donors, policymakers and civil society that research can identify the causes of obstacles to development needs.

However, it should be noted that too much reliance on foreign aid will in the long run weaken our human capacity. Another important thing to keep in mind is that it is unrealistic to enforce development measures in the absence of research priorities. In the first place, the government must take the full responsibility to encourage the establishment of research institutions and recognise the immediate need to increase more spending on extensive research projects in the country's crucial sectors.

With the political climate opening up, the time has come for distinguished academics to sensitise the decision makers to the lack of supportive national policies that assign a high priority to research and development in areas of education, health, economy and agriculture.

All things considered, conducting research is the cause, whereas implementing development is the effect. The onus is on all of us to start learning to distinguish between cause and effect in order to break the cyclical pattern of 'no research, no development'.

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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.

KIDNEYS : A PAIR OF VITAL ORGANS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE

Dr. Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State
Medical Superintendent

WORLD Kidney Day is celebrated in various parts of the world on the second Thursday of March every year since 2006. In that sense, today, March 10, Thursday, is the World Kidney Day 2016. Myanmar being a member of international community, commenced to hold WKD in 2009.

Normally, a pair of kidneys lie within our abdoman at right and left loins (flanks), constituting as essential vital organs, along with brain, heart, lungs, liver and so on. Healthy kidneys are precious not only for humans, but also for animals, as these excrete waste products of metabolism, wear and tear of body functions in the form of urine and keep physiology and haemodynamics normal. Along with lungs (expelling carbon dioxide) guts (defaecation), skin (perspiration), kidneys are essential for life. Should your kidneys fail to work normally, you may land up with dyspnoea and other breathing difficulties and so many ailments including faintings, loss of consciousness which may terminate your life!

There are so many kidney diseases including Nephrotic syndrome, Glomerulonephritis, Chronic kidney disease, Renal cell carcinoma, Acute tubular necrosis, Acute renal failure, Poly cystic kidney disease, Acute interstitial kidney disease and Nephrolithiasis. Out of them, I would like to elaborate two ailments which I encountered most frequently since 1960s up to now during my different assignments at various capacities across states and regions in Myanmar, as well as UNV UNDP carrier around South Asia and the Middle East. These are Renal Stones (Nephrolithiasis) and Acute Renal Failure (ARF), which I choose to mention today.

Acute Renal Failure

Causes of Acute Renal Failure include, (1) Prerenal failure caused by renal hypoperfusion, most often due to dehydration, excessive diuresis, Congestive Heart Failure or any type of shock. (2) Intrarenal (parenchymal disease): Acute tubular necrosis, acute glomerulonephritis, atherosclerosis/ thromboembolism, interstitial nephritis (□□- lactams, H2 blockers, NSAIDs). acyclovir, methotrexte, etc. (3) Postrenal obstruction: Prostate enlargement, bladder or ureteral obstruction (tumors, stones, lymph nodes, clot, fibrosis). Vascular: renal artery stenosis. aortic dissection, renal v. thrombosis.

Prerenal causes account for about one third of cases; intrarenal causes account for about half of cases (ATN is most common cause overall); postrenal causes account for 10 per cent; major vascular causes account for more than 5 per cent. ATN often develops in hospital settings and is multifactorial (hypoperfusion, myoglobin, nephrotoxins, and prerenal causes).

Common Presentaions of ARF are -

- Patient may be anuric, oliguric (less than 30 mL/ hour of urine output), or nonoliguric.

Signs and symptoms of uremia:

- Lethargy
- Encephalopathy, confusion
- Nausea/vomiting
- Fluid overload, edema, heart failure
- Hypertension
- Metabolic aciodosis
- Hyperkalemia and arrhythmias (irregular heart-beats)
- Asterixis
- Pericarditis / friction rub
- Fever may indicate a secondary infection

Diognosis is defined as a rise in BUN and creatinine, measured over hours to days (creatinine rising more than 0.5 when baseline is less than 3 mg/dL and rising more than 1.0 when baseline is more than 3.0).

Treatment is as follows:-

- Correct hydration, lytes, and optimize hemodynamics – Always save 10-20 mL urine for

urinalysis and FENa before giving fluids and diiuretics.

- Discontinuation of offending agents if possible.
- Attempt diuresis with high-dose loop diuretics. Dialysis or continuous hemodiafiltration

(alternative to dialysis) for symptoms of uremia, fluid overload, or hyperkalemia.

- Specific treatments as indicated (i.e., nephrostomy for ureteral obstruction, plasma

exchange in TTP-HUS, steroids in rapidly progressive glomerulonephritis).

Clinical Course of ARF and Possible outcomes. Sudden, often reversible, interruption of renal function: prognosis depends on etiology

- Prerenal azotemia is reversible by definition
- Patients with oliguric ATN usually recover in 1 - 3 weeks
- Patients with contrast nephropathy recover in 3 - 7 days

Mortality in hospital-acquired ATN is still over 50% in surgical patients, due to multi-organ failure. Early response to a rise in creatinine may lead to prevention of ATN in the prerenal patient.

Renal Stone (Nephrolithiasis)

Causes of renal stone are numerous. Calcium oxalate stones are most common cause (65%), others include calcium phosphate uric acid. and stuvite (magnesium ammonium phosphate). Most often it occurs due to increased concentration of stone-forming material in urine either due to increased excretion or decreased urinary volume. Calcium-containing stones are due to increase urinay calcium/oxalate excretion (i.e., excess calcium absorption from bone in primary hyperparathyroidism (increased function of tiny glands in front part of neck). Uric acid stones are common in patients with gout. Struvite stones are usually due to urea-splitting organisms such as Proteus.

Incidence in US is less than 0.5%. lifetime incidence is 10 per cent. Male suffer more than females. Whites suffer more than blacks. Young to middle-aged adults are more prone. Paradoxically, high dietary calcium intake may decrease the risk of stones as it forms ligands with dietary oxalate and phosphate.

Renal stones are not to be mistaken for - Pyelonephritis, Papillary necrosis, Renal cell carcinoma, Back injury/spasm, Broken ribs, Herpes zoster, Dissecting aortic aneurysm, Biliary colic, Pancereatitis.

Signs and Symptoms of renal stone are - Severe, acute, colicky flank pain. Hematuria (stone in kidney) often with radiation to testicle or labia. Severe, acute urethral pain (stone passing through urethra). Nausea/vomiting are common. Dysuria, urgency, and frequency are less common. Obstruction of ureter may result in anuria or acute renal failure in patients with a single functioning kidney : rarely, bilateral ureteral obstruction may occur. Fever/chills and other constitutional symptoms if infection complicates the picture. CVA tenderness (Heart and blood vessel causes).

Diagnosis of renal stone include - A history of flank pain and the presence of microscopic or gross hematuria mandates imaging studies (blood). Urinalysis, urine pH, and urine culture. MRI PAT SCAN Spiral CT and abdominal films may be diagnostic if the stone is radio-opaque (Ca++ - containing stones, struvite, cysteine). Ultrasound and intravenous pyelogram for radiolucent stones, to better localize stones, and to detect obstruction. Search for etiology of stone, especially if recurrent,

- Strain urine and send stone to the lab if possible
- 24-hour urine collection for volume, pH. calcium, citrate, oxalate, phosphorus, uric acid. a m - monium, magnesium
- Serum chemistries and parathyroid hormone evaluation
- Consider many systemic diseases that can contribute to development of urolithiasis

(e.g., gout. enzyme deficiencies, malignancy, sarcoidosis).

Treatment of nephrolithiasis is as follows. Surgically active stone disease (passing a stone) is treated with hydration and analgesics (NSAIDs, narcotics). Stones too large to pass require external shock wave lithotripsy, cystoscopic or ureteroscopic laser lithotripsy, stenting, basker retrieval, or urolithetomy. Admit to hospital if patient is unable to keep fluids down or pain is not adequately managed. Treat infection if present. Prevention via increased water more than 3L/day). Directed treatment depending on type of stone

- Limit sodium intake and thiazide diuretics for, Ca++ - containing stones with hypercalciuria.
- Dietary oxalate reduction if hyperoxaluria
- Alkalinize urine and allopurinol if hyperuricosuria Penicillamine for cystinuria.

To mention Prognosis and Clinical Course of renal stone, 90 per cent of stones less than 4 mm pass spontaneously. Less than 10% of stones, over 6 mm pass spontaneously. Prognosis depends on the type of stone and the primary cause for stone formation. Recurrence is very common – 14 per cent at one year after first stone and 75 per cent at 20 years. All patients should be counseled to increase water intake after passing their first stone.

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Chilli production likely to drop this season

A woman harvesting Chilli in Kalaw. PHOTO: THIRI

CHILI production is estimated to drop this season as pepper plantations across Ayeyawady Region have been seriously damaged by Spodoptera mauritia, a caterpillar that feeds on rice, locals say.

"We used more fertiliser to kill the pests, but they spread to the whole plantation and destroyed both leaves and fruits," said farmer Ngu Wah. "Most fertilisers cannot kill the pest."

The caterpillar has destroyed chili plantations in the region over the last two years, she added.

She also said she believes the outbreak of Spodoptera mauritia is linked to climate change.

Caterpillars have destroyed not only pepper plantations but mung bean and green gram cultivations in the region. Three or four plants are destroyed by the caterpillar every night, according to local farmers.—*Thiri*

Traditional boxing contest coming to Bilin

A TRADITIONAL boxing competition will take place at a pagoda festival in Bilin, Mon State, in third week of March.

The event is scheduled to run from 22 to 23 March. During the two-day contest, local boxers will compete with popular young fighters from other Myanmar boxing clubs.

According to the schedule, Saw Htoo Aung (Doeyoeya) will face Mike Mike (S.T.L); Aung Zeya (Cement Factory) will face Saluka (Aung Myanmar); Win Tun (T&L) will face Thura Ye Aung (Swan Kay Kay) in the ring on 22 March.

On 23 March, Min Htet Aung (Doeyoeya) will face Lelgyi (S.T.L), Saw Yan Paing (Cement Factory) will face Pho Ther Gyi (T&L).

Tickets for the event are priced at K3,000 per person.—*Min Thawda Lwin*

Villagers in Natmauk short of funds for digging tube well

PEOPLE in Indaw village, Natmauk Township, Magway Region, are facing a shortage of funds for the digging of a tube well.

The village has been digging a 900 foot deep tube well as another 35 year old well cannot provide sufficient water today. Villagers are seeking funds from donors to finish the works.

Currently villagers are carrying water from other villages by bull-cart.

There are 120 households and 600 people in the village. Those wishing to donate funds will have to contact either 09 – 256197223 or the Indaw village committee. —*Chanthar (Meikhtila)*

A tube-well being dug in Indaw village, Natmauk Township.
PHOTO: CHANTHAR (MEIKHTILA)

Lenovo to open mobile shops in Yangon, Mandalay

Lenovo

WITH the aim of providing better services for customers, Lenovo, China's leading mobile phone manufacturer, plans to set up mobile shops in Yangon and Mandalay as well as other commercial cities across Myanmar, according to a company spokesperson.

In cooperation with the KMD Group of Companies, Lenovo officially launched its first mobile-only shop in Myanmar Plaza in Yangon on Monday, displaying Lenovo and Motorola smartphones for sale. The sales centre will help customers purchase Lenovo's latest mobile devices and accessories at their correct prices, said Daw Tin Tin Aye, president of the KMD Group of Companies.—*Chan Chan Ko*

KIDNEYS : A PAIR OF VITAL ORGANS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE

>> from page 8

I would like to apologise for unavoidably using some medical terms, which I am sure may bore you. Ignoring these unfamiliar technical usage, may I present some take-home-messages in a simple and digestable language:-

- kidney diseases are not uncommon in the community
- kidneys are precious for every person
- dialysis is costly and not accessible to all
- kidney transplants are not easy procedures for damaged kidneys
- donors' kidneys are often rejected by the recepient, unless donor is a close relative,
  immediate brother or sister or a twin.
- early diagnosis is crucial.
- Consult immediately your doctor for even trivial urinary complaints. Your doctor will
  screen and refer appropriate patient to a nephrologist or urologist for further management.
- Live a healthy life style with copious drinks; avoid reno-toxics including diets.
- Avoid smoking, betel squids, moderete alcohol
- Last but not the least, avoid consuming *Danyinthee* for God's sake.

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent
Ex United Nations Volunteer Medical Officer (UNV MO) UNDP

US says in talks to base long-range bombers in Australia

A B-1B Lancer strategic bomber takes off from Ellsworth Air Force Base, in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn in Libya. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY/WASHINGTON — The United States is in talks to base long-range bombers in Australia, US defence officials said, within striking distance of the disputed South China Sea, a move that could inflame tensions with China.

The deployments could include B-1 bombers and an expansion of B-52 bomber missions, said Lt. Col. Damien Pickart, a spokesman for the US.Air Force in the Pacific, stressing that discussions were continuing and no decisions had yet been reached.

"These bomber rotations provide opportunities for our Airmen to advance and strengthen our regional alliances and provide (Pacific Air Forces) and US Pacific Command leaders with a credible global strike and deterrence capability to help maintain peace and security in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region," said Pickart. The United States does not currently fly B-1 bombers from Australia, but does conduct periodic B-52 missions.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull declined to comment on the discussions.

"I can just assure you that everything we do in this area is very carefully determined to ensure that our respective military forces work together as closely as possible in our mutual national interests," he told reporters yesterday. Should an agreement be reached, it would position further US military aircraft close to the disputed South China Sea and risk angering China, analysts said.

"China will see it in the context of the (Australian Defence) White Paper which they have already mentioned that they expressed a certain degree of dissatisfaction," said Euan Graham, director of the International Security Program at Sydney-based think tank, the Lowy Institute.

China's Foreign Ministry expressed concern.

"Cooperation among relevant counties should protect regional peace and stability, and not target the interests of third parties," spokesman Hong Lei told a daily news briefing.

Australia last month committed to increase defence spending by nearly A$30 billion ($22 billion), seeking to protect its strategic and trade interests in the Asia-Pacific as the United States and its allies grapple with China's rising power. The potential stationing of B-1 bombers in Australia was raised by US officials last year, but Australia's then Defence Minister said they had misspoken. China claims almost all of the South China Sea, but Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam have overlapping claims.

Tensions between the US and China have been inflamed in recent weeks. The US Navy has carried out freedom of navigation exercises, sailing and flying near disputed islands to underscore its rights to operate in the seas.

Those patrols, and reports that China is deploying advanced missiles, fighters and radar equipment on islands there, have led Washington and Beijing to trade accusations of militarising the region. General Lori Robinson, talking to reporters in Canberra, said the US would continue to conduct exercises through the disputed waterway, while calling on Australia to conduct similar freedom of navigation exercises.

"We would encourage anybody in the region and around the world to fly and sail in international air space in accordance with international rules and norms" the Australian Broadcasting Corporation quoted Robinson as saying. —*Reuters*

Buckingham Palace dismisses report that Queen Elizabeth backs EU exit

LONDON — Buckingham Palace yesterday dismissed as "spurious" a newspaper report that Queen Elizabeth backs a British exit from the European Union, saying the monarch remains politically neutral.

Under the front-page headline "Queen backs Brexit", *The Sun* newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying that Elizabeth had made her opposition to British membership of the EU clear on at least two occasions over the past decade.

"The Queen remains politically neutral, as she has for 63 years," a spokesman for the queen said in an emailed response.

"We will not comment on spurious, anonymously-sourced claims. The referendum is a matter for the British people to decide," the spokesman said.

Opinion polls show voters are divided over membership ahead of a 23 June referendum so even the perception that Elizabeth may favour an exit from the 28-member bloc could be damaging for the campaign to keep Britain in. *The Sun*, owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp, cited unidentified sources as saying that Elizabeth had abruptly told then Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg at a Windsor Castle lunch in 2011 that the EU was heading in the wrong direction.

Clegg dismissed the report as nonsense. "I've no recollection of this happening & its not the sort of thing I would forget," Clegg said on Twitter. The newspaper, British's best selling daily which has repeatedly criticised Britain's EU membership, also said the monarch told lawmakers at a separate meeting that she did not understand Europe. When asked for comment on the Palace's denial, a spokesman said: "*The Sun* stands by its story, provided by a very credible source."

Less than a week before the 2014 Scottish independence referendum, Elizabeth said she hoped Scots would think carefully about the future, a comment which was interpreted as giving support to those seeking to preserve the United Kingdom. —*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Suspected car bomb kills 3 police in Somali capital — police

MOGADISHU — A vehicle packed with explosives blew up next to a cafe near a police building yesterday in the Somali capital Mogadishu, killing three police officers, a police commander said.

"Three police officers died in this car bomb," Ali Mohamed Hirsi, the commander of Mogadishu police, told reporters at the scene, where blood was visible near the tea shop frequented by officers. "The police officers were among police being trained." —*Reuters*

Mexico finds stolen radioactive material, says no risk posed

MEXICO CITY — A container of radioactive material for industrial X-rays that was stolen in Mexico more than a week ago has been located and poses no risk to people, the interior ministry said on Tuesday.

"It is important to note that the radioactive source was found inside its covering, which means it did not present a risk to the population," the ministry said. A small yellow container of Iridium 192 was stolen from a pick-up in the municipality of San Juan del Rio. It was found on a highway in the central State of Mexico, the ministry said in a statement.

The material was classed as a Category 2 radioactive source, meaning that if not managed properly, it could be fatal to someone exposed for a period of hours to days.

In December 2013 and April 2015, radioactive material was also reported stolen in Mexico.—*Reuters*

Gov't declares state of natural disaster

BELGRADE — The Serbian government declared on Tuesday a state of natural disaster in 15 municipalities in Serbia due to severe flooding.

The state of natural disaster is in place in the municipalities: Cacak, Novi Pazar, Kraljevo, Arilje, Lucani, Topola, Pozega, Bajina Bassta, Ivanjica, Raska, Ljig, Raca, Kosjeric (Seca Reka, Godecevo i Makoviste), Prijepolje (Aljinovici, Pravoseva, Milosev Do, Stranjani, Milakovici, Kamena Gora, Mataruge, Jabuka and Babine) and Trstenik, the government's press office said in a statement.

The government adopted a conclusion, setting up an operations headquarters of the national emergency situations headquarters.

So far, 710 households have been inundated and 118 people evacuated in the 15 municipalities due to torrential floods.

The national weather institute expects heavy rains to continue.—*Tanjug*

Tunisia forces kill six militants in border town raid: army

TUNIS — Tunisian troops have killed six Islamist militants during a raid in Ben Guerdan, the town on the Libyan border where at least 55 people died during an attack on Monday by Islamic State fighters, the army said yesterday.

The military operation late on Tuesday on a house in Ben Guerdan also recovered weapons and at least ten other people have been arrested, a security source said.—*Reuters*

Russian pilot died as cargo plane crashes into sea in Bangladesh

DHAKA — A cargo plane yesterday morning crashed into the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Bangladesh's southeastern Cox's Bazaar district, some 292 km away of capital Dhaka, leaving one of its Russian pilots dead and two others missing, local police said.

Sadhan Kumar Mohanta, manager of Cox's Bazaar Airport, told Xinhua that the pilot who is a Russian national died in the crash and another pilot was critically injured.

Two crew members were still missing, he said, adding a search and rescue operation is under way.

The cargo plane crashed into the sea minutes after taking off from the Cox's Airport at about 9:05 am (local time) on Wednesday. The cargo plane of Russian True Aviation, which is registered here locally, was carrying spawns of shrimps from Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar to southwestern Jessore district, some 164 km away of capital Dhaka. Details of the crash could not be ascertained immediately.—*Xinhua*

Clouds over Indonesia obscure total eclipse of the sun for many

PALEMBANG — A solar eclipse enthralled Indonesia yesterday but clouds over some parts of archipelago spoiled the view for many of the skywatchers who had the opportunity to see it in totality.

In Palembang city on the western island of Sumatra where the total eclipse should have been visible, cloudy skies and smog obscured the view for thousands of people who gathered outside shortly after daybreak.

"It was very annoying that we couldn't see the sun properly," said David Pratama, 18, as jeers of disappointment rose up in the crowd around him as the moon moved across the sun.

A partial eclipse of the sun was visible to millions in Australia, parts of Southeast Asia and the Pacific, but only people in a small band of Indonesia had the opportunity to see the moon perfectly silhouetted by the sun.

A combination photograph shows the beginning to the end (top L to bottom R) of a total solar eclipse as seen from the beach of Ternate island, Indonesia, on 9 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

In the capital, Jakarta, hundreds of residents and school children flocked to city's planetarium where special viewing glasses were handed out to see the partial eclipse.

"We are very excited because it's our first time seeing something like this," said Santi who brought along her five-year old daughter to watch as the eclipse briefly dimmed the skies.

Indonesia last saw a total eclipse in 1983 and it will be 33 years until the next one, according to the meteorological agency.

The world's next total solar eclipse will occur in August 2017 and be visible in the United States, according to NASA.

The rare astronomical phenomenon drew thousands of tourists to Southeast Asia's biggest economy, which is hoping to double its foreign tourist arrivals to 20 million by 2019.

A solar eclipse happens when the moon casts a shadow on the earth as it passes between the earth and the sun. A partial eclipse, more frequent than total eclipses, is when the earth passes within the penumbra of the moon.—*Reuters*

China signals price cuts for cancer drugs, imports

SHANGHAI — China has signaled its intent to cut prices of medicines used to treat serious diseases such as cancer, part of a wider drive to reduce the cost of healthcare for patients in the world's second-biggest economy.

The National Health and Family Planning Commission is negotiating a pilot programme with drug firms to lower the price of five drugs, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday, citing Li Bin, the head of the commission.

The high cost of healthcare is a major point of contention in China, where low levels of state health insurance coverage means patients and their families often burn through savings to buy drugs to treat chronic disease.

"We are taking measures to satisfy people's need for drugs, especially to resolve issues of high-priced patented drugs and patients unable to afford medicines," Li said on the sidelines of the National People's Congress (NPC) in Beijing.

China's drive to lower the price of drugs is one of the main challenges facing drug firms in the world's second-largest medicine market, where growth has slowed markedly over the past couple of years. Beijing is also supporting domestic firms to take a bigger share of the market.

Li said the pilot scheme would seek to reduce the price of the five drugs by over half, adding the drugs were currently expensive because they were patented or imported. She did not name the drugs or the companies which made them.

China's cancer drug market is led by Swiss firm Roche Holding AG, followed by China's Qilu Pharmaceutical, Jiangsu Hengrui Medicine, Jilin Aodong Pharmaceutical Group and Britain's AstraZeneca PLC, Deutsche Bank said in a 2015 report. —*Reuters*

Immune system compound can kill respiratory virus in babies

LONDON — Researchers at the University of Edinburgh have found that a compound produced by the body's immune system can kill a virus that causes serious respiratory illness in babies, according to a study published Tuesday by the university.

Around a third of all children become ill from RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) infection before the age of two. RSV infection causes a respiratory illness called bronchiolitis in young children that results in breathing difficulties and wheezing.

Researchers found that the compound, called cathelicidin, directly attacks virus particles, stopping them from binding to and infecting the body's cells.

Mice that cannot produce cathelicidin are more susceptible to RSV, but treating them with the compound at the same time as infection with RSV stops the animals from becoming ill, according to the researchers.

The study also showed that healthy adults who produce lower levels of cathelicidin in their nose are more susceptible to RSV infection. The results suggest that the compound could prove useful as a therapy for people, the researchers say.

"Our study shows that boosting the body's natural defences could be a useful therapeutic approach to stop RSV infection from turning into a life-threatening infection in babies and vulnerable adults," said Dr Donald Davidson, from the university's MRC Centre for Inflammation Research. —*Xinhua*

Dancing may reduce risk of dying from heart disease

SYDNEY — Moderate intensity dancing, like moderate intensity walking, is tied to a lower risk of dying from cardiovascular disease, according to a new study.

"It is not surprising that moderate-intensity physical activity is protective against cardiovascular disease mortality," said lead author Dafna Merom of the University of Western Sydney in Australia.

"I actually was surprised that light-intensity dancing was not protective; I would expect that if the benefits of dance can be attributed to the social and affective aspect of dancing than I would expect light-intensity dancing to be beneficial," Merom told Reuters Health by email.

Merom and her colleagues pooled 11 population surveys form the UK between 1995 and 2007, including more than 48,000 adults age 40 and older with no heart disease at baseline.

The surveys included questions about frequency, duration and intensity of dancing and walking over the previous four weeks. These answers were linked to the National Death Registry.

Only about 3,100 of the 48,000 people surveyed reported dancing of any intensity. Two-thirds of the group said they walked at any intensity.

People who danced tended to be younger, have a lower body mass index, were less likely to have long-standing illnesses and got more overall physical activity than non-dancers.

During follow-up, there were 1,714 deaths due to cardiovascular disease. People who reported moderate intensity dancing and walking were less likely to die from cardiovascular disease than those who did not, even after accounting for age, sex, socioeconomic status, smoking, alcohol use, body mass index, chronic illness, psychosocial distress and total physical activity, as reported online now in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine.

The minimum recommended amount of moderate-intensity activity is 150 minutes a week, but this pooled analysis did not include a direct measurement of how much people were dancing, Merom said.

"I would advise for those who find walking somewhat boring or those that like to challenge themselves to try dancing," she said. "First, you can reach higher intensity than in walking while dancing, it may be for short intervals but this all adds up, and you get some of the benefits associated with vigorous-intensity physical activity."

"But dance is also hard on the brain, as it is a highly coordinated activity and requires skills and learning," she said.

All styles of dance tend to have slow or quick tempo options, and the quicker the better for heart health, Merom said.

A ballet dancer performing on blocked shoes during a classical class at the Prix de Lausanne in Lausanne. PHOTO: REUTERS

"A large body of literature over 60 plus years shows that energy expenditure from physical activity reduces risk of cardiovascular disease," said Dr I-Min Lee of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, who was not part of the study. "We now increasingly realise that how this energy is expended — from walking, biking, swimming, dancing, playing with children, etc. — doesn't matter, so long as it is moderate in intensity."—*Reuters*

Clash between countries stymies aviation emissions talks

WASHINGTON/MONTREAL — International aviation talks have hit a roadblock over a plan to limit carbon emissions for aircraft in a clash between developed and developing countries on how they view their responsibilities, two sources familiar with the matter said.

High-level officials from the European Union, the United States, China, and others are scrambling to devise the plan before a meeting of the United Nations aviation agency's governing council in May.

A special meeting has been called for April in Montreal for policy makers from about a dozen countries to confer on the plan, which would achieve carbon-neutral growth in the aviation sector from 2020 onwards, the sources said on condition of anonymity because the talks are confidential.

The market-based plan must win the support of the International Civil Aviation Organisation's 190 member countries at a September assembly, or risk the EU breaking off talks and imposing its own emissions trading scheme on international airlines.

While other transportation modes, such as the maritime industry, are also discussing ways to limit emissions, the world's attention is now centered on aviation — a sector that would be the world's seventh largest carbon emitter if it were a country.

Aviation was excluded from the landmark climate accord in Paris in December when countries agreed to limit the rise in global temperatures to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

A passenger aircraft makes its landing approach at dusk at Heathrow airport in west London, on 7 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"In the past year, the spotlight was on Paris. Now it's on Montreal," said Annie Petsonk, international counsel at the Washington DC-based Environmental Defence Fund.

Yet the aviation talks are being stymied by a challenge that's dogged UN climate negotiations for nearly two decades — how to deal with the "common but differentiated responsibilities" of developed and developing nations.

Developing countries with fast growing aviation sectors such as China and India want more latitude to produce emissions than developed countries, which are growing more slowly but were responsible for generating the bulk of the industry's historic greenhouse gases.

According to a report by New Climate Economy, most future global air traffic will come from Latin America and Asia. In 1993, more than 73 per cent of all traffic was carried by airlines in Europe or North America. By 2033, that share is expected to shrink to 38 per cent.

"It (the clash between developed and developing countries) will be a very big problem, especially with China," said one European Union official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But while the Paris talks resolved those clashes by treating wealthier and poorer nations differently, a two-tiered aviation deal could violate ICAO's own principle of non-discrimination in the organisation's founding treaty, the Chicago Convention.

It also risks giving a competitive advantage to airlines that have significant global market share but are registered in "developing countries", legal experts have argued.

Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport, said last week that countries are struggling to fairly divide responsibilities for emissions obligations.

"The proposal on the table at ICAO aims to take care of that by sharing the burden of decarbonization across all the actors," said Bulc in an interview with Reuters in Washington DC.

Bulc said global leaders are working behind the scenes to resolve the dispute. She's suggested ICAO look at the way the EU handles the issue of burden-sharing, where its richer member states take on different responsibilities than poorer countries like Greece.

"In Europe we also learned that you have to take the specifics of certain countries under consideration."—*Reuters*

Locals eating radioactive food 30 years after Chernobyl: Greenpeace tests

MOSCOW — Economic crises convulsing Russia, Ukraine and Belarus mean testing in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster has been cut or restricted, Greenpeace said, and people continue to eat and drink foods with dangerously high radiation levels.

According to scientific tests conducted on behalf of the environmental campaigning group, overall contamination from key isotopes such as caesium-137 and strontium-90 has fallen somewhat, but lingers, especially in places such as forests. People in affected areas are still coming into daily contact with dangerously high levels of radiation from the April, 1986 explosion at the nuclear plant that sent a plume of radioactive fallout across large swathes of Europe.

"It is in what they eat and what they drink. It is in the wood they use for construction and burn to keep warm," the Greenpeace report, entitled "Nuclear Scars: The Lasting legacies of Chernobyl and Fukushima" says.

The research report seen by Reuters ahead of publication yesterday said Ukraine "no longer has sufficient funds to finance the programmes needed to properly protect the public... this means the radiation exposure of people still living in the contaminated areas is likely increasing."

Ukraine is suffering economic hardship, worsened by a pro-Russian insurgency in its eastern territories, while Russia and Belarus are also experiencing financial pressures. The report found that in some cases, such as in grain, radiation levels in the contaminated areas — where an estimated 5 million people live — had actually increased.

"And just as this contamination will be with them for decades to come, so will the related impacts on their health. Thousands of children, even those born 30 years after Chernobyl, still have to drink radioactively contaminated milk." Russia's ministries of health and natural resources did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on the report. In Ukraine, the health, agriculture and ecology ministries did not immediately respond.—*Reuters*

A containment shelter for the damaged fourth reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant is seen from the abandoned town of Pripyat, Ukraine, on 23 April 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-506)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-506) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2016 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

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

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Philippine president denies militants in south are linked to Islamic State

MANILA — President Benigno Aquino denied yesterday that Islamic State-linked militants are operating in the southern Philippines, describing armed groups in the area as mercenaries who are looking to raise funds from abroad.

A handful of small but violent Islamist militant groups in the south have posted videos in social media pledging alliance to Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria and displaying the trademark black flag.

"It's difficult to call them Islamic State groups," Aquino told reporters at an air base south of Manila, adding the groups were not driven by ideology nor religion.

"We believe it is mercenary reasons that are prompting them to do this."

Aquino said local groups have been staging attacks in the south to draw attention to themselves and raise funding from the Middle East, especially from Islamic State. Last month, the army and air force fought a small Muslim rebel group, which claimed to have links with Islamic State militants, in Lanao del Sur province. About 40 rebels and five soldiers died in the nine-day battle.

On Monday, Ebrahim Murad, head of the main Muslim rebel group talking peace with government, warned that Islamic State was trying to gain a foothold in the Philippines by taking advantage of the non-passage of a new Muslim autonomy law.

"We are concerned that they can capitalise on this because of the frustration of the people in the area is now very strong," Murad said at a new conference in Kuala Lumpur, where his group held talks with government negotiators. The government's chief peace adviser, Teresita Deles, shared the Muslim rebel leader's opinion about possible penetration of Islamic State militants in the south.

"We agree that the frustrations of the people on the ground can lead to recruitment for radical extremists," she said, adding the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are working together to curb the spread of extremism.—*Reuters*

Trump takes Michigan in repudiation of Republican establishment

DETROIT — Republican front-runner Donald Trump racked up primary wins in the big prize of Michigan and in Mississippi on Tuesday, brushing off a week of blistering attacks from the party's establishment and expanding his lead in the White House nominating race.

In the Democratic contest, Bernie Sanders stunned front-runner Hillary Clinton in a narrow Michigan primary upset, giving his upstart campaign new energy. Clinton won in Mississippi, but Sanders' victory is seen as likely to ensure a prolonged fight to pick a candidate for November's general election.

Trump's convincing win in Michigan restored his outsider campaign's momentum and increased the pressure on the party's anti-Trump forces to find a way to stop the brash billionaire's march to the nomination ahead of several key contests next week.

The 69-year-old New Yorker built his victories in Michigan, in the heart of the industrial Midwest, and Mississippi in the Deep South with broad appeal across many demographics. He won evangelical Christians, Republicans, independents, those who wanted an outsider and those who said they were angry about how the federal government is working, according to exit polls.

Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the Madison County School District on 7 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

At a news conference afterward, Trump said he was drawing new voters to the Republican Party and the establishment figures who are resisting his campaign should save their money and focus on beating the Democrats in November.

"I hope Republicans will embrace it," Trump said of his campaign. "We have something going that is so good, we should grab each other and unify the party."

The results were a setback for rival John Kasich, governor of Ohio, who had hoped to pull off a surprise win in neighbouring Michigan, and Marco Rubio, a US senator from Florida who has become the establishment favourite but lagged badly in both Michigan and Mississippi and appeared unlikely to win delegates in either.

Trump said Rubio's recent attacks on him had backfired.

"Hostility works for some people; it doesn't work for everyone," the real estate magnate said at a news conference in Jupiter, Florida.

Ted Cruz, a US senator from Texas whose recent victories have positioned him as the prime alternative to the brash billionaire, won the party's primary in Idaho. But Trump suggested his rivals had little hope going forward, and took particular aim at Cruz.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULNATEE VOY NO (02/16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (02/16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 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.

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(3 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-085(15-16)	Spares for ATLAS COPCO Compressor (8) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-086(15-16)	Spares for 50 Ton QY 50K Mobile Crane (53) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-087(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Hot Bend (1) Lot	US$
(4)	IFB-088(15-16)	Projector, Computer, Printer, Amplifier, Sound Box and Cordless Mic (5) Items	US$
(5)	IFB-089(15-16)	Auto Voltage Regulator and Constant Speed Mixer with Microprocessor (2) Items	US$
(6)	IFB-090(15-16)	1 1/2" Pitch Quardruple Chain (ANSI Standard) with Connecting Link Cotter Pin Type (2) Items	US$
(7)	DMP/L-016(15-16)	Core Drilling Machine/Atomic Absorption Spectrometers & Binocular Microscope (3) Items	KS
(8)	DMP/L-017(15-16)	Dell Server and Accessories (1) Set	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 4-4-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 7TH March, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
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'Harry Potter' author explores North American magic in new writing

LONDON — Fans of "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling are in for a treat this week when her digital publisher website Pottermore releases a series of four pieces of writing about wizardry entitled "History of Magic in North America".

The writings, posted at 1400 GMT each day from Tuesday to Friday, are meant to set the scene for the highly anticipated "Harry Potter" spin-off movie called "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them", which is due for release in November.

Tuesday's offering, entitled "Fourteenth Century — Seventeenth Century", takes readers "back through the centuries to reveal the beginnings of the North American magical community and how witches and wizards used magic before they adopted wands," Pottermore said.

Wednesday's piece will look at "the dangers faced by witches and wizards in the New World" and Thursday's will reveal "why the Magical Congress of the United States of America (MACUSA) took steps to move the magical community deeper underground".

Author JK Rowling. PHOTO: REUTERS

Friday will take readers to the "Roaring Twenties", when the new movie "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" starring Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne is due to begin.

"These stories will give you some idea of how the wizarding world on this continent evolved over the years, and of the names and events that lay the foundation for the arrival of 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'," Pottermore told Rowling fans.

In the movie Redmayne plays "magizoologist" Newt Scamander, "who stops in New York following his travels to find and document magical creatures", according to Warner Bros.

A "magizoologist", in Rowling's make-believe universe, is somebody who studies magical creatures.

The story is set in 1926 — decades before Rowling's fictional boy wizard Harry Potter begins his adventures at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

The film, based on Rowling's "Harry Potter" accompanying volume "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them", marks the best-selling author's screen writing debut.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Kylie Jenner's 6th cosmetic line sells out in 15 minutes

LOS ANGELES — Reality TV star Kylie Jenner sold out her sixth 'Kylie's Cosmetics' including her original 'Lip Kit By Kylie' in just 15 minutes.

The 18-year-old "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" star sold out her entire beauty range, which saw a replenishment of her debut lipstick and lip liner duo Kylie Candy K, Dolce K, True Brown K as well as her most recent additions Posie K, Koko K, Mary Jo K and 22, reported Us Weekly.

The youngest member of the Kardashian-Jenner clan took to Instagram to share her success. She wrote: "We sold out in 15 minutes today! And we only keep making more every time! Thank you for all the love and support, I will keep bringing beautiful and amazing quality products to you guys!"

The brunette beauty has been building her title as a businesswoman on this project for two years — which has seen her personally involve herself in the creative process by venturing into the labs — and every time she launches a new collection they do not fail to sell out immediately. Now, Kylie has teased she still has more "in store" for her fans.

"Hehe I have something fun in store for you guys coming very soon and if you missed out this time.. All updates and restock info will always be posted on my app. The link for my app is in my bio. I love you guys! We did it! @kyliecosmetics#kyliecosmetics (sic)."—*PTI*

Force awakens for 'Star Wars' with 11 MTV Movie Award nods

Moviegoers wait before the first showing of the movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" at the entrance of a movie theatre in Tokyo, Japan, on 18 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — It may have been snubbed at the Oscars but the Force awakened on Tuesday for the current "Star Wars" blockbuster with the film gaining a leading 11 nominations for the upcoming MTV Movie Awards.

Breakout British star Daisy Ridley, 23, led the way for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," getting nods for best female performance, best hero and best fight in the Walt Disney movie that has taken more than $2 billion at the worldwide box office.

John Boyega, 23, was nominated for best breakthrough and best action performance for his role as turncoat Stormtrooper Finn, and the movie will also compete for movie of the year and best cast ensemble at the fan-based awards show in April.

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" failed to win any of its five Oscar nominations in February — mostly for visual effects and editing — and failed to get a best picture nomination.

The MTV Movie Awards however, are all about fans. "It's about blockbuster movies that audiences line up to see; comedies, superheroes, science fiction, fantasy action," the show's executive producer, Casey Patterson, said in a statement.

The MTV Movie Awards are known for their irreverent humor and categories like best kiss and best villain. This year Oscar winner Leonardo DiCaprio will compete in the best fight category for his tussle with a ferocious bear in the movie "The Revenant," as well as for best male performance.

Hit box-office action movie "Deadpool" got eight nominations, including for its stars Ryan Reynolds and Morena Baccarin.

The 2016 MTV Movie Awards will be handed out in Los Angeles at a ceremony hosted by Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart and broadcast on 10 April on MTV.—*Reuters*

The title of my next film is not 'Eve': Amitabh Bachchan

NEW DELHI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has revealed that the title of the Shoojit Sircar-produced movie, which he is shooting in the capital is not "Eve", contrary to reports.

There were a lot of speculation regarding the title of the film being directed by Bengali filmmaker Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, who makes his Bollywood debut with the project.

Bachchan, 73, said that the title of the film has not been decided yet.

"Many rumblings and speculation on the title of the film shooting now in Delhi of Shoojit Sircar .. To be 'EVE' .. wrong !! No title fixed yet .. But will in a few days," Bachchan wrote on Facebook.

The actor also cleared the air about the look he is sporting in the film, saying the images that have appeared online are not of the character he plays in the movie.

"Also many speculate that this be my look in the film ... WRONG ..! This be my look at the airport from Mumbai to Delhi," he said.—*PTI*

David Bowie's teenage daughter inherits USD 25 million

NEW YORK — Rocker David Bowie's teenage daughter Alexandria will inherit USD 25 million on her 25th birthday.

The rock iconic lost his battle with cancer in January at the age of 69, and on Tuesday it was revealed the "Fame" hitmaker had put aside USD 25 million for each of his two children, reported New York Daily News. Filmmaker Duncan Jones, Bowie's 44-year-old son with his first wife, actress Angela Barnett, will inherit his share in the coming weeks, while Alexandria, the singer's child with wife Iman, will have to wait another 10 years to receive her funds.

Veteran estate and probate lawyer Peter Valente was appointed Alexandria's legal guardian at the request of her mother during a hearing in Manhattan Surrogate Court in New York.

Bowie left the remainder of his USD 100 million fortune to former supermodel Iman, his wife of 24 years, while he left her their apartment in Manhattan's trendy Soho district, too.—*PTI*

Hand-made birdcage family workshop in China's Guangxi

LIUJIANG — A woman moves finished birdcages at a family workshop in Baipeng Town of Liujiang County, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 8 March 2016. Left-behind elders and women here, whose young relatives work in big cities, have supported the birdcage weaving industry, which can produce more than 500,000 birdcages every year with annual production value exceeding 10 million yuan (1.535 million US dollars).
PHOTO: XINHUA

Increasing number of foreign residents join disaster drills in Japan

SENDAI — Nearly 60 per cent of local international exchange groups across Japan have held disaster drills with foreign residents taking part, a leap from seven years ago, a tally by Kyodo News showed Tuesday.

Of 62 international associations, 56.5 per cent, or 35 groups, have had foreign residents in the regions join emergency training, a jump from 31.1 per cent in a similar survey conducted in 2009 by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, an organisation supporting the exchange groups. The survey was conducted in February ahead of the fifth anniversary of the March 2011 massive earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan.

Disaster drills included cooking at evacuation centres, first aid and providing information in multiple languages, the survey said. In Japan, foreigners are designated as people requiring assistance during disasters by the government, along with elderly and disabled people.

In the 2011 disaster, at least 41 foreign people, including Chinese, South Koreans and Filipinos, lost their lives mainly in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures that were hit hard by devastating tsunami, according to a survey by the welfare ministry.

The number of foreign residents in Japan, except for special permanent residents who come from the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan — both under Japanese rule before World War II — and their offspring, stood at around 1.82 million as of last June, according to the Ministry of Justice.—*Kyodo News*

Model Naomi Campbell receives award on International Women's Day

JAFFA — Model Naomi Campbell receives the "Women Leading Change" award on Tuesday from former Israeli President Shimon Peres at an event to mark International Women's Day at the Peres Centre for Peace in Jaffa.

Campbell said her mother, who travelled to Israel with her, was her inspiration and as a single parent had sacrificed a lot for her.—*Reuters*

Model Naomi Campbell.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Priceless treasures to be exhibited to celebrate Cambridge University library's 600th anniversary

LONDON — From a tiny 4,000-year-old cuneiform tablet to Stephen Hawking's draft typescript of A Brief History of Time, about 80 most valuable books and manuscripts will be exhibited at the Cambridge University library for its 600th anniversary.

The exhibition will open to public on 11 March and run until 30 September. About 80 objects will be displayed in the exhibition, while 70 per cent of them are displayed to the public for the first time.

Among the precious exhibits, 17 pieces of 3,000-year-old Chinese oracle bones will be one of the highlights of the exhibition.

Charles Aylmer, head of Chinese Department of the library, told Xinhua the text on one of the bones was asking about the sacrifice of an ox to an ancestor. He said British diplomat Lionel Charles Hopkins collected some oracle bones when he was in China, and donated 614 Chinese oracle bones to the library in 1952.

The first 3D print of the Chinese oracle bone in the world will also be shown in the exhibition, and visitors could handle it to get an idea of what oracle bone is really like, but it is a little heavier than the original, he said.

There are six different themes focusing on distinct exhibits covering communication, genetics, religion, gravity, literature and anatomy.

In the theme of communication, a tiny cuneiform tablet used as a receipt for wool, dating to 2039 BC, will be on public display for the first time in this exhibition. The oldest printed book in the library, a Chinese Buddhist book printed from a wooden block, dating back to 1107, will be exhibited in the religion section.

The genetics section will include a caricature of Darwin examining a remarkably familiar-looking ape in the "Gallery of Ancestors," painted shortly after the publication of Origin of Species, and his primate tree of 1868 in which he first controversially proposed that man and other primates share a common ancestor.

British physicist Isaac Newton's own copy of the first edition of Principia Mathematica, interleaved with numerous additions and corrections in his own hand will be displayed in the gravity section.

Objects such as the founder of modern human anatomy Andreas Vesalius's 3D manikin of human body, and works by Copernicus, Galileo and Jocelyn Bell Burnell will go on display for the first time.

"It's extraordinary to think that the university library, which started in 1416 as a small collection of manuscripts locked in wooden chests, has now grown into a global institution housing eight million books and manuscripts, billions of words, and millions of images, all communicating thousands of years of human thought," said University librarian Anne Jarvis. Cambridge University library, with its more than eight million books, journals, maps and magazines, and two million books immediately available to readers, makes it the largest open-access library in Europe. —*Xinhua*

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10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Hanlin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
10:51	Am	Black Gold (P - I)

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	To My Dream City (Part- 1)
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Community Based Tourism Development
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
08:40	Pm	Now in Myanmar
08:46	Pm	Myanmar Oustanding Lady "Thin Zar Phyo"

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday 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

(10-3-2016, Thursday)

6:00 pm
- Weather Report
- Music Programme

6:20 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:40 pm
- Sea Games Song

7:00 pm
- Korea TV Drama Series

7:50 pm
- Korea TV Drama Series

8:40 pm
- Cartoon Programme "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE (Part- VIII)"

9:00 pm
- Weather Report

9:10 pm
- Music Programme

9:20 pm
- English Premier League (Review) (Part – 2)

10:00 pm
- Myanmar Video

From 10-3-2016 (Thursday)18:00 Pm
To 11-3-2016 (Friday)18:00 Pm
This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

2nd Waxing of Tabaung 1377 ME | Thursday, 10 March, 2016

Myanmar's fighting art of Lethwei

IN the old days, droves of spectators gathered in communal theatres around rural Myanmar to witness just one thing — Lethwei, the nation's bareknuckle combat sport.

A martial art that welcomes headbutts, chokes, and raking knuckle strikes, Lethwei is classified together with the grappling art of Naban, the counterattacking martial art of Bando, and the weapon-wielding sport of Banshay under the banner of Thaing — Myanmar's sacred martial arts.

Although the sport's fearless fighters would do battle, akin to Muay Thai kickboxers, to the tempo of traditional Myanmar music, Lethwei differentiates itself from similar martial arts from around the region such as Muay Lao from Laos, Tomoi from Malaysia, and Pradal Serey from Cambodia, simply by its raw nature that lacks gloves, headgear, and other protective equipment.

Lethwei exponents too perform a ritual dance, known as the lat kha maung, before the violence. At the signal of the referee, opponents with their fists wrapped in nothing but cloth go at it until one person is knocked out or unable to continue fighting — Lethwei has no points system.

"One of my favourite techniques is where I push a guy to the ropes and head butt him as he returns. You can also knock your opponent out by slamming him to the ground or throwing him off the ropes," shares Lethwei practitioner Sam Htut.

"In the clinch when the guy falls to the ground, you can bury your head under his chin and knee him in the stomach, which is also a legitimate technique," he adds.

The sport also teaches charging combinations including a knee with a simultaneous punch, or a rising knee that forces its recipient to receive a downward elbow too, which make its practice and exhibition quite the spectacle. Sometimes, a competitor cannot continue because of blood that blinds his eyes. Some Lethwei organisations stipulate that a competitor can only wipe the blood from his eyes three times before the fight has to be stopped.

Lethwei fighter Sam Htut throws a low kick against his opponent in a sand-filled ring. PHOTO: REUTERS

This brand of entertainment brings together Myanmar of various classes and communities. Its fights are open to all, from teachers to street brawlers. Traditionally, its champions would issue open challenges, welcoming anyone to have a go at them at these boisterous affairs.

"Lethwei is an ancient martial art and is the legacy of our ancestors," remarks Win Zin Oo, one of Myanmar's most prominent Lethwei teachers from the famed Thut-Ti Lethwei Gym. "Lethwei is part of the culture and lifestyle of Myanmar's rural people, especially those from the Kayin and Mon states."

In the 1950s, the unification of Lethwei across Myanmar began. Fighters were then encouraged to compete under rules that highlighted safety, as well as necessitated protective gear and a modern boxing ring – an obvious effort to render Lethwei more palatable to a new generation of audiences.

"Lethwei today is in essence the same. Before, the boxers had to fight till there was a winner and a loser. It sometimes took hours to see a result. Nowadays, professional fighters fight only five rounds. If there is no KO, TKO, or retirement, the result is proclaimed a draw. Basically, this new system is aimed at reducing permanent injury," says Win Zin Oo.

The recent lifting of international trade sanctions previously imposed on Myanmar was a pivotal moment in Lethwei and martial arts history, which saw the world exposed and oddly enchanted by this brutal and simultaneously graceful martial art.

Despite its harsh nature, Lethwei values humility and respect above all, and Lethwei gyms have begun spreading all over the world, with foreign practitioners embracing it as an effective fighting skill and an homage to the wisdoms of traditional martial arts.

"One of the most effective and exciting standing fight systems which is not that known to the world, the philosophy of Lethwei is to be humble like a lamb in normal life, but to be brave like a lion in the ring," says Win Zin Oo.

Sam Htut adds that "Lethwei fighters are some of the toughest and kindest fighters I have ever seen. In Lethwei, you will never see the kind of trash talking that the UFC has."

Speaking of the UFC, another fast-growing sport that has also exhibited an undeniable ability to attract large audiences is mixed martial arts (MMA), which has crossed paths with Lethwei in recent times through ONE Championship, Asia's largest MMA promotion.

In fact, this March ONE Championship will be returning to Yangon to hold a large-scale event named ONE: Union of Warriors, which will feature Myanmar's very own "Burmese Python" Aung La N Sang and Lethwei fighters making the transition to MMA.

However, with ONE's very different ruleset and strict safety regulations, the challenge would be for these Lethwei fighters to adapt this brutal art they've been watching and practicing for decades to modern MMA and a global audience.

While Myanmar martial artists are proud that Lethwei is now appreciated by a larger global audience, they also look forward to how the sport would evolve in the presence of global forces such as MMA.

An inevitable evolution of every martial art, the metamorphosis of Lethwei could also be seen to reflect the former military junta's advancement and gradual acceptance of the ways of the outside world.—*Reuters*

A professional Lethwei fight in action. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ronaldo leads Real Madrid into Champions League last eight

MADRID — Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo was the scourge of AS Roma again as he inspired the hosts to a 2-0 win and a place in the Champions League quarter-finals on Tuesday, scoring and setting up a goal Rodriguez to seal a 4-0 aggregate victory.

The Portugal forward, top scorer in the competition this season with 13 goals, netted for the sixth time in three games in all competitions by finishing off substitute Lucas Vazquez's cross at the near post after 64 minutes.

Four minutes later Ronaldo, who put Real on the way to a 2-0 win in the first leg of the last-16 tie with a stunning strike, released Rodriguez with a delicate pass and the Colombia forward prodded the ball between the legs of keeper Wojciech Szczesny.

"It was a difficult game even though some people didn't expect it would be, but in the end we achieved our objective, which was to go through, and we didn't concede a goal," Real coach Zinedine Zidane told a news conference.

Real's Keylor Navas kept his sixth straight Champions League clean sheet to move ahead of former Manchester United stopper Edwin van der Sar with the second-longest run in the competition without conceding a goal and is now unbeaten in 540 minutes. —*Reuters*

Giroud, Walcott shine as Arsenal reach last eight

HULL — Holders Arsenal kept up their bid for a hat-trick of FA Cup trophies, marching into the quarter-finals as Olivier Giroud and Theo Walcott netted twice in a 4-0 replay win at second-tier Hull City on Tuesday.

France striker Giroud had not scored in his 11 previous games but made the most of a terrible back pass after 40 minutes and then doubled the lead with 20 minutes remaining following a sharp volley from close range.

Walcott sidefooted the ball home to make it 3-0 before his low drive capped Arsenal's first win in six games. Victory though came at a cost for Arsenal, who face Watford in the last eight, as defenders Per Mertesacker and Gabriel and midfielder Aaron Ramsey were forced off through injury.

"I'm a bit shocked, we lost our two centre backs in the game and we lost Aaron Ramsey," manager Arsene Wenger told BT Sport following his team's sixth match in a hectic 18-day spell.—*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar

"Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629."