THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 263, 7th Waxing of Pyatho 1378 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Wednesday, 4 January 2017

Independence Day message from the president

The following is the translation of the message sent by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Independence Day.—*Ed*

Esteemed national brethren of the Union,

On the auspicious occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend affectionate and respectful greetings to all our national brethren and wish you fulfillment and contentment.

Myanmar is the motherland where our national brethren live in unity in successive kingdoms of magnificence and grandeur for millennia, occupying a proud position in the world.

Myanmar became a colony in the late 19th century when the colonialism had a strong influence all over the world. Throughout the colonial period when Myanmar lost its independence and sovereignty, all the national people motivated by a strong genuine Union Spirit and an intrepid National Spirit fought against the colonists and they had to make best endeavour and take risk on the way to regain the independence.

On the 4th of January, 1948, Myanmar regained its independence and sovereignty. Today is the 69th anniversary of the regaining of independence for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. After the independence,

due to certain causes, there had been suspects and conflicts among the fellow national races, resulting in disruption to the development of the state.

Despite regaining independence, it was tragic to see certain national races in some regions could not fully enjoy the fruits of independence as their future was overwhelmed by armed crisis. At present, those doubts and crisis were extinct and all the national brethren are trying hard to possess everlasting peace and to build a Federal State. The Government is trying to implement the national reconsolidation and State peace process by holding the 21st century Panglong Peace Conference. It was obviously found that the armed struggles lasted for long but could not solve the political crisis, only leaving the country undeveloped for decades. Therefore, it is greatly important for all the national brethren to keep an eye on the 21st century Panglong Peace Conference at which all of us can cooperate and find solutions to the national reconsolidation and union peace.

Taking lessons from the past time issues, all the national brethren build mutual respect and understanding among peers and unhesitatingly carry out the national duties: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national unity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

As constitution is the foundation of all the laws and plays a vital role in a country, we all must collaborate to adopt the constitution appropriate to the time and circumstances of current situations in building a democratic federal nation with the criteria of democratic system.

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PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR & SAW THEIN WIN

Investigation Commission on Maungtaw releases its interim report on 3 January, 2017 ▶ SEE PAGE 2

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STRENGTH OF MYANMAR
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Investigation Commission on Maungtaw released its Interim Report on 3 January, 2017. Following is the full text of the interim report

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Investigation Commission on Maungtaw
6th Waxing day of Pyatho 1378 ME
3rd January 2017

Interim Report of the Investigation Commission on Maungtaw

Introduction

1.This Maungtaw Region Investigation Commission was established with 13 persons by Presidential Order No.89/2016 dated 1-12-2016. It was tasked to investigate and find out the background situation and uncover the truth about the terrorists attacks which occurred on 9th October, and 12th and 13th November, 2016 and also to make an assessment and give recommendations to prevent such incidents from occurring again in the future.

2. The Commission held three meetings, went on a field trip for the first time to the 10 villages and 4 Security Camps, and interviewed Security Police, Government Staff, Administrative Organizations, villagers from different community based organizations, and community elders. It also issued two Press Releases.

Incident on 9th October 2016

3. At about 1:30 am on 9th October, 2016, about 100 violent attackers carried out a surprise attack on No. 1 Border Outpost Headquarters (Kyikanpyin) in Maungtaw Township. Meanwhile, at 3:30 am, about 30 armed men attacked the Kotankaung Border Outpost in Yathedaung Township and at 4:30 am, about 50 armed men attacked Ngakhuya Border Outpost using guns, machetes and slingshots for shooting iron projectile. In the surprise attacks, nine policemen were killed and six policemen, a wife of a policeman and one civilian were injured, and assorted arms including 52 arms and ammunition were lost. Two violent attackers were captured with one hand-made weapon and eight bodies of attackers were found.

Incident on 12 November 2016

4. At about 6:45 am on 12 November, 2016, when combined troops comprising members of the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force arrived near Mayintaung Village, about 70 violent attackers armed with guns, machetes and spears came out from hiding in the forest and ambushed the troops. In the fighting, one soldier was killed and an officer and another soldier were injured. Six violent attackers were found dead and one gun and some ammunition were seized in the incident. Upon arrival at Pwintphyuchaung Village at 10:30 am, the security forces found that some houses were on fire. At 10:55 am, violent attackers detonated a mine on a bailey bridge near Maunghnamataung Village, attacking a convoy carrying police and employees of the Immigration and Population Department and also fired at the convoy. At 2:15 pm, about 800 violent attackers armed with guns, machetes and spears came out of Gwazon Village and nearby villages and attacked security forces, killing one commanding officer and injuring two soldiers. As the troops were under attack, two MI-2 helicopters fired on the violent attackers to disperse the attackers. At 3:20 pm, armed attackers carried out a mine attack on a car carrying police at Phawkitaung Bridge. Violent attackers also carried out a mine attack on a convoy carrying security forces at 4:50 pm.

Incident on 13 November 2016

5. At about 9 am on 13 November, border guard police and security forces conducted an area clearance operation in Gwazon Village and found about 50 burnt houses. In the operation, seven attackers armed with machetes carried out a surprise attack on the security forces and the security forces returned fire, killing six attackers. At 1:00 pm, as border guard forces entered Dargyizaung (Taung) Village, they were ambushed by 25 attackers armed with clubs and machetes and the security forces returned fire killing 19 violent attackers. About 4:30 pm, acting on a tip-off that about 10 violent attackers were in Wabeik Village, security forces conducted an area clearance operation in the village. Violent attackers withdrew from the village during the operation and security forces found burning houses and extinguished them. In the incident, one mosque and several houses were not burnt.

Persons who took a Leading Role in the Maungtaw incident

6. Violent armed attacks in the Maungtaw region were conducted by Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO)-linked Aqa Mul Mujahidin that operated in Maungtaw region. The leader of the group is Havid Tuhar, alias Arpu Hamad Zooluni, 45, a religious and racial extremist residing in Kyaukpyinseik village, in Maungtaw township. He attended a 6-month training programme conducted by Taliban extremists in Pakistan. Havid Tuhar sometimes used to live in a village near Teknaf in Bangladesh as well, taking asylum as a refugee who received monetary subsidies from organizations from Middle East countries. Those who cooperated with him were 12 people, including a Pakistani named Khalip, who resides in Bangladesh, who had been in Ngakhura village; Ibrahein, Azar and Arab Tular who are residing in the Kutapalong refugee camp in Bangladesh; Zubai and Islam, who are residing Nilar refugee camp. Starting five months ago, they entered Maungtaw region under the arrangement of Havid Tuhar. They conducted terrorist trainings to radicalised youths organised by Havid Tuhar, according to the confessions of three men who were arrested — Mamad Nurar, Mamad San and Phosolarmauk. After the armed attack, Havid Tuhar posted propaganda video files at least ten times to join him to launch wars in the Maungtaw area.

"Listen to me, all Rohingyas! If you want to save our Rohingya brethren residing in Rakhine State, come here, without living in your homes only. We will wage war. You are men. Never be afraid of death!" they announced their statement in the file.

"Havid Tuhar (a) Arpu Hamad Zooluni, the leader of terrorist group in Maungtaw region's propaganda first video file (12/10/2016). PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR

The significant things about the present incident in Maungtaw region

7. The present situation in Rakhine State is different from the previous armed attacks in that area. Previous incidents were conflicts among local people. The present situation is the kind of armed attacks harming the sovereignty of the State, conspired systematically by terrorists after 2012. As they are found to have connections with overseas organizations, it is more complicated.

8. The present incidents have been found to be a conspiratorial terrorist attack designed so that the international community will take an interest in the matter that has been manipulated by extremist organizations at home and abroad and by war-experienced persons subsidized by destructive elements who wanted to instigate the people.

9. According to confessions of the arrested suspects, it was found that some people and organizations from abroad are giving monetary aids with the intention of igniting riots and conflicts in the country.

Assessment on External Allegations

10. As regards the external allegations, the commission made special investigations. The Bengali population residing in Maungtaw region, the increasing population of Mawlawi, mosques and religious edifices are proof that there were no cases of genocide and religious persecution in the region.

11. The Commission made special investigations into the allegations that there were rape cases, illegal arrests, torture and arsons in Bengali villages. Responsible security personnel performing their duties in those villages submitted that they have been ready to take legal action against those who committed crimes if there was sufficient evidence.

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Security forces are trying to control the fire at a house in Wabeik Village. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

State Counsellor addresses meeting on Rakhine State Stability

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses meeting on stability and development of Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the meeting on Stability and Development of Rakhine State at the Presidential Palace yesterday afternoon.

In her address, the State Counsellor said that the central committee for development of Rakhine State was formed at the end of May as the affairs of Rakhine State are so sensitive. As a result, the Rakhine State Advisory Commission, led by Dr Kofi Annan, has been formed. However, the situation in Maungtaw District has worsened since the 9th October violent attacks. The government has placed an emphasis on the stability of Maungtaw District at present as well as Rakhine State in the long run. However, it should be cautioned that a new problem always occurs whenever stability has been restored in the region and it is important that the problems should be resolved in a correct manner and accusations should be refuted with the truth. In conclusion, the State Counsellor urged the central committee to address the issues with accountability.

Later, the secretary of the central committee reported on the implementation of the decisions of the previous meeting.

The Vice Chairman of the Central committee, Union Minister for the Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung reported to the meeting on situation on Rakhine State, measures taken by respective ministries for the state and development of the region.

Another Vice Chairman of the central committee, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu, reported on the situation on relief and resettlement and requirements for regional stability.

Afterwards, Chairman of the Stability and the Rule of Law, Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on security affairs of the state.

Later, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Chairman of the Citizenship Scrutiny Committee, reported on issuance of the NVC cards. Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Chairman of the Resettlement and Social Development Committee, and Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chairman of the Committee for International Cooperation and Cooperation with UN Agencies, reported on work done and future plans.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by the State Counsellor.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor entertains members of Italy-Myanmar Friendship Association with Traditional Foods

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for photo together with members of the Italy-Myanmar Friendship Association. PHOTO: MNA

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, entertained 38 members of the Giuseppe Malpeli Association for Italy-Burma Friendship led by Ms Albertina Soliani with Myanmar traditional foods at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

After greeting each member of the association individually, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shared Myanmar cuisine, exchanged presents with the members and posed for photos with her guests.

The Giuseppe Malpeli Association for Italy-Burma Friendship includes members of the Italian Parliament such as Albertina Soliani, a senator, plus lawyers, engineers, teachers and students.

The association was formed in Parma, Italy in 2004. The aim of the association is to cooperate with Myanmar in the sectors of education, development of children and women and strengthening the democratic system of the country.

The association has donated money for the construction of a school and given subsidies to construct an HIV Center to improve the health sector. The present trip is to consult with authorities for further cooperation.

"Especially, there are cooperation in 3 sectors — education, development of children and women and strengthening the democratic movement," said U Thura Tun of the association.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Independence Day message from the president

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In line with the development of democracy, we believe that there will become a new democratic country where all citizens can enjoy the essence democracy: freedom, equality and justice.

As peace grows in the country, we can promote socio-economic development simultaneously and help all the nationalities feel secure, providing their basic needs with full cooperation between the government and the people of all national races.

Thus, I would like to urge all the national people to work in unity for the realization of the following four objectives of the 69th anniversary celebration of the Independence Day with commitment to build a Federal Democratic State, the common destination of our national brethren, successfully:

— to build a genuine Union in future in accordance with the mutual agreement of the 21st century Panglong Peace Conference;

— to safeguard non-disintegration of the union, non-disintegration of national unity, perpetuation of sovereignty through efforts of all national people;

— to strive for the emergence of appropriate state constitution in accordance with norms of democracy to build a federal democratic state;

— to strive for the betterment of economic development among regions and states equally in accordance with the objectives of the State's economic policy.

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Concerning the claims that women were raped, the Commission interviewed local villagers and women using various methods, finding insufficient evidence to take legal action up to this date. As to the arsons, investigations are under way to get sufficient evidence. Illegal arrests and torture are also being investigated.

Condition of Security and Rule of Law

12. There are now cases of abduction, threats and killing of those suspected to be informants and those who cooperated with the governmental departments and organizations. As terrorists are easily entering villages in the Maungtaw area, the conditions are unsafe. Weapons looted from police outposts are still in terrorist's hands. Handmade mines were seized from their hidden places. These can be assumed to be threatening the security and rule of law of the area. It is found that it will take time to perform the tasks of making the area safe, peaceful and stable, and for people living in the area to reside in peace and safety.

13. Upgrading socio-economic development, increasing their income and creating economic opportunities in the area will take time. For the time being, the economic status of most of the people in the area is low. The whole state can be said to be poor.

No cases of malnutrition were found in the area, due to the area's favourable fishing and farming conditions.

14. The Commission managed to make arrangements in consultation with the Rakhine State Cabinet for sellers and buyers to perform their daily routines in a normal way by opening bazaars, for students to learn as usual by opening schools, for humanitarian aid groups to help local villagers by allowing them to do so and for members of the media to freely go and cover the news as they wish. Now that the Maungtaw region border gate has been reopened, 26 village bazaars and the two Township Development Committee-run markets are operating again as normal. Likewise, 171 schools out of 183 have been reopened.

15. Ten detainees who were found to be innocent of committing crimes in the attacks have already been released under section 169 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Under consultation with authorities from various departments and the Rakhine State Cabinet, legal action was taken against 485 suspects in 49 cases. Of them, 28 cases have been put on trial with 3 coming to a final conviction.

Conclusion

16. The Commission is carrying out its duties, being ever mindful that, as per the nature of these conflicts, illegal activities and fabricated rumors and news can appear occasionally.

(Unofficial Translation)

Press release on killing civilians by violent attackers issued

Teacher U Than Tun receives treatment for injuries at Maungtaw Hospital.
PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

THE Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office issued a press release yesterday on the abduction and murder of dozens of civilians by violent attackers in recent months.

According to the press release, Maung Maung Soe, also known as Runamya, of U Shekya Village, was found dead at the house of Kaflatula in the same village with 12 wounds on his hips, throat, neck, shoulders and left arm at 1 am on 5 October.

In another incident, Mammud Tarli of the same village was found dead with 19 wounds on various parts of his body about 500 yards east of the same village on 5th October.

In yet another act of violence, a body was found on 14th October with 19 wounds on the back and hip.

On 4th October, U Than Tun, Khaing Thaw and another villager were shot while they were feeding cows in Kanthaya Village in Maungtaw, injuring U Than Tun.

In an another incident on 25 October, Maung Aye Win and four other people who were feeding cattle in a pasture were attacked by six people armed with swords and spears, but the attackers had to flee as security forces arrived at the scene.

On 7th November, 15 people including Gorzimauk arrived at the house of Nummaud on 7th November and beat people at the house and abducted two sons of Nummaud before setting fire to the house and fleeing the scene. When security forces arrived, one of the sons of Nummaud, Mammaud, 18, was found dead with 13 wounds on various parts of his body.

On 13th November, U Shwe Maung and his wife Daw Shwe May, while travelling to Maramagyi Village, were attacked by Harmate Tusaung of Forke (South) Village and eight other accomplices, injuring U Shwe Maung.

In an another incident on 17th November, Jarma, also known as Zaw Mar from Gawduthera (West) Village, was invited by Harbi Eula of the Gawduthera (South) Village but failed to return home and was found dead with fatal wounds to his throat.

On 13th December, about 17 people who were assumed to be violent attackers abducted Harbi Roman.

On 16 December, a man named Kalavolta of Thawunchaung Village and his family were threatened by Mawli Zupai with death as they had informed authorities to the arrest of Harbi Roman.

Du Marmud, the village librarian of Ngakhura (Middle) Village, who answered questions of journalists on 21 December, was killed on 23 December with many wounds on his body.

On 25 December, Shawphi, clerk of the village administration office, was found dead with wounds on various parts of his body.

On 26th December, Zia Su Hut, former 100-household head in Watkyein Village (North) was found dead without any visible injuries after reports of his disappearance. On Monday, the head of 100 households U Hla Tun of Mingyi Village went missing. On the same day, Swaydu Armi, 30, who was fishing at Ngasarkyu Creek, never returned home, prompting his family to search for him. They found out his body with injuries to his throat.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Farmers ask compensation for destroyed land

FARMERS will submit a letter of complaint to the president this week seeking compensation for agricultural land damaged by the activity of boats on the river near Kan Ni Village, Bago Township, Bago Region, it is learnt.

About 13 local farmers complained to authorities on 18 October 2016 that boats in the river that were dredging sand to be used in construction were allowing river water to flood into farmland, rendering it unusable. An investigation team conducted a field trip in November. The sand-collecting businessmen were also interrogated by the investigation team, said a local farmer.

"The investigation team interrogated only the sand-collecting businessmen. The sand from river bank has been collected with big boats since 2012. There are over 50 acres of land destroyed by the sand-collecting activity. The farmers want back the value of their destroyed agricultural land. Also, they don't want the sand-collecting activity near their agricultural land," said U Aye, a local farmer from Kan Ni village, Bago Township.

The investigation team was formed with the director from the environmental conservation department as the head and two employees from the general administration department, two from the directorate of water resources and improvement of river systems and two from the district land records department as members.

"According to the complaint letter, we went to the field and checked but we did not find any damage that they mentioned in the complaint letter. So, we need to interrogate the farmers, too," said U Aung Myo, assistant supervisor of the directorate of water resources and improvement of river systems.

The authorities issued licenses to extract sand from the Bago river to four businessmen from Kawa township and three businessmen from Bago township in 2016-2017 fiscal year.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Man murdered in Maungtaw

THE body of a man from Linbargon Village, Maungtaw Township, was found face down in the mud beside a creek with cuts on his neck on Monday, according to news released by the State Counsellor's Office Information Committee.

Swaydu Armi, 30, left home to fishing in the Ngarsarkyi Creek around 6 pm on 28 December and never returned, according to his family.

Family members searched for him and he was found dead in the creek about 400 yards south of the village around 3.30 pm on Monday.

The police are investigating the case, said the information committee.— *GNLM*

Stimulants seized in Kutkai and Tangyang

AN anti-narcotic squad from the Namphatka outpost searched a motorcycle driven by Kyin Saw with Yan Yon Kyun on board and found 2,000 stimulant tablets in front of the Aung Myin Thu petrol pump, Namphatka village in Kutkai township on Sunday.

On Monday, an anti-narcotic squad from Tangyang searched a house owned by Aik Myint and found 1,700 stimulant tablets in Naungzel village, Lonpon village-tract in Tangyang township.

Police filed charges against the three suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Kyin Saw with Yan Yon Kyun. PHOTO: MPF

Stimulants seized in Lashio and Hpa-an

ANTI-NARCOTIC suppression squad 24 from Lashio searched a house on Awayyar Street in Ward 12 in Lashio on Sunday owned by Lee Myin Hwar and found Aik Lyan in possession of 545 stimulant tablets.

On the same day, an anti-narcotic suppression squad from Hpa-an searched a house owned by Win Zaw on Kyar Inn Myo Pat Street, Ward 9 in Hpa-an and found 234 stimulant tablets.

Police have filed charges against the three suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Aik Lyan and Win Zaw. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

Stock trading at YSX hit about Ks70 billion in 2016

THE value of stock trading at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) reached about Ks70 billion in 2016 and the share prices of three listed companies rose a bit on 2nd January 2017.

The share price of First Myanmar Investment (FMI) bounced back to Ks1,400 per share from a drop to Ks13,500 on 2nd January, whereas that of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) also rose from Ks4,400 to 4,500. Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) share price reached up to Ks9,600 on 2nd January 2017.

The share prices of FMI and MTSH remained unchanged on 3rd January 2017 while the share price of MCB slipped to Ks9,300 per share.

A total of 8,148 shares were traded on 3rd January with a stock trading value of Ks 55,340,900. The stock trading volume is up from 5,768 shares on 2nd January.

First Private Bank (FPB) is the fourth company to be listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) and its stock trading will began on 20th January, according to an announcement released by YSX. Additionally, educative efforts that explain the advantages of stock trading are needed in order to gain widespread public interest, said an observer. —*Ko Khant*

Normal trade exports up by $390m, but border trade exports down by $80m

A file photo shows trucks run near 105-mile Muse border Trade Zone, northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

THE value of exports through normal trade as of 23rd December is up by US$397.177 million, whereas that through border trade is down by $89.791 million when compared to the similar period of last fiscal year, according to Commerce Ministry statistics.

The export value through normal trade as of 23rd December hit $4,886.635m, but border trade was $3,101.392m, it is learnt.

The external trade value as of 23rd December in this fiscal year amounted to $19,175.444m, which is down from $19803.95mil in the last fiscal year, with a total export value of $7,988.027m and an import value of $1,1187.417m. In the similar period of the last fiscal year 2015-2016, the total export value was $7,680.641mil and the import value was $12,123.309mil.

The drop in trade value this year is attributed to government efforts in trying to reduce imports, except for essential items, in a bid to reduce the trade deficit, according to the second five-year National Development Plan. The import value exceeded the export value, resulting in nearly $3,200m in trade deficit.

Myanmar is currently conducting border trade with neighbouring countries through these border trade camps: Muse, Lweje, Chin Shwe Haw, Kan Pike Tee, Kengtung, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung, Maese, Sittway, Maung Taw, Tamu and Reed.

The border trade value as of 23rd December in this FY was down by $15.318mil compared to last FY, slumped by $407.046mil in Muse, $7.196mil in Keng Tung, $8.484mil in Kawtahung, $0.560mil in Htee Khee and $1.252mil in Sittwe. The remaining border trade camps managed to boost their trade value.—*Mon Mon*

Over 8,000 fair-cost apartment units to be developed in Mandalay within three years

MANDALAY Region Urban and Housing Development Department will develop 8600 fair-cost apartment units within three years commencing from next fiscal year 2017-2018.

Currently, 560 units of Myayinandar fair-cost apartment developed by the above said apartment will be sold on 4th January through draw lots and there are over 7,000 applicants so far as of 30th December 2016.

In a bid to fulfill the requirements of the applicants, the department will continue to develop more apartments depending on the department budget. The apartments will be sold in turn for those who do not won the draw lots, said U Aung Kyaw Oo, the director of the Urban and Housing Development Department.

Myayinanda fair-cost apartments developed by the Construction Ministry. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

A total of 7,640 people consisting of 5,252 civil staff, 1,146 retired civil staff, 530 company staff and 712 low-income people applied to purchase the apartment units.—*Myitmakha News agency*

Pakistan proposes to purchase Myanmar's rice under G to G system

PAKISTAN proposed to purchase Myanmar's rice under the government-to-government (G-to-G) system, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar is making a concerted effort to attain more international market access so as to boost the rice export volume to foreign countries. Myanmar's rice export market will land a new destination after Pakistan and Myanmar enter into a G-to-G agreement.

Myanmar exported 12,518 tonnes of rice and parboiled rice worth $3.626 million and 32,075 tonnes of broken rice worth $8.765 million to Indonesia, Singapore and the countries in European Union and Africa from 10th December to 16th December.

The export volume in the week of 18th to 24th December dropped by 10,153 tonnes when compared to that in the previous week. Myanmar exported 2,365 tonnes of rice and parboiled rice worth $0.854 million to China, Russia, Brazil and European Union countries.

Similarly, the export volume of broken rice also decreased. A total of 4,795 tonnes of broken rice worth $1.276 million to European Union Countries and the export volume of broken rice was down by 27,280 tonnes than that of last week. Over 34,120 tonnes of rice worth $11.701million were exported to China through Myanmar-China border trade camps: Muse; Chin Shwe Haw and Lweje, and the export volume was up by 8,826 tonnes than that of previous week.

However, the export volume of broken rice through Muse and Lweje border trade camps decrease by over 600 tonnes, according to the Commerce Ministry.—*Ko Htet*

China navy confirms carrier conducted drills in South China Sea

BEIJING—China's sole aircraft carrier conducted drills in the South China Sea, the navy said, days after neighboring Taiwan said the carrier and accompanying ships had passed 90 nautical miles south of the island amid renewed tension between the two sides.

The Soviet-built Liaoning aircraft carrier and accompanying warships sailed round the east coast of Taiwan in what China called a routine exercise complying with international law.

The carrier's J-15 fighters conducted flight exercises in "complex sea conditions" on Monday, the People's Liberation Army Navy said on its official microblog late the same day.

The carrier group also ran helicopter exercises, it said, but did not give details on the exact location.

China claims most of the South China Sea through which about $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. Neighbors Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also have claims.

The drills also come at a time of heightened strain with self-ruled Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own, following US President-elect Donald Trump's telephone call with the island's president that upset Beijing. Last month China conducted its first ever live-fire drills using an aircraft carrier close to Korea and announced on 25 December that the Liaoning and its accompanying fleet would carry out what it called routine exercises in the Western Pacific. Taiwan's Defence Ministry said on 26 December that the Liaoning and five accompanying ships had entered the top half of the South China Sea after passing south of Taiwan, and later docked at a base on China's Hainan island.

The flotilla raised alarm in Japan when it steamed between the Japanese islands of Miyako and Okinawa.

A general view shows navy soldiers standing on China's first aircraft carrier 'Liaoning' as it is berthed in a port in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning province, on 25 September, 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan said one of its Maritime Self Defence Force ships and a P3C patrol aircraft had spotted six Chinese naval vessels including the Liaoning traveling through the passage, and they also scrambled jets after a helicopter that took off from a Chinese frigate flew near Miyako Island. China has been angered recently by US naval patrols near islands that China claims in the South China Sea. This month, a Chinese navy ship seized a US underwater drone in the South China Sea. China later returned it.

China's air force conducted long-range drills this month above the East and South China Seas that rattled Japan and Taiwan. China said those exercises were also routine.—*Reuters*

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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.

Angkor Wat revenue up, price hike worries Cambodian tourist industry

PHNOM PENH, —Cambodia earned $62.5 million from ticket sales to Angkor Wat temple complex in 2016, an increase of 4.21 percent compared from the previous year.

According to government statistics seen Tuesday, 2.19 million foreign tourists visited the site in the southern province of Siem Reap in 2016.

The figure represents an increase of 90,000 visitors, who brought in an extra $2.5 million, from 2015.

However, the private tourism sector is worried that a planned price hike to be implemented next month may affect the number of foreign tourists visiting the country.

Ho Vandy, secretary general of the Cambodia National Tourism Alliance, said representatives of the industry have asked the government to consider delaying the price hike.

The government has set a new price, to be charged from February, of $37 for a one-day pass, up from the current $20, $62 for a three-day ticket, up from the current $40, and $72 for a week-long pass, up from the $60 charged at present. Vandy said the request was sent to the government late last year but no reply had been received as yet.—*Kyodo News*

Indonesian boat captain to be prosecuted for negligence after deadly fire

JAKARTA—Indonesia plans to prosecute the captain of a tourist boat for negligence after a fire ripped through the vessel on New Year's Day, killing at least 23 people and injuring dozens, police said on Tuesday.

The boat was carrying about 250 people before it was engulfed by flames shortly after leaving Jakarta.

Authorities were still searching the waters around the port for victims, while bodies retrieved from the charred ship were still being identified, said Hendra Sudirman, head of Jakarta's Search and Rescue agency. After questioning, the captain had been named a suspect, police said.

Rescue team use inflatable raft as they search for victims after a fire ripped through a boat carrying tourists in the waters of Jakarta Bay, Indonesia, on 2 January, 2017 in this photo taken by Antara Foto. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We have detained the captain of the boat since the incident. His status is now a suspect based on information from the crew, the passengers," Argo Yuwono, a spokesman for Jakarta's Metro Police, said on Tuesday. Under the shipping law, if a captain causes deaths by sailing a ship knowing it is not seaworthy he can be jailed for up to 10 years. Negligence causing death under the criminal code is punishable by up to five years in jail.

Sea accidents are frequent in Indonesia, a sprawling archipelago, with vessels often overloaded, poorly maintained or having too few life jackets.—*Reuters*

Japan to upgrade air traffic control system, discard paper strips

TOKYO, —Upgrading of Japan's air traffic control system is set to commence in March, with a new digital monitor to be introduced for all planes in the air and paper strips to be eliminated, government officials said on Tuesday.

The new system will help airlines to draw up more efficient flight plans as major airports plan to increase arrival and departure slots, and build more runways ahead of the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo, they said.

Under the current system, air traffic controllers suggest routes after analyzing flight plans only once prior to departure and use paper strips to keep flights arriving, departing and passing over airports in order. The new system will enable air traffic controllers to propose changing routes based on real-time analyses of information so planes can arrive earlier and save fuel, the officials of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism said.

The manual system of paper strips and handwritten instructions will be replaced by touchscreen input.—*Kyodo News*

Hong Kong's "bow tie Tsang" denies graft related to China penthouse

Former Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang and his wife Selina arrive at the High Court as Tsang faces trial on charges of misconduct in Hong Kong, China on 3 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

HONG KONG — Former Hong Kong leader Donald Tsang, the highest-ranking ex-official to be charged in the city's history, on Tuesday denied bribery related to the decoration of a luxury penthouse in the neighbouring Chinese city of Shenzhen.

Tsang, 72, pleaded not guilty in the high court to one count of "chief executive accepting an advantage" and another two counts of misconduct in public office. He had pleaded not guilty to the misconduct charges in late 2015.

The charges allege Tsang accepted refurbishment and redecoration work on the three-storey penthouse in Shenzhen that he'd rented from the Shenzhen East Pacific Group, owned by property tycoon Bill Wong Cho-bau.

Tsang, who appeared stern-faced and wore a black bow tie, failed to disclose his rental negotiations with Wong while his cabinet discussed and approved a digital broadcasting licence for a now defunct radio company, in which Wong was a major shareholder, according to Hong Kong's anti-graft agency, the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Tsang also nominated an architect who had carried out design work on the Shenzhen penthouse for a government award.

Tsang, nicknamed "bow tie Tsang" for his sartorial flourish, became the financial hub's second Chief Executive in 2005 after his unpopular predecessor, Tung Chee-hwa, resigned citing health problems.

The son of a police officer, Tsang enjoyed a high-flying career, rising through the civil service ranks to serve as colonial Hong Kong's first ethnic Chinese financial secretary just before the city's handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997. He was knighted that same year.

The graft offences Tsang faces were allegedly committed between 2010 and 2012, the year he retired as chief executive.

Hong Kong returned to China under a one country, two systems formula, which guarantees freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland, including an independent legal system.—*Reuters*

China tightens Tibetan border security to combat 'separatism'

BEIJING — China has tightened security regulations in Tibet's border region to battle the risks of terrorism and 'separatism', the state-owned Global Times said.

The move follows a call by China early in December for southwestern neighbor India to avoid complicating a simmering dispute over a visit by a senior exiled Tibetan religious leader to a border region.

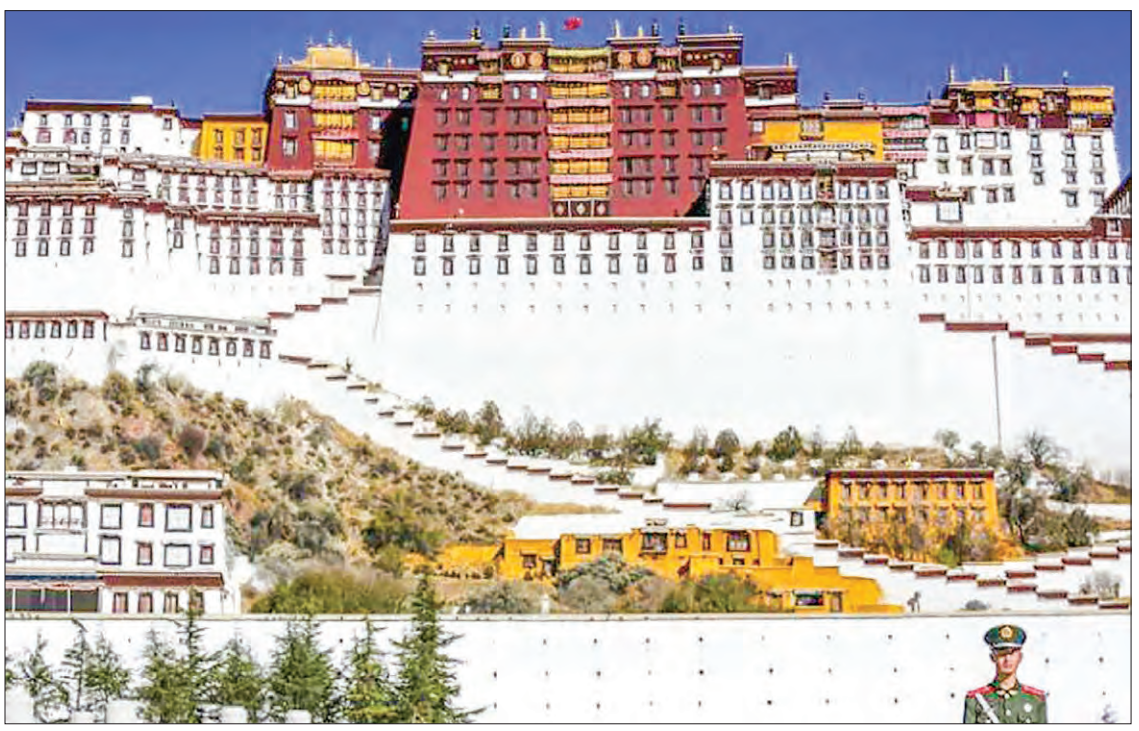
The two countries fought a brief border war in 1962.

Beijing views exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama as a dangerous separatist. The Nobel Peace Prize winner, who says he simply wants genuine autonomy for his homeland, fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against the Chinese.

Sunday's change "provides a legal foundation to combat potential terrorist activities brought by the further opening-up of Tibet," the paper quoted Wang Chunhuan, a scholar of the Tibetan Academy of Social Science, who worked on the new law, as saying. The measure brings land ports and trade zones within the scope of the previous law, and charges low-level government with the responsibility of tipping off police to help regulate the border, according to the article, published late on Monday.

"The need to combat separatism, infiltration, illegal migration and terrorism is growing more severe by the day," as Tibet's economy opens to the world, Ba Zhu, deputy head of the region's border defense police, said in a Dec. 14 announcement, the official Tibet Legal Newspaper reported at the time.

Rights groups say China tramples on Tibet's religious and cultural traditions, charges denied by Beijing, which says its troops peacefully liberated Tibet in 1950.—*Reuters*



A paramilitary policeman stands guard in front of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet Autonomous Region, China on 17 November, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

PM Modi has unleashed 'economic terror' on countrymen: Mamata Banerjee

Indian Express Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. PHOTO: PTI

Ever since the PM's announcement the TMC chief has been one of the most vocal leaders against the demonetisation drive through her statements, rallies and regular tweets.

Continuing her tirade against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on demonetisation, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said the move has unleashed "economic terror" on the people of this country. Dubbing Modi-led BJP government's regime as 'Hallaraj' (one which only creates din), Banerjee told a public meeting that the PM has let loose economic terror with his 8 November announcement to ban high value currency notes.

"Modiji has unleashed economic terror (arthonoitik santrash) by his 'notebandi' and left 10 crore people of the country unemployed," the Trinamool Congress supremo said at the function. She said with 90 per cent of the remote rural areas of the country beyond banking facility, the demonetisation step only caused untold sufferings for the common people and made the country go back on the economic front.

Banerjee, who came here on the occasion of sports meet organised at the behest of police department in backward districts of south Bengal (called jangalmahal in local parlance), announced 553 of the 45,000 competing youth will be given state jobs for overall physical fitness.

Ever since the PM's announcement the TMC chief has been one of the most vocal leaders against the demonetisation drive through her statements, rallies and regular tweets.—*PTI*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Independence and Peace

Editorial from the Mirror/ Kyemon 3rd January 2017

Translated by Khin Maung Oo

IN the early period of the people's attempts to gain Independence, Myanmar people fought against colonialism by first trying to get unity in the areas of religion, culture, education and national affairs, without waging an armed rebellion. They used religion to unify the nationals who were in disarray like a bundle of firewood that had been untied. They kept the spirits high by taking pride in Myanmar culture. They exerted their efforts at developing education, fully aware that they would be able to fight against colonialism only if they could master modern technologies and the ancient Myanmar traditional knowledge.

Yet, as flaming wars were spreading across the world, Myanmar people decided to launch an armed revolution to fight for independence, by seeking for arms and military support from an alien country. In this way, the 30 comrades and the then Burma Independence Army emerged in the country. Tens of thousands of people comprising students, teachers, workers, peasants, politicians, fathers and sons, brothers and fiancés came to join the Tatmataw, with the same mind and spirit. The Independence Army became the Spirit of Myanmar.

The whole population was indoctrinated with the spirit of success, and the spirit of achieving independence. Through those spirits, Myanmar patriotic people fought for independence against colonialists sacrificing their lives, concurrently killing many aggressors.

Sacrifice of lots of lives for the independence of our country is in fact waging for a just and fair war which is well worth sacrificing. A country that became independent by giving up many lives of people is invaluable, so much so that its value cannot be measured. The Independence must be preserved for posterity to be able to survive in this country usefully.

As a matter of fact, a war is a gory event claiming many lives. We waged wars just for the independence of our own country. We all are responsible to build up our nation, independence of which was attained by our forefathers through their unswerving spirit and courage, into a peaceful and developed one by spreading over our Union cardinal virtues—Metta = loving kindness, Garuna = sympathy and Mudita = rejoicing at somebody's success or prosperity.

Though independence was achieved, our national brethren have been waging armed conflicts in the country with each other because of different doctrines and opinions, for nearly 70 years after the time of liberating ourselves from others. Such rare cases cannot be found in independent nations. For peace, unarmed peaceful dialogues were repeatedly held. With a view to paying respects and acknowledging the gratitude of our ancestors who achieved independence, we wish for our posterity to co-exist peacefully.

Provided that we—all the nationals living in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be able to reduce their different views and alleviate their ill wills—greed, anger and ignorance. We firmly believe that national reconciliation can be implemented and that the peace process will be successful overnight.

History in a nut shell

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Our hard won Independence

Regaining our sovereignty and independences was not, a plain sailing. It was a long struggle. In the context of history, our struggle for freedom was comparatively short. Within the period of hundred and twenty four years [1824-1948], from the outbreak of the First Anglo-Myanmar in 1824, to the regaining of independence in 1948, we achieved our national freedom from the British Colonial Rule. If compared with the same histories of other countries our struggle for freedom was short. But it had many obstacles of twists and turns. The following is its history in a nut shell.

The downfall of Myanmar monarchy and the early isolated resistances against British Colonial Rule 1885-1895.

By three Anglo-Myanmar wars entire Myanmar fell under the British who dethroned and deported Myanmar King, King Thibaw to India. Myanmar was annexed to the British Indian Empire. Though the British did not have to fire a single shot in the third Anglo-Myanmar War they met with Myanmar resistances. Under different leaderships armed resistance broke out across the country. For nearly five years the British had to put them down by arms. That period was what they called "The period of pacification of Burma".

Introduction of British Colonial Rule 1890-1900

After consideration of different types of rule such as Protectorate, Reinstatement of deposed King Thibaw, Direct Rule of British Viceroy, or Governor General of British India, they chose to introduce British Colonial Rule. By means of British culture propagated and cultivated by British education they tried to produce a new class of the natives who would became black Englishmen to serve under the rule of white Englishmen. That policy of Anglicization of new generations of the natives for the long lasting of British Colonial Rule had already launched and proved successful in India, which fell under the British nearly three centuries earlier than Myanmar.

So began the so called English "liberal" education in good sense in Myanmar though native monastic education was left untouched because the British found it not only harmless but also contributory to their rule as it emphasized on moral and spiritual aspects of life. The British colonial "Liberal" education did pay a good dividend in Myanmar as it did in India. Anglicized young Myanmars "Black Englishmen" served under the British Government and some rose to the rank of heaven born bureaucrat I.C.S. Indian Civil Service. But English liberal education was like a double edged razor blade. It cuts both ways. Liberal subjects of English Education History, Economics, Pol science, International Laws, Philosophy, literature and the use of English the medium of instruction opened up new generation of Myanmar to the outside world. They began to learn past and current affairs of the countries especially Western countries which had developed into modern nations due to the industrialization by applied science and technology. In history they learnt the rise of Japan as a Thakhin Aung San to give him the identity of the author but Thakhin Aung San refused. He even threatened to expel Thakhin Nu and Thakhin Aung San. That immediately caused the second Yangon University Boycott of 1935.

A far greater storm of social unrest was rising. It was a labour movement at the oil fields of Yenangyaung. The monopoly of the British Burma Oil Company [B.O.C] not only dislodged Myanmar traditional oil fields owners Twin Yoe Twin Sa (တွင်းရိုးတွင်းစား) but also reduced Myanmar oil fields workers to slavery. The Company paid no attention to the workers' call for the redress of their working and living conditions at the oil fields. They went on strike led by diehard Thakhin Pho Hla Gyi, making a long protest march from Yenangyaung to Yangon the seat of the British Colonial Government. At the secretariats Buildings in down town, serious clashes between the protesters and the Government

Bogyoke Aung San on a courtesy call on Mr. Nehru, on his way to London. PHOTO: COURTESY OF INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO MYANMAR H.E. MR. G. MUKHOPADHAYA, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

mounted police broke out resulting in fatal injuries and final death of a Yangon University student Ko Aung Kyaw. The entire Myanmar people supported the oil fields strike and second students Boycott of 1935. The two combined to becomes 1300 Ayedaw pone [Myanmar era 1300 Great Rebellion].

The Period of Disillusionment 1941-1945

Young radical Thakhins decided to fight out the British Colonialists. They had learnt from the British liberal education that Ireland was fighting for national freedom when England was in trouble. "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity. They had already liberated part of their country – Irish Free State. Why not, now they had "colonialism's difficulty is nationalism's opportunity". They tried to strike at the Time when England was confronted by Nazism and fascism. They went out of the country in quest of a foreign ally.

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Speaker U Win Myint receives Egyptian ambassador, Italy-Myanmar friendship member

Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Egyptian ambassador Mr Khaled Mohamed Abdelrahman Abdesalam in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

U WIN MYINT, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, separately received Mr Khaled Mohamed Abdelrahman Abdelsalam, Ambassador of Egypt to Myanmar, and Ms Albertina Soliani, member of the Giuseppe Malpeli Association for Italy-Myanmar Friendship and former MP of Italy, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting with the ambassador, they discussed issues related to bilateral friendship and cooperation between the two parliaments and the peoples of the two countries.

At the meeting with Ms Albertina Soliani, the two sides exchanged views on Italy's contribution to peace-making efforts in Myanmar and bilateral friendship and cooperation between the two governments and the peoples of the two countries.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Ti Khun Myat and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Two illegal fishing boats seized in Myanmar territorial waters

A Tatmadaw navy vessel seized two fishing boats at 12:15 pm on Sunday while it was conducting security patrols in Myanmar territorial waters.

During the patrol, one mussel boat was found to be fishing for mussels illegally with five men on board at about 15 nautical miles northwest of Kawthaung, and another mussel boat with two men on board was found in Myanmar territorial waters.

Action has been taken against the seven men. The two illegal boats were seized.—*Myanmar News Agency*

History in a nut shell

>> from page 8

Immediate neighbour China was out of the question as it itself was then subjected to Japanese aggression. Even the League of Nations was unable to deter Japan when it took China's Manchuria by force in 1930. However, Japan's war slogans and propagandas bore great impacts upon South-east Asia. "Asia for the Asiatics" "East Asia Economic Co-prosperity sphere" under the leadership of Nipon [Japan] appealed much to young Myanmar Leaders.

Thakhin Aung San who miraculously went out of the country unnoticed by the vigilant British Intelligence was leading other like minded young Thakhins. They underwent military training on the island of Hainan by Japanese military trainers, on the "Biruma-Nipon Alliance" that Myanmar allied with Japan in war and Japan gave independence to Myanmar, as soon as the Joint armies set foot on Myanmar soil. Thakhin Aung San and 29 of his comrades-in-arms well known as Yebaw Thone Kyaik [30 Heros], in Myanmar modern history marched with the Japanese Army into Myanmar, as the British evacuated in retreat after the Japanese stormed and destroyed Pearl Harbour Base. The British used scorch and burn method destroying everything in Myanmar as they retreated to India by land. For sometimes Biruma [Myanmar] and Nipon [Japanese] seemed to live and work together well. But after a year or so, Myanmar people and leaders discovered that their hope of independence was disillusioned. Thakhin Aung San by now was war minister in the cabinet of Adipadi Government headed by Dr. Ba Maw. But Japanese Military was the de facto Government. As Japanese fascism began to reveal its true colour-inflicting all kinds of persecution and cruelties on Myanmar people, Myanmar leaders realized that they had courtesy call on his Indian counterpart Mr. Nehru. The two leaders discussed on matters of common interests and they fashioned out the foreign policy of neutralism of their emerging independent countries in the post-World War II period of political bipolarization.

To cut the story short, Bogyoke Aung San returned home, crowned with laurels, with Aung San Atlee Agreement in his pocket. Atlee's Government promised to grant Myanmar independence within a year, and asked Bogyoke Aung San to draft a constitution for Independence Myanmar Losing on time Bogyoke Aung San and his colleagues set out for political campaignings for the formation of the Union and drafting of the Union constitution. In February of 1947, that great task was accomplished when ethnic nationalities signed the Panglong Agreement on the 12th of that month at a town Panglong in Southern Shan State. We annually celebrate the Union Day on that date 12th February. But the year 1947, brought both fortune and misfortune to us. Four months after Panglong Agreement, in the morning of 19th July, Bogyoke Aung San and colleagues were assassinated at their cabinet meeting. Thakhin Nu had to take the role of Bogyoke Aung San.

On the astrologically chosen auspicious day and time of 4th January 1948, in the early hour, formal transfer of power took place at the Bandoola Park near Sule Pagoda downtown Yangon. As the Union Jack was slowly and solemnly lowered down with British national anthem and the flag of the Republic of the Union of Burma slowly and solemnly went up with national anthem the crowd gathered felt mixed feelings of sorrow and happiness, sad feeling to see the Union Jack going down and elations to see Myanmar flag going up. The British Governor Mr. [Sir] Hubert Rance boarded the ferry to take him to the ocean liner anchored off Myanmar coast.

This is the history of "Our hard won Independence-in a nut shell for us never to forget, always to review to learn lesson and to build our future."

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Home Affairs Ministry issues press release on police abuse in video clip

THE Ministry of Home Affairs issued a press release yesterday on its findings in the investigation into police abuse in a video clip posted online.

In the press release, the Ministry of Home Affairs said the ministry launched a probe into police abuse shown in a video clip posted online on Saturday showing footage of members of the Myanmar Police Force beating up villagers.

The ministry said six violent attackers on three motor bikes had shot at policemen from the Norular Police Outpost at 5:50 pm on 3rd November, killing Police Lance Corporal Min Min Soe and injuring Police Lance Corporal Myo Zaw Ko.

Acting on a tip-off that the attackers were being sheltered in Kotankauk Village, the police then conducted an area clearance operation in the village on 5th November. Before entering the village, the village's administration committee and religious leaders asked the villagers ver a loudspeaker to gather on vacant land. The majority of the villagers gathered in the designated area.

However, police committed abuses as they tried to arrest some villagers who fled the village and some who were hiding in their homes, said the press release.

In deploying the strength of the Myanmar Police Force, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the government of the State instructed them to perform their duties in accordance with international standards and rules & regulation of the law such as proportionality, legality, accountability and necessity.

In some developed democratic countries, police forces have been found to have committed similar incidents in arresting culprits. These are not attributed to hatred and prejudice. Due to the current situation, police used these types of tactics in arresting, so they failed to perform upon instructions. This kind of incident is a challenge between police and people, and between police and criminals, according to the news release.

The Ministry of Home Affairs and Myanmar Police Force authorities are taking legal action against those who committed crimes in violation of police discipline. Now, as regards this case, legal action is being taken against police inspector Ye Tun Naing, police sub-inspector Tay Zar Lin and police sub-inspector Htun Lin Hlaing and policeman Zaw Myo Htaik, who recorded the video, and policemen Pyae Phyo Thwin, Nandar Min, Moe Naing and Maung Aye Mya, who beat and kicked the villagers, it is learnt.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Indoor stadium being constructed in Maungtaw

A stadium is being constructed with regional government funds near the football playground in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

The stadium will be 120 feet in length, 90 feet in width and 36 feet in height. It is being built on a 6.5-acre plot of land. The stadium will cost Ks29.2 million of the state government's funds. Volleyball, badminton, sepak takraw, karate-do and table tennis games will be held in the stadium upon completion of construction. A football spectators stand will also be upgraded, said U Zaw Min Htwe, head of the township sport and physical education department in Maungtaw.

"Every township should have a stadium as a sports facility. Sportsman can play in the stadium the whole year around," he added.

Construction on the stadium began on 5 December by Shwekyun Thanda Construction Company, with completion slated for March. The company will hand over the building to the Sports and Physical Education Department, Maungtaw Township at the end of March.—*Zin Oo, Ko Min*

The construction of indoor stadium in Maungtaw. PHOTO: THIHA SITHU

Winners of titles and medals announced

THE president's office has issued eight notifications to mark the 69th anniversary independence day. Under the Notification 1/2017, religious titles are conferred upon senior Buddhist monks who are performing the duties of Buddhist religion – pariyatti (lecturing of Buddha's sermons) and patipatti (meditation) as well as upon the lay disciples who are supporting the Buddhist religion by donating alms and offertories. Honorary titles and medals are awarded under Notification 2/2017 whereas Notification 3/2017 is concerned with conferring of Thingaha medal for Myanmar military service, 4/2017, good military service medal, 5/2017, good civil service medal, 6/2017, good police service medal, 7/2017, state police service medal and 8/2017, public service medal and law and order enforcement medal respectively.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From President Dr. Tony Tan Keng Yam
Republic of Singapore
Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Singapore, I offer my warm congratulations to you and the people of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of Myanmar's 69th Independence Day.

2016 was a significant milestone for Singapore and Myanmar as we celebrated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations. The two countries have strengthened bilateral cooperation on various fronts including trade and investment, vocational education, and air connectivity. The lifting of visa requirements for Ordinary Passport holders of both countries makes it more convenient for our peoples to visit each other's countries. As Singapore and Myanmar embark on the next chapter of our bilateral relations, I am confident that the ties between our two countries will continue to grow and deepen.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Excellency,

On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and the People of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, my heartfelt congratulations on the auspicious occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am firmly convinced that the existing cordial relations of friendship and cooperation between Cambodia and Myanmar will continue to grow from year to year for the mutual interests of our two peoples as well as for advancement of a strong ASEAN Community.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and all the best wishes for your personal good health and greater success in fulfilling your noble tasks.

From Norodom Sihamoni
King of Cambodia
Mr President,

On the auspicious occasion of the 69th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to convey to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations together with my best wishes for your good health and success as well as for the continued peace, development and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that the long-standing relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and peoples will further develop and expand in the years ahead.

From General Prayut Chan-o-cha
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
Excellency,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people, I would like to extend, through Your Excellency, to the Myanmar people our warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 69th Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Since the assumption of your administration, there have been a series of high-level visits and expensive developments in our bilateral relations. I am especially touched by Your Excellency's visit to Thailand to pay a personal tribute to His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej on 9 November 2016. It indeed testifies the close bonds of friendship between our two countries and peoples.

As Myanmar and Thailand are approaching our 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations in 2018, I am confident that the friendship and cooperation if our two countries and peoples will continue to prosper as ever-closer natural strategic partners.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

From Tomislav Nikolic
President of the Republic of Serbia
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I extend to you, on behalf of the people of the Republic of Serbia and on my own behalf, sincere congratulations and best wishes for the overall progress of your country.

I am confident that the relations and cooperation between Serbia and Myanmar, based on friendship and mutual respect, will be further enhanced and deepened, in the interest of our peoples.

We are particularly grateful to friendly Myanmar for its consistent position regarding non-recognition of the succession of the southern Serbian Province of Kosovo and Metohija. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has also demonstrated its solidarity and friendship with Serbia, as well as its resolutions to respect international law when voting against the efforts to admit the self-proclaimed state of "Kosovo" to UNESCO, at this Organization's Paris General Conference, which we highly appreciate.

Along with the wishes for your good health and personal happiness, please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Aleksandar Vucic
Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia
Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and myself, I extend to you cordial felicitations and best wishes for your country's overall progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

I am pleased to note that our two countries are tied with the traditional friendship, built on mutual respect and understanding and to express hope for the continued progress of good relations that connect us.

Serbia and its people deeply appreciate the principled position of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the issue of non-recognition of the unilaterally declared independence of Kosovo and Metohija. We perceive this position as a confirmation of sincere friendly relations and solidarity that exist between our two countries.

With the belief that through joint efforts we will contribute to the further strengthening of our traditionally friendly relations, I convey to you, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Vladimir Putin
President of Russia,
Your Excellency,

Please accept sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Myanmar's National Holiday – Independence Day.

Russia – Myanmar relations are friendly, which was confirmed in full measure by our recent meeting in Sochi. I am confident that by joint efforts we will ensure further development of fruitful bilateral cooperation and constructive interaction within different international structures. It meets the fundamental interests of peoples of our countries, goes in line with the strengthening of stability and security in the Asian-Pacific Region.

I wish You sound health and success, as well as peace and prosperity to all of Your compatriots.

From Sergio Mattazella
President of the Republic of Italy
Your Excellency,

The celebrations of the National Day offer me the welcome opportunity to convey to You, on behalf of the Italian people and on my personal behalf, my heartfelt wishes of well-being for the people of Myanmar.

I am confident that following their positive and fruitful friendly relationship, Nay Pyi Taw and Rome with further increases and intensify their bilateral collaboration and the cooperation in many regional and international for a, to the benefit of social and economic growth of both our countries.

With this spirit of friendship I renew, Mr. President, my sincerest wishes of well-being and serenity and for You and Your people.

From Doris Bures
President of the National Council of the Republic of Austria
Excellency,

On the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the National Council, acting as a committee and currently exercising the functions of the Federal President of the Republic of Austria, take great pleasure in conveying to you their warmest congratulations.

The Presidents of the National Council seize this opportunity to extend their best wishes for a happy future of the people of Myanmar.

From Willem-Alexander R,
King of the Netherlands
His Excellency the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar,

As Myanmar celebrates its National Day, I extend to Your Excellency my congratulations and my best wishes for the well-being of the people of Myanmar.

From Elizabeth II
Queen of United Kingdom
Excellency,

"It gives me great pleasure to send Your Excellency my congratulations on the celebration of your Independence Day, together with my best wishes for the coming year. Elizabeth R."

*****

No proof Russian hacking influenced US election: Trump spokesman

Chief Strategist & Communications Director for the Republican National Committee Sean Spicer arrives in the lobby of Republican president-elect Donald Trump's Trump Tower in New York, New York, US on 14 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — No evidence has emerged to suggest Russian hacking influenced the outcome of the US presidential election and it would be irresponsible to jump to conclusions before receiving a final intelligence report, Donald Trump's spokesman said on Monday.

"There is zero evidence that they influenced the election," Sean Spicer told Fox News.

Due to become White House press secretary when Trump enters the White House on 20 January, Spicer told CNN the president-elect would see the intelligence report once it was completed later this week. On Saturday, Trump warned against being quick to pin the blame on Russia for the hacking of US emails.

"The idea that we're jumping to conclusions before we have a final report is irresponsible," Spicer told CNN.

President Barack Obama expelled 35 Russian suspected spies and imposed sanctions on two Russian intelligence agencies last week for alleged Kremlin involvement in hacking that intelligence officials said aimed to help the Republican Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton in the 8 November election.

Leading lawmakers from both parties have voiced alarm at the suggestion of Russian interference, whether or not it made a difference in the outcome.

Republican John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has scheduled a Thursday hearing on foreign cyber threats. The new Congress, elected on 8 November, takes office on Tuesday.

Calling for closer ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump has repeatedly played down the hacking affair.

Over the weekend Trump said he knew "things that other people don't know" and would disclose some information on the issue on Tuesday or Wednesday. He gave no further detail.

"He's going to talk about his conclusions and where he thinks things stand," Spicer told CNN. "He's not going to reveal anything that was privileged or shared with him classified."

On Sunday Spicer said the White House may have disproportionately punished Russia.

"It's baffling," US Representative Eric Swalwell, a Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, told MSNBC on Monday. "President-elect Trump does not have any better information than President Obama."

A Gallup Poll released on Monday showed less than half of Americans were confident in Trump's ability to handle an international crisis, to use military force wisely or to prevent major scandals in his administration.

The poll said at least seven in 10 Americans were confident in presidents Obama, George W Bush and Bill Clinton in those areas before they took office.—*Reuters*

Trump picks Lighthizer to serve as trade representative — sources

WASHINGTON — US President-elect Donald Trump is expected to pick Robert Lighthizer to serve as his US Trade Representative, tapping a seasoned trade negotiator to enact a key aspect of his agenda, senior transition officials said on Monday.

Lighthizer served as a deputy US trade representative with the rank of ambassador under Republican President Ronald Reagan in the 1980s, according to a biography posted on the web site of Skadden Arps, the law firm where he is currently a partner.

In the decades since he has represented US clients in anti-dumping cases and pushed to open access to foreign markets, the biography says.

As Trump's trade representative, Lighthizer would play a key role in enacting a get-tough policy that could heighten tensions with China and other key US trading partners.

However, he likely will not serve as the main architect of Trump's trade policy. According to a transition spokesman, that role will go to billionaire investor Wilbur Ross, who Trump has picked to serve as Commerce Secretary. On the campaign trail, Trump promised to renegotiate international trade deals like NAFTA and punish companies that ship work overseas.

Trump has kept up the rhetoric since his surprise November election. He criticized China on Twitter on Monday for "taking out massive amounts of money & wealth from the US in totally one-sided trade" while refusing to rein in nuclear-armed North Korea.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two foreign nationals detained at Istanbul airport over nightclub attack — NTV

ISTANBUL — Turkish police detained two foreign nationals at Istanbul's main Ataturk Airport in connection with a gun attack which killed 39 people at an Istanbul nightclub on New Year's Day, Turkish broadcaster NTV reported on Tuesday.

No further details were immediately available. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack and the assailant remains at large. —*Reuters*

China says its hard work on denuclearisation of Korean peninsula is obvious

BEIJING — China's hard work in trying to ensure the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula is obvious to all, China's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday after US President-elect Donald Trump said Beijing was not helping to control North Korea.

Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang, speaking at a regular press briefing, also urged the United States to recognise the sensitivity of the Taiwan issue after Trump left open the possibility of meeting Taiwan's president if she visits the United States after he is sworn in on 20 January.—*Reuters*

Turkish PM says expects new US administration to stop giving weapons to YPG militia

ANKARA — Turkey's prime minister said on Tuesday he expected the new US administration to halt supplying weapons to the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, saying the administration of President Barack Obama was responsible for such weapon supply.

"The United States should not allow this strategic partnership (with Turkey) to be overshadowed by a terrorist organisation," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said in speech to ruling AK Party lawmakers at the parliament.

Ankara has been angered by Washington's support for the Kurdish YPG militia, which has emerged as a key partner for the United States in fighting Islamic State in Syria.—*Reuters*

Man dies in police shooting incident in northern England

A man has died after being shot by police during an operation in northern England, West Yorkshire Police said on Tuesday, later confirming the incident was not a terrorism-linked.

Police said the shooting occurred during a "pre-planned policing operation" near the M62 motorway in Huddersfield at about 1800 GMT on Monday.

"A police firearm was discharged and a man has died," police said.

Five other people were arrested during the operation, three at the scene and two others when another vehicle was stopped by police in Bradford at about the same time.

There were no further details and the death has been referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission to investigate which is routine in any police shooting incident.

Fatal shootings involving police in Britain are rare, with four fatalities in 2016.—*Reuters*

Turkish parliament to decide on extending emergency rule by three months — PM

ANKARA — Turkey's parliament will this week debate and then vote on extending emergency rule by a further three months, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said in a speech to his ruling AK Party deputies on Tuesday.

Emergency rule, imposed in Turkey following the attempted coup on July 15, enables the government to bypass parliament in enacting new laws and to limit or suspend rights and freedoms as they deem necessary.—*Reuters*

Moscow seeks naval drills as Russian warships visit Manila

MOSCOW—Russia wants to hold maritime drills with the Philippines to help combat terrorism and piracy, sending two warships to Manila for the first official navy-to-navy contact, as President Rodrigo Duterte pivots to United States' traditional rivals.

Admiral Tributs, an anti-submarine vessel, and a sea tanker Boris Butoma, arrived late on Tuesday for a four-day goodwill visit, with its crew expected to demonstrate anti-terrorism capability and hold talks, said Rear Admiral Eduard Mikhailov, head of the Flotilla of the Russian Navy Pacific Fleet.

"Our governments will maybe discuss in some period of time the possibilities of our maritime exercises," Mikhailov told a news conference, adding Russia has been holding drills with the Indonesian navy.

"The biggest problem now in the world is terrorism and piracy, and all our exercises we have, for example, with you we will have to fight these problems and we will show you what we can do and we will see what you can do and show us," he added as the Russian navy showcased the warships.

A spokesman for the Philippine Navy told reporters this is the first official interaction with the Russian navy, an arch rival of its former colonial master and closest ally in the region, the United States. Washington and the Philippines have been holding naval exercises annually but Duterte has instructed the defence ministry to "reformat" drills with Washington, moving away from the South China Sea to repair relations with China.

Philippine Navy band members play music to welcome the Russian Navy vessel Admiral Tributs, a large anti-submarine ship, as it docks at the south harbor port area in Metro Manila, Philippines, on 3 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mikhailov said they were willing to help train Philippine counterparts to fight piracy and terrorism and they hope to foster stronger security in the region.

The Philippines has been struggling to prevent Islamist militants from abducting crew of slow-moving tugboat and foreigners sailing on yachts in the southern maritime borders with Indonesia and Malaysia.

The Abu Sayyaf, a small but violent group which has had links to al Qaeda and has pledged allegiance to Islamic State militants, is holding a German tourist and more than 10 Malaysian and Indonesian crewmen. A Dutch and a Japanese are also being held captive.

Last month, Duterte sent his foreign and defense ministers to Moscow to explore arms deal after a US senator said he will block the sale of 26,000 assault rifles to the Philippines due to concerns with the rising death toll in a war on drugs.

More than 6,000 have been killed in the drug crackdown since Duterte took office on 30 June, roughly a third in operations when suspected drug peddlers and users resisted arrests. The rest are classified as under investigation, many believed to be the work of vigilantes.—*Reuters*

Cuba puts on show of strength as Trump inauguration nears

HAVANA — Cuba paraded troops and hundreds of thousands of citizens through its emblematic Revolution Square on Monday in a traditional show of nationalist fighting spirit in the face of steep economic and diplomatic challenges.

The event marked the 60th anniversary of the landing of the Granma yacht which brought the Castro brothers and their bearded rebels from Mexico to Cuba to start their revolution against a US-backed dictatorship.

Troops wielding automatic rifles marched in lock step behind a replica of the Granma on Monday, followed by a sea of banner- and flag-waving Cubans, many bussed in and organized through their workplaces and neighbourhoods.

"This is an important message of unity and strength," said Rene Lazo, 66, who, like most, got up well before the crack of dawn to participate in the parade.

"This is going to be a difficult year but we will keep working hard to bring our people forwards".

Communist-ruled Cuba fell into an economic recession in the second half of last year, its first since the collapse of the Soviet Union a quarter century ago, as its strategic ally Venezuela floundered.

Meanwhile its historic detente with the United States came under threat with the election of Donald Trump as President. Trump, who takes office on 20 January, has said he would unravel attempts to normalize relations unless he gets a "better deal".

All this is taking place as Cuba is also coming to terms with the loss of its revolutionary leader, Fidel Castro. While "El Comandante" had handed the presidency over to his younger brother Raul in 2008, he remained a key figurehead. Some of those marching held up images of Castro or banners reading "We are Fidel". While the parade normally takes place every five years on2 December, it was postponed a month due to his death in late November.

"He may not be present physically but he is in all our hearts," said Natalia Gonzales, who had painted "I am Fidel" on the foreheads of her three grandchildren.

Raul Castro and his family watched and waved at those marching from the foot of the towering monument to independence hero Jose Marti in the center of the square.

The mood on Monday was of defiance although many Cubans said they hoped there would not be a return of Cold War-era politics.—*Reuters*

South Korea pushes for extradition of daughter of President Park's friend

SEOUL—South Korean authorities said on Tuesday they will proceed with steps to extradite Chung Yoo-ra, the daughter of a central figure in a South Korean political scandal that has led to a parliament vote to impeach President Park Geun-hye.

Chung is being held in Denmark after police there arrested her on Sunday in the northern city of Aalborg. Denmark's public prosecutor said on Monday that Chung will remain in custody for four weeks after having been charged with committing economic crime in South Korea.

Chung is the 20-year-old daughter of Choi Soon-sil, a friend of Park accused of colluding with the president to pressure businesses to contribute to non-profit organizations. Both have denied any wrongdoing. "Chung has said she is willing to return to South Korea in three days if she is set free upon entry, which the government has declined to accept," South Korea's special prosecutor's office said in a statement.—*Reuters*

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(17 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-075(16-17)	Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) for Gas Coalesing Filter (22,680) KG	US$
(2)	IFB-076(16-17)	Spares for Mack Truck (17) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-077(16-17)	Spares for Mitsubishi 8DC8 1A Engine Ex Mitsubishi Fuso Bowser (26) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-078(16-17)	Spares for CAT D 379 Engine (45) Items	US$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 19-1-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 30TH December, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

China probes former top aviation official for graft

BEIJING—China's corruption watchdog is investigating a former vice-minister of the aviation regulator for disciplinary violations, saying he had paid below market price for property during his tenure.

The official concerned, Xia Xinghua, who had worked in the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) from 2009 to 2014, has been expelled from the ruling Communist Party, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) said on Tuesday.

Xia, who often represented the CAAC in meeting with foreign executives and regulators, also took holidays in the guise of work trips and played illegally in golf games others had paid for, the watchdog said.

"As a leading party cadre, Xia had a weak concept of discipline and violated party regulations," it said in a statement on its website, employing the usual euphemism for graft.

Xia went on to become the chairman of the China Civil Airports Association (CCAA), which represents more than 100 airports, in April 2014, after leaving the aviation regulator, the airport body says on its website.

An official of the airport body declined to comment, and officials of the aviation regulator did not respond to telephone calls. Reuters was unable to reach Xia for comment.

China's far-reaching crackdown on graft has swept through several industries and led to the arrest and jailing of senior politicians and executives. In 2015, the watchdog announced a probe into the deputy head of the aviation regulator.—*Reuters*

US House Republicans weaken ethics body as they return to Congress

WASHINGTON — Republicans in the US House of Representatives agreed on Monday to weaken a non-partisan ethics watchdog on the grounds it had grown too intrusive, prompting Democrats to charge they were scaling back independent oversight ahead of a new legislative session.

As they returned to Washington following a holiday break, House Republicans voted in a closed-door meeting to place the Office of Congressional Ethics under the oversight of the House Ethics Committee, giving lawmakers greater control over an independent body charged with investigating their behaviour.

The measure was added to a broader rules package that is expected to pass when the House formally convenes on Tuesday.

The ethics office was created in 2008 following several corruption scandals, but some lawmakers have charged in recent years that it has been too quick to investigate complaints lodged by outside partisan groups.

The US Capitol Building is lit at sunset in Washington, US, on 20 December, 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

The body will now have to deliver its reports to lawmakers, rather than releasing them directly to the public, according to a summary released by Republican Representative Bob Goodlatte. It will be renamed the Office of Congressional Complaint Review.

"The OCE has a serious and important role in the House, and this amendment does nothing to impede their work," said Goodlatte, who sponsored the measure.

House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, who created the ethics office while House speaker following complaints that lawmakers were unable to effectively police themselves, said Republicans were eliminating the only independent body charged with monitoring their actions.—*Reuters*

Four killed in possible tornado as storms lash US South

AUSTIN, (Texas) — A tornado is believed to have killed four people in southeast Alabama on Monday, when winds sent a tree crashing onto a home as a heavy storm system pounded the US South with rain, hail and strong winds, officials said.

The victims were in a mobile home in Rehobeth, just outside the city of Dothan, Houston County emergency management spokeswoman Kris Ware said in a telephone interview.

Authorities fighting to extricate three more people who were in the mobile home at the time expect them to survive, but emergency workers are trying to determine how badly they were hurt, she added.

"Prayers for those impacted today," Alabama Governor Robert Bentley said in a message on social network Twitter, referring to the four deaths.

The National Weather Service has made a preliminary determination that a tornado struck the area, Storm Prediction Center meteorologist John Hart said by telephone.

Ware said officials believed the four mobile home deaths were due to a tornado, adding that the roofs and garages of other homes nearby also suffered damage.

Officials said they plan to make a full damage assessment on Tuesday.

The National Weather Service had a total of six preliminary reports of tornadoes touching down in Alabama and Mississippi on Monday, Hart said.

Except for Rehobeth, there were no reports of fatalities from the possible twisters, however.

Heavy rains brought by the storm system caused localized flooding in some parts of the U.S. South, officials said. A 70-year-old man in the area of DeFuniak Springs in northwest Florida was found drowned on Monday following flooding there, the Walton County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.—*Reuters*

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Yangon Region Government
Yagon City Development Committee
Invitation for Bids

Date 3rd January 2017

Name of Project: Installation, Maintenance and Operation of Street Furniture Items in the City of Yangon.

1. YCDC invites bids from the interested bidders for the Installation, Maintenance and Operation of Street Furniture Items and the grant of an exclusive right to advertise on the street furniture items in the City of Yangon.

2. The interested bidders may obtain further information about this invitation for bids from the following office during office hours:

Engineering Department (Road and Bridge), Yangon City Development Committee, City Hall, Yangon.
Telephone no. 09-431 93314

3. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased upon submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Kyat 50000 (fifty thousand kyats only) to YCDC.

4. Bids documents shall be delivered in person to the above office on or before 15 hrs. on 17th February 2017. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Any bid submitted after the designated dated and time will be rejected.

5. All Bids must be accompanied by bid security (tender guarantee) in the amount of Kyat 300,000,000 or USD 250,000 issued by local bank as described in the bidding documents.

6. Bids will be opened in a session to be held at the office of Yagon City Development Committee in the presence of representatives of the bidders on the date and time as may be notified to the bidders.

Yangon City Development Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TAN BINH 134 VOY. NO (1216)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAN BINH 134 VOY. NO (1216) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2017 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SIMA PERECT VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMA PERECT VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INLE STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INLE STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (136N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (136N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

‘Rogue One’ crosses $400 million, ‘Sing’ scores over new year’s

LOS ANGELES — “Rogue One: A Star Wars Story” and “Sing” loomed large at the multiplexes over the New Year’s holiday, racking up the biggest grosses and ringing out 2016 on a high note.

The Star Wars spinoff topped the box office for the third consecutive weekend, earning just under $50 million for the three-day period and a projected $64 million for the four-day holiday. The movie business is tacking Monday on to New Year’s weekend, because many companies and schools are observing it as a national holiday. The weekend gross pushes the space opera over the $400 million mark domestically. It currently ranks as the year’s second highest-grossing domestic release, with $425 million, behind only “Finding Dory.”

“Rogue One” concludes a record-annihilating year for Disney. The studio became the first to top $7 billion in a single year, has fielded four of the five top grossing domestic releases, and should see four of its movies top $1 billion at the global box office.

“Sing,” the latest collaboration between Illumination and Universal, racked up $41.4 million during its second weekend in theaters. It is projected to earn $53.7 million for the four-day holiday weekend and has made $177.3 million stateside. It’s the second smash of 2016 for Illumination, the maker of “Despicable Me.” The company also scored with last summer’s “The Secret Life of Pets.”

In third place “Passengers,” a critically derided science fiction romance with Chris Pratt and Jennifer Lawrence, earned $16.1 million over the three-day weekend and $20.7 million over the four day. As of Sunday, its domestic haul stands at $61.4 million. With a $110 million budget and millions more spent in promotion, “Passengers” will need a lift from foreign audiences if it hopes to make money.

The same is true for Fox’s “Assassin’s Creed,” which took in $8 million for the weekend and a projected $10 million for the holiday. The video game adaptation has earned $41 million since opening over Christmas — a dispiriting result given its hefty $125 million budget. Movies made from games are a mixed bag. For every hit like “Mortal Combat” or

People ride an escalator under a Star Wars Rogue One poster at AMC Empire 25 on Christmas Day in Manhattan, New York City, US, on 25 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

“Lara Croft: Tomb Raider,” there are a slew of duds such as “Warcraft” and “Prince of Persia.”

Fox is having more luck with “Why Him?” The R-rated comedy earned $10 million over the three day period and an estimated $13 million for the four day holiday. The film about the rivalry between a father (Bryan Cranston) and his daughter’s fiancee (James Franco) has earned $37.6 million and cost an economical $38 million to produce. Paramount’s “Fences,” expanded nicely. Denzel Washington directs and stars in the August Wilson adaptation, with Viola Davis playing a key supporting role. The drama earned $10.2 million over the three-day weekend and an estimated $13 million for the holiday. It has made $32.7 million since debuting three weeks ago in limited release.

Lionsgate’s “La La Land,” continued to capitalize on awards buzz. The musical earned $9.5 million over the weekend and is projected to make $12.3 million over the four-day holiday, which would bring its gross to an estimated $37 million. On Friday, “La La Land” passed “Hell or High Water” to become the highest-grossing movie in limited release for the year.

Fox’s “Hidden Figures” looks strong. The drama about the African-American scientists and mathematicians who played a pivotal role in the early days of America’s space program, earned $815,000 for the three days and $1.1 million for the four days from just 25 theaters. It goes into wide release next weekend.

“20th Century Women” and “Paterson” were released just under the wire in order to qualify for Oscars. “20th Century Women,” a comedy-drama that’s earned some of the best reviews of Annette Bening’s career, earned $112,705 for the weekend. A24 is handling the rollout. “Patterson,” a drama about a poetic bus driver, made $70,760. It is being released by Amazon Studios and Bleecker Street.—*Reuters*

‘Hollyweed’ — Prankster alters LA’s landmark sign

Hollywood’s iconic sign is shown in Los Angeles, California, US on 1 January, 2017 after being defaced overnight in this handout from social media. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — The iconic hillside sign overlooking Southern California’s film-and-television hub was defaced overnight in honor of marijuana.

Residents awoke on Sunday to find “Hollyweed” staring down at them in four-story, white letters from Los Angeles’ Mount Lee, where a version of the picture-ready “Hollywood” sign was first erected in 1923.

City surveillance cameras captured footage of someone dressed in black about 3 am (1100 GMT) whom police believe was behind the conversion, Sgt Robert Payan of the Los Angeles Police Department said in a phone interview.

Material similar to a tarp was placed over the two O’s to make them appear as E’s, and park rangers were assessing how to remove them, Payan said. There were no suspects, but the person if caught could be charged with misdemeanor trespassing, he said.

Hollywood’s iconic sign is shown in Los Angeles, California, US on 1 January, 2017 after being defaced overnight in this handout from social media.

A ballot measure to make recreational marijuana legal for adults was easily approved by California voters on 8 November, opening the most populous US state to the burgeoning commercial cannabis market, although the drug remains illegal under US federal law. Rapper Snoop Dogg, a noted cannabis consumer, tweeted a photo of the sign on Sunday and said: “#hollyweed —that’s were I get my mail. #merryjane.” The Hollywood sign remains a popular spot for hikers and tourists, who used to be able to walk up to the sign and take a picture. Now, a fence blocks people, and accessing the sign is difficult.—*Reuters*

Death Penalty Movie Week to be held at Tokyo theater

TOKYO — The annual Death Penalty Movie Week will be held at a Tokyo theater in February, with eight films from home and abroad providing viewers with an opportunity to think about the “right to life.”

The event will take place as pro- and anti-death penalty groups have been facing off at symposiums and on other occasions since the Japan Federation of Bar Associations declared in October it would work for the abolition of capital punishment by 2020.

The eight films to be screened include 2005 German movie “Sophie Scholl — The Final Days,” which depicts the anti-Nazi struggle of a student who was executed, and “Freedom Moon,” produced in Japan in 2016, that recounts the life of death row inmate Iwao Hakamada.

Hakamada, convicted of a 1966 quadruple murder, was released in 2014 after a court decided to reopen the case, but he still remains on death row as prosecutors have appealed the ruling.

The film shows how his mental state has deteriorated due to decades-long solitary confinement and the endless fear of execution.

South Korean popular movie “Miracle in Cell No 7,” produced in 2013, will also be screened during the sixth event.

“Murder victims are deprived of their lives unjustifiably, but offenders are also robbed of their ‘right to live’ under capital punishment,” said Masakuni Ota, one of the event organizers. “People seem to accept such circumstances without question, at a time when exclusion and intolerance are prevalent around the world.”

During the event from 18 to 24 February at the Eurospace movie theater in Tokyo’s Shibuya district, four movies will be shown each day, accompanied by sessions with guest speakers.

The scheduled speakers include actress Kirin Kiki, who played the mother of a death row inmate in a movie based on a true story, and pop singer Tsuyoshi Ujiki, whose father was convicted of war crimes after World War II.

“We welcome both those seeking abolition of the death penalty and those who support or accept capital punishment” so the issue is discussed from various viewpoints, Ota said.

The previous five Death Penalty Movie Week events attracted a total of around 6,000 viewers.—*Kyodo News*

New York tale: a century-old subway dream becomes reality

NEW YORK — A New York subway ride that was a century in the making will pull out of a gleaming new station on Manhattan's East Side on Saturday as the long-awaited Second Avenue line takes a select group of dignitaries and construction workers on its maiden run.

First proposed in the 1920s, the Second Avenue line has achieved near-mythic status over the years as the best transit idea that New York never built. Work started and stopped three times for lack of funds before the project finally got under way in earnest in April 2007.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and Thomas Prendergast, chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the agency that operates the system, are presiding over the ceremonial opening of the first phase, a modest two-mile (3.2-km) stretch along Manhattan's Upper East Side.

The launch party, which is by invitation only, takes place about 100 feet below street level starting around 10 pm on Saturday (0300 GMT on Sunday). The general public can begin riding to and from any of three new stations at noon Sunday.

Eventually the line will run 8.5 miles (13.7 km) from the uptown's Harlem district to Wall Street in lower Manhattan, if current plans ever come to fruition.

Compared with the entire subway system, the country's largest, the new service is not extensive. Even so, for residents of the relatively isolated East Side, the opening comes as a welcome and long-anticipated relief.

"We've been waiting for this subway for a long time," said Lindsey Goodman, 29, who works in real estate law and lives with her husband Landon Goodman, also 29, a block from the new 86th Street stop. "We're super excited."

Cuomo, an ambitious Democrat who has been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate, has taken on a visible role in pushing the subway project along.

The governor, now in his second term of office, has made an emphasis on big construction projects, including a replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge across the Hudson River north of New York City and major renovations at LaGuardia Airport.

The opening of the subway extension coincides with the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump, who has pledged to jump-start infrastructure projects through tax credits.

Cuomo has spoken with pride of art, including 12 portraits by painter and photographer Chuck Close, that graces the walls of phase one's three new stations at 72nd Street, 86th Street and 96th Street.

"Even if a child never walks into a museum ... they should be exposed to art that gives them that aspect, that perspective and that creativity," Cuomo said on NBC's "Today" show on Friday.

But the art is among a host of special features that have added to the $4.5-billion cost of the first phase. The stations boast high ceilings and wide platforms without support columns, among other amenities.

The new line is the second major expansion of the system, which started in 1904, in as many years. In September 2015, the MTA christened a one-mile (1.6 km) extension of the 7 line from its former terminus in Times Square to Hudson Yards, on Manhattan's long-neglected Far West Side. The cost was $2.4 billion.—*Reuters*

Workers Ryan Walker and Michael Grund peer over onto the platform at the 96th Street Station during a preview event for the Second Avenue subway line in Manhattan, New York City, US, on 22 December , 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rafaela Pons, 102, poses for a portrait with a picture of herself when she was young, in the living room of her home in Ferreries, on the Balearic island of Menorca, Spain, August 10, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tips from Spain's centenarians on how to live to 100

CANGAS DE ONIS — With more than 100,000 people aged 100 or over, Spain is the country with the greatest life expectancy after Japan, OECD data and the latest population census shows.

Over a year, Reuters photographer Andrea Comas interviewed and photographed Spaniards aged 100 or more across the country from the green-hilled northern region of Asturias to the Balearic island of Menorca.

Average life expectancy at birth in Spain is 83.2, according to the latest OECD statistics made available in 2013, just a shade below the 83.4 years on average a Japanese newborn can expect to live. Most of the men and women Comas interviewed showed a zest for life and an interest in pastimes from amateur dramatics to playing the piano. Many also continued to carry out daily duties from farm work to caring for a disabled child.

Pedro Rodriguez, 106, plays the piano every day in the living room of his flat in Asturias, northern Spain, where he lives with his wife who is nearly 20 years younger than him. Their daughters visit them often.

"The nuns taught me how to play the piano as a child," he said after giving a rendition of a Spanish waltz.

The majority of these elderly people were surrounded by family or had loved ones calling in on them daily showing how Spain continues to be a closely-knit society, where family ties are paramount.

Francisco Nunez, 112, is the oldest person Comas interviewed. He lives with his octogenarian daughter in his house in Badajoz, south-western Spain. He says he doesn't like the pensioners' daycare centre because it's full of old people. "He hasn't had to leave his home. I'm single and I live here with him," says daughter Maria Antonia Nunez, 81, as she adjusts his beret. —*Reuters*

Dev Patel struggled to perfect Australian accent

LONDON — Indian-origin British actor Dev Patel has revealed that it took him eight months to perfect an Australian accent for "Lion".

The 26-year-old actor, who plays Saroo Brierley in the drama film, said it was "a lot of effort" to nail the accent he needed to use in the movie, reported Contactmusic.

"A lot of effort is what it took. Eight months of effort in fact with the genius of a dialect coach from Sydney, Jenny Kent. I was really lucky that the production gave me that comfortable lead up to take that time to do that," Patel said.

The actor said he was honoured to work alongside Nicole Kidman, who plays his characters adoptive mother in the film.

"I feel Nicole just really opened up ... for this one. She is such an icon and to have her in this movie takes it to another level.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(4-1-2017 07:00am ~ 5-1-2017 07:00am) MST

06:40	Am	Live: The 69th Anniversary Independence Day Ceremony
07:27	Am	All About Orchids
07:41	Am	Sightseeing in Yangon: Inya Lake
07:52	Am	Maha Muni Pagoda
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Versatile Artist
08:51	Am	Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Living in Off-Season
09:38	Am	The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar
09:54	Am	The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Back To A Paradise (Ep-1)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Tuesday 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
07:27	Pm	Travelogue: To my dream city (Part-1)
07:51	Pm	Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Tapestry-A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
08:45	Pm	Myanmar Outstanding Lady Thin Zar Phyo

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Vertonghen backs Pochettino to halt Chelsea's winning run

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino has a plan to halt Chelsea's winning run during their Premier League clash on Wednesday, defender Jan Vertonghen has said.

Since switching to a 3-4-3 system after suffering consecutive defeats to Liverpool and Arsenal in September, Antonio Conte's Chelsea have gone on a record-equalling run of 13 consecutive wins.

Pochettino is set to become the first manager to have a second crack at Chelsea's winning run.

"The gaffer spends a lot of time analysing them. He prepares for the game and the way we should play and in what shape," Vertonghen told British media.

"We see some videos and all these tactical things - but that's our secret. I think the gaffer has a plan."

Vertonghen believes the improved depth in squad has allowed the manager to name competitive starting lineups even when key players like Harry Kane and Toby Alderweireld were sidelined with injuries earlier this season.

"With the new signings that came in I think we have a very strong squad. It's the strongest since I've been here," he said.

"We can play different systems. Harry Kane has been out. Toby (Alderweireld) has been out, it's a lot of important players we've missed. But the guys that have played for them have done brilliantly."

Spurs, who are unbeaten at White Hart Lane in their nine league games this season, are currently sitting fifth in the table and trail leaders Chelsea by 10 points.—*Reuters*

Germany midfielder Draxler joins PSG from Wolfsburg

PARIS — Germany midfielder Julian Draxler has joined Paris St Germain on a four-and-a-half year contract from VfL Wolfsburg, the French champions said on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old was a member of the victorious Germany squad at the 2014 World Cup.

"For the first time in my career I will discover a new country, a new league and I am very proud to take this step in one of the best clubs in Europe," Draxler said in a club statement.

French media reported he is joining for a transfer fee of 36 million euros.

Germany's Julian Draxler reacts after missing a chance to score. PHOTO: REUTERS

Draxler has been hailed as one of the best attacking midfielders of his generation but has struggled for consistency. He could make his PSG debut against Bastia in a French Cup last-64 game on Saturday.

Draxler was booed by Wolfsburg fans last month in a home Bundesliga defeat by Hertha Berlin after he reiterated his desire to leave the club.

He was dropped from the squad for the following fixture, a trip to Bayern Muni ch that ended in a 5-0 defeat.

Draxler will compete for a place in the PSG starting line-up with France international Hatem Ben Arfa, Brazil winger Lucas and new Argentine signing Giovani Lo Celso.

PSG have endured a difficult start to the season, finishing second behind Arsenal in the Champions League group stage and sitting third in Ligue 1, five points behind leaders Nice midway through the campaign. —*Reuters*

Manchester United's Mata and Ibrahimovic sink 10-man West Ham

LONDON — Manchester United clinched a sixth consecutive Premier League win for the first time since April 2015 as Juan Mata and Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored second-half goals in a controversial 2-0 victory at 10-man West Ham United on Monday.

The game was overshadowed by referee Mike Dean's harsh decision to send off home midfielder Sofiane Feghouli in the 15th minute for a challenge on Phil Jones, while Ibrahimovic's goal, coming after Mata's 63rd minute opener, looked offside.

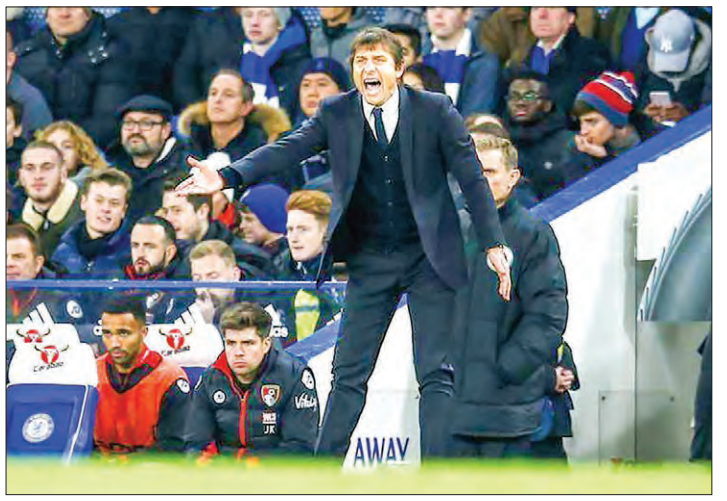
Mata sneaked into the box to knock fellow substitute Marcus Rashford's cut-back into the net after a marvellous piece of skill from the England forward, while Ibrahimovic volleyed in a blocked attempt from Ander Herrera with 12 minutes remaining.

"It was never a red card," said West Ham coach Slaven Bilic. "It was a challenge from both of them. The foul is (by) Phil Jones. He got the ball but went with the scissors (challenge). It was the key decision and it killed us.

"It put the game in a different perspective and was totally unfair for us. It was a big offside for the second goal. When the players are sprinting it is hard for the referees. But the players were walking. They should spot this."

United boss Jose Mourinho was unapologetic for the advantage Dean's decisions gave his side but said his players had not performed well in their second game in three days.—*Reuters*

Conte warns in-form Chelsea of 'biggest test' against Tottenham



Chelsea manager Antonio Conte. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Chelsea will face their biggest test of the season against Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday, manager Antonio Conte said as his team chase Premier League history.

Chelsea, who finished 10th in the league last season, are five points clear at the top and will arrive at White Hart Lane seeking to better Arsenal's record of 13 consecutive victories in a season.

"It's another challenge, another type of football to face (from Stoke) because Tottenham like to play from the back. They like to put a lot of pressure on when you are in possession," Conte said.

"We have to prepare very well because this game for sure will be very, very tough for us, but also for them. For sure (this match) is the biggest test. I think for us now every game is the biggest test."

Chelsea showed great resilience in their 4-2 win over Stoke City but Conte expected a different challenge from their next opponents.

"Tottenham is a good team. Last season they could have won the title and this season they have a stronger team. For sure we will see a good game," the Italian added.—*Reuters*

Arriving at end of my coaching career, says Guardiola

LONDON — Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has said he is approaching the end of his coaching career and the process of bidding goodbye has already started.

The 45-year-old manager, who replaced Manuel Pellegrini at the start of the season, believes his current stint at City could be one of his last managerial assignments.

"I will be at Manchester for the next three seasons, maybe more," Guardiola told NBC.

"I will not be on the bench until I am 60 or 65 years old. I feel the process of my goodbye has already started." Guardiola racked up three La Liga trophies and two Champions League wins in four years at Barcelona before moving to Bayern Munich in 2013 where he claimed three consecutive Bundesliga crowns.

"I am arriving at the end of my coaching career, of this I am sure," he added. The Spaniard has struggled to make an instant impact at City, who are currently third in the table and trail leaders Chelsea by seven points in the Premier League.—*Reuters*

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. PHOTO: REUTERS

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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."