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Food, solar panels delivered to villages in Maungtaw

Ko Min

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement delivered solar panels and accessories to 15 households in Thayetoak Village in Maungtaw Township yesterday, bringing light to villagers who are in need of power.

The supplies came after the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye's visit to the area on 6th and 7th January.

"We no longer need to be worry about fire from candlelit lights at night. Thanks to the supply, children can study school lessons at night under the light from solar lamps," said U Tun Win Maung, head of the Thayetoak Village.

Yesterday, the ministry also delivered rice and peas to villages affected by the violent attacks in October and November.

The ministry delivered a total of 1,845 bags of rice and 123 bags of peas to 7,381 households with a total population of 59,962 from 52 villages in Maungtaw Township from 6th to 11th January.

U Win Htut Oo (R) of the Relief and Resettlement Department presents solar panels to villagers in Thayetoak Village in Maungtaw. PHOTO: KO MIN

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Diplomats from US, UK, EU and Australia visit Maungtaw, Rakhine State

Yangon-based diplomats visit Maungtaw, Rakhine State.
PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Diplomats based in Yangon arrived in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, on Tuesday and visited villages affected by the violent attacks in October and November, collecting information on the socio-economic situation and security in the area.

The four-member mission comprised of diplomats from the embassies of the United States, United Kingdom and Australia and the European Commission Humanitarian Organisation (ECHO) toured around the sites of burnt houses in Wabeik Village, Kyikanpyin Village-tract and Dargyisar Village, and Myoma market in Maungtaw. Afterwards, the diplomats visited the rural health centre in Shweyinaye Village in Nyaungchaung Village-tract and the rural health centre in Alethankyaw Village and discussed with health staff about arrival of patients, common diseases and health care services.

On the last leg of the Tuesday tour, the mission met with the administration officer of the Gawduthara Village-tract and villagers and asked about the socio-economic situation and security in the village-tract.

Before the visit, the diplomats held talks with local authorities at the Maungtaw District General Administration Department on Tuesday.—*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 on 4 January.

From H.E. Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of the State of Qatar
Excellency,
It please me, on the occasion of the Anniversary of your country's Independence Day, to extend to you my sincere greetings and felicitations coupled with my best wishes of well-being to your Excellency and further development and progress to the people of Myanmar.

From H.E. Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar
Your Excellency,
It gives me pleasure, on the Anniversary of your country's Independence Day, to extend to your Excellency and, through you, to the people of Myanmar on behalf of the people of the State of Qatar and my own behalf, our warm greetings and felicitations coupled with our best wishes of good health and well-being to your Excellency and further development and progress to your people.

From H.E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Excellence,
La célébration de la fête nationale de votre pays m'offre I'agréable occasion de vous présenter, au nom du peuple et du governement algériens et en mon nom personnel, nos chaleureuses félicitations accompagnées de mes voèux sinceres de santé et de succès pour votre Excellence, de progrès et de prospérité pour le peuple de Myanmar.

Je saisis cette heureuse opportunité pour vous reitérer mon plein engagement à oeuvrer, avec vous, au renforcement des liens d'amitié et de cooperation existant entre nos deux pays amis.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Excellence, I'expression de ma haute considération.

From H.E. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Deputy Amir of the State of Qatar
Excellency,
On the occasion of the Anniversary of your country's Independence Day, I want to express to you my cordial greetings and congratulations coupled with my best wishes for your Excellency's well-being and further progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Foreign Ministers send felicitations to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Ministers sent to State Counsellor, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 4 January.

From H.E. Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Excellency,
I am please to convey to you my sincerest congratulations on the occasion of the celebration of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my willingness to enhance the tie of friendship and cooperation between Algeria and Myanmar.

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

From H.E. Mr. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, The Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman
Your Excellency,
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of President's office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It gives me pleasure to convey to Your Excellency my sincere congratulation on the occasion of the national day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

May I also take this opportunity to reaffirm my confidence that bilateral relations between our two countries will continue to develop in the a spirit of constructive and fruitful cooperation. I feel sure of our ability effectively to coordinate our positions on the issues of both regional and international concern.

I wish you, Your Excellency, all good health and every success, and to the brotherly people of the Myanmar peace and prosperity.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Notification 1/2017
14th Waxing Day of Pyatho 1378 ME
(11 January 2017)

Issuance of Notification regarding dates and times for election speeches, campaign rallies, and for termination of election campaign

1. At the coordination meeting held on 3rd January 2017 at the Office of the Union Election Commission, it has been approved and agreed by political party candidates and independent candidates who will contest in the By-Election to be held on 1st April 2017, that the Hluttaw candidates will abide by the Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates in launching their election campaigns for the successful conclusion of the By-Election in peace and stability.
2. The Union Election Commission permits 60 days as the election campaign period from 6 am on 30th January 2017, up to 12 midnight on 30th March 2017. Starting from 12 midnight on 30th March 2017 till the end of the By-Election on 1st April 2017, mass rallies and election campaigns are to be stopped.
3. Election campaign posters and advertisements are to be taken down not later than 12 midnight on 30th March 2017, up to which period political campaigns have been allowed. We wish to notify that if they fail to do so, Township Election Sub-commissions will have the advertisements and posters removed in consultation with the respective Township Development Committees, and costs incurred will have to be paid by the respective candidates.

Chairman
Union Election Commission

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organisations transferred and confirmed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Professor Dr Aye Tun, Rector of the University of Medicine, Magway, under the Ministry of Health and Sports as Rector of the University of Medicine 2, Yangon, from the date he assumes charge of his duties.
2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of U Han Win Aung, Director-General, Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department under the Ministry of Planning and Finance on the expiry of one-year probationary period from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

U Shwe Mann holds talks with Norwegian ambassador

Thura U Shwe Mann welcomes Norwegian Ambassador Ms Tone Tinnes. PHOTO: MNA

THURA U SHWE MANN, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, received Ms Tone Tinnes, Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on progress in the democratic transition, the peace process, matters related to legal affairs, the rule of law and human rights and a possible role for Norway to participate in the sectors.

Also present at the call were U Ko Ko Naing, commission member, and officials.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Volunteers to help new Yangon Bus Service passengers during one-week introductory period

In Yangon, starting on 16 January, the new Yangon Bus Service will be launched and volunteers who will help for the convenience of the public are being invited by the Yangon Region Transport Supervision Authority, it is learnt. Volunteers will help passengers with new routes and answer questions at bus stands with the motto—"Let us help you reach your destination!"

Those wishing to contribute voluntary labour can submit their names through the Yangon Bus Service (YBS) Facebook page—https /www.facebook.com/yangonbus, or through respective Hluttaw representatives in the townships or civil societies.

The Yangon Region Cabinet will substitute the new Yangon Bus Service for the former Ma Hta Tha systems under the supervision of the Yangon Region Transport Supervision Authority. Eight companies will manage to run the system with 60 bus lines. —*Hsu Hnin Le*

MRTV to reform into public service media

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meeting with employees of the Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV). PHOTO: MNA

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint stressed the need to lay down plans to improve Myanma Radio and Television (MRTV) as state media transitions to public service media (PSM).

The Union Minister met with employees of MRTV yesterday as part of the ministry's efforts to transform the radio and television outlet.

At the meeting with the employees, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint called on the staff who working in the operations field to produce avant-garde programmes.

He also highlighted the role of the state media, saying that it should not be used just for propaganda but also for broadcasting true news, setting the target of MRTV to become a true public service provider.

Political, economic and social sectors have achieved progress in their reforms to a certain extent since the incumbent government took office, he noted. For example, political prisoners were released, the new peaceful assembly law was enacted, international non-governmental organisations were granted free movement and the media was granted with freedom of access to information, said Dr Pe Myint.

At the meeting, departmental heads gave their suggestions for the improvement of MRTV.

MRTV has planned to reform its broadcasting duration ration from 60 per cent to 45 per cent in information programming and from 20 per cent to 35 per cent in entertainment programming, while 20 per cent in education programmes remains unchanged, according to U Myint Htwe, Director-General of MRTV.

In his concluding remarks, the Union Minister also stressed the importance of the voices of the people in state media news.— *Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor receives Chairman of Soros Fund Management

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr George Soros. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the delegation led by the Chairman of Soros Fund Management Mr George Soros, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at 10 am yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to rendering technical assistances for Myanmar's budget drawing process, taxing, prevention and reduction of narcotic drug related harm and rehabilitation, and mining and production of precious stones. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Over 3,000 rooms in low cost apartments to be sold in April

THE Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development will sell over 3,000 rooms in the Yuzana housing complex in Dagon Seikkan township and Kyan Sit Min housing complex in Hlaing Tharyar township in April, according to department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction.

The Yuzana housing complex has been constructed on 20 acres plot of land.

There are a total of 2,156 rooms. Moreover, there are a total of 1,260 rooms which have been constructed on a 9.5-acre plot of land in Kyan Sit Min housing complex in Hlaing Tharyar township.

"The prices begin at Ks 12 million, but the price will vary depending on the width and floor," said an official from the department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. Ministry of Construction sold rooms in the Yuzana housing complex part 1 and 2 with the bank installment payment plan in 2016.

The remain housing complex part 2 and 3 will be sold in April together with Kyan Sit Min housing complex.— *200*

UN human rights envoy Yanghee Lee visits correctional facilities in Mon State

Ms Yanghee Lee visits Wutgyi quarry. PHOTO: MNA

SPECIAL rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Ms. Yanghee Lee visited the production camp of the Correctional Department in Zinkyeik, Paung Township in Mon State yesterday.

On her first-ever visit to Mon State, Ms. Lee held talks with officials of the Correctional Department, discussing the conditions of the department and prisoners. She also observed the sleeping quarters for inmates.

The delegation led by Ms. Lee also visited Wutgyi quarry and observed the operation of the business.—*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

TNLA attacks government troops in Namsam & Mai Ngot Camp in Kyaukme

GOVERNMENT troops performing security duty in the area near the town of Namsam in north-eastern Shan State were confronted with about 20 members of the Ta'an National Liberation Army (TNLA) at about7:15am on Tuesday, but were able to drive the insurgents away into the south, it is learnt. The TNLA took a stronghold near Mankhait Natsingone at the entrance of Namsam, from which they fired at the Tatmataw troops with firearms and artillery at about 8 pm. Government troops returned fire, and the fighting ceased at about 8:15pm.

In a separate earlier incident at about 7:45 pm, TNLA armed groups from Towerdinekone and Padamya Cedi near Namwaw ward attacked the site of a tea-leaf factory owned by the Tatmataw, and then into the town of Namsam with firearms and artillery. Due to the cross-fire from the government troops, fighting ceased temporarily at about 7:55pm, it is learnt.

Starting at about 8pm, armed groups fired weapons and artillery into Namsam every 10 minutes or so. It is learnt that Tatmataw troops are conducting area security operations around the clock.

Similarly, at about 7:15 pm on Tuesday, a TNLA contingent of about 50 attacked with 60mm mortars and RPG medium-sized weapons at the camp of Mai Ngot. The Tatmataw responded with cross-fire. Tatmataw troops are conducting area clearance operations near the places where armed groups attacked, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Illegal businesses in Bayintnaung brokerage compound to be cleared away

ILLEGAL businesses in the Bayintnaung Brokerage Compound will be removed under the projectaccording to Colonel Tin Aung Tun, Yangon Region Cabinet's minister for security and border affairs, .

He added, "If businesses are found to run illegal businesses in the compound in launching an operation in cooperation with authorities concerned and those residing in the compound, they will be removed."

In the brokerage compound, fire-prevention tasks, lessening traffic jams and removing illegal business shops will be carried out for three days starting January 16, it is learnt.

"There will be no need to launch such an operation if the police force and the city development committee carry out their respective duties. Illegal businesses will be arrested according to the prescriptions of rules and laws," Col Tin Aung Tun said in a meeting with businessmen held in the brokerage compound yesterday.

Police Brig-Gen Mya Win said: "Success was achieved in an operation at the Thiri Mingalar Market. Now as well, the police force will increase its forces by adding another force."

Officials hold a meeting on cracking down illegal business in Bayintnaung Brokerage in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

For the security of the brokerage compound, more than 170 members including police forces and personnel from Bayintnaung Brokerage Compound disciplinary team members are carrying out the affairs of the compound, it is learnt.

And due to the undisciplined parking, traffic jams are happening in the compound.

U Khin Hsai, chairman of the association of merchants and industrialist said, "Trucks and lorries are parked there, if they are not allowed to park here, or vice versa."

There are 1,500 shops in the compound and about 1,000 trucks arrive and depart from the compound daily.

U Myint Oo, a member of the brokerage center development and discipline control board, said that in the compoundcold be found illegal massage rooms, drugs, gamblers, thieves and pick-pockets.

The Bayintnaung brokerage compound, situated on 75.194 acres, was inaugurated in 1990, playing an important role in the commodity flow of the Yangon Region.—*Ko Moe*

Myanmar hosts 4th BIMSTEC energy meeting for senior officials in Nay Pyi Taw

THE fourth senior officials' meeting of the BIMSTEC was held at the Hotel Shwe Pyi Taw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning with an opening address by Union Minister for Electric Power and Energy U Pe Zin Tun.

Senior officials from BIMSTEC countries pose for photo before 4th BIMSTEC meeting. Photo: MNA

Representatives of member countries discussed promotion of energy sufficiency among member countries, bridging the gap between energy need and generation in the member countries, the use of renewable energy and connecting the national grids in member countries and the MoU on establishing the BIMSTEC Grid and the Energy Centre.

Delegates of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Nepal and officials of the BIMSTEC, which stands for Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation,attended the meeting, which lasts until 12 January.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ukraine Consulate in Myanmar inaugurated

THE inauguration ceremony of the Ukraine Consulate in Myanmar was held on the premises of Ukraine's Honorary Consulate in Myanmar at the corner of Pyay Road and Parami Street in Mayangone township, Yangon at 7:30 pm yesterday.

At the ceremony, H.E. Mr Andrii Beshta, the Bangkok-based ambassador accredited to Myanmar, U Kyaw Zeya, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Aung Hlaing Oo, Ukraine's honorary consul to Myanmar, opened the consulate by cutting a ribbon draped across the entrance.

Afterwards, H.E Mr Andrii Beshta, U Kyaw Zeya and U Aung Hlaing Oo addressed the gathering.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Ukraine set up diplomatic ties on 19 January, 1999, with the Ukraine ambassador performing bi-lateral diplomatic relations at the embassy based in Thailand.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shakes hands with U Aung Hlaing Oo, Ukraine's honorary consul to Myanmar. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

Crime NEWS

One woman dead in Patheingyi fire

A WOMAN died in a house fire Wednesday afternoon in Yehtwet Village in Patheingyi Township, authorities said.

Ma Nilar Win was found dead after the fire was under control by local firemen and volunteers 10 minutes after it started.

According to authorities, the fire, which started from a mosquito coil fire, was reported at 1.20 pm in the village.

The fire destroyed the home worth of about K1.2 million. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Stimulants seized in Kawkareik, Mohnyin and Muse

AN anti-narcotics squad from Kawkareik District searched a house owned by Saw Nyunt Sein in Hlaing Kwal village, Yaypugyi village-tract, Kyondoe in Kawrakeik Township on Monday and found 401 stimulant tablets and 163.3 grams of raw opium. Following the interrogation of Saw Nyunt Sein, police also searched a house owned by Kyaw Htwe living in the same village and found 19,152 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, an anti-narcotics squad from Mohnyin searched a house owned by Kyar Heik residing in Hmaw Thitgone ward 3, Seik Mu village-tract, Hpakant Township on Monday. Police found 14 grams of heroin, 2,678 stimulant tablets, 180 grams of stimulant powder and 1.2 kilos of raw opium.

Likewise, members of anti-narcotics squad from Muse searched a house owned by Soe Pyae Sone living at Swan Saw 1st street, Swan Saw ward in Muse Township and found 1,600 stimulants tablets. Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

Property worth over Ks75.6billion sold through expos in 2016

CONDOMINIUMS, apartments, detached houses, flats and land worth over Ks75.6billion (US$56million) were sold in 2016 through real property expos, according to data released by iMyanmarHouse.com.

The real estate website iMyanmarHouse.com have held major real property expos twice in Yangon, once in Mandalay and once in Singapore. Additionally, it jointly held real estate expos with iGreen Golden City and other construction businesses.

"There were over 10 real estate expos we held in cooperation with other construction businesses. We were able to sell the real property worth over Ks75.6billion in 2016 through the expos," said U Nay Min Thu, a managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com.

The real estate sector is likely to raise its head with foreign direct investments increasingly flowing into the country. Low-cost apartments worth Ks10 to 20million are being developed for the public by private and government sectors so that low-income people can own property, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*

A file photo shows a general view of Yangon City. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Online licensing available after formulation of New Myanmar Companies Act

COMPANIES can soon be registered online because the new Myanmar Companies Act that has recently been submitted to the Hluttaw will soon be enacted, said U Aung Naing Oo, the director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

An online licensing system is technically and financially provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The current Myanmar Companies Act was enacted in 1914. According to the current act, a business is considered a foreign-owned business if there is a foreign investment involved, which can slow the development of the country, according to DICA.

With the new act, every business in Myanmar has to be under Myanmar Citizen ownership even though foreign businessmen seek the company license. However, setting the ownership will be dependent on a certain per cent of property which will be determined. Additionally, the new act will consider the largest shareholder in the company the owner, no matter whether this person is a Myanmar citizen or a foreigner, it is learnt. A proposal to set a basic ratio of property at 35 per cent has been submitted to the Hluttaw. This basic percentage can be changed depending on the opinions of the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Thirty-five per cent of a basic ratio means that a business having 35 per cent of foreign-owned shares will be set as a Myanmar Citizen owned enterprise whereas a company having more than the basic percentage of share property will be set as a foreign-owned business.—*200*

MFF and Japan's Daiichi to partner in farming of long-finned eels

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) and Japan's Daiichi Company will cooperate to farm long-finned eels (Anguilla) in Yangon Region, with an investment of US$1 million, according to the MFF.

"The million-dollar project is currently being drawn up,", said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, the vice chairperson of MFF. "Both Daiichi and the MFF will invest in this project. If the project will bring fruitful results, the farming will proceed on a commercial scale."

Anguilla japonica, or Japanese eel, is currently found in the Japanese market, and locally produced long-finned eel is also considered Anguilla. The local species will be sent to a laboratory in Japan for DNA testing before Japan will purchase locally farmed long-finned eels, it is learnt.

"Japan proposed to purchase as much long-finned eel as we could supply, because traditionally bred baby eels have become rare in Japan. And so they want to invest in a farm that produces Anguilla in Myanmar. Our factory can produce value-added products,", said Daw Toe Nanda Tin. A kilo of long-finned eels sells for US$13, according to Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

The long-finned eels are consumed domestically, but there are currently no commercial farming businesses. Some Chinese companies come to Myanmar to farm the eels, which are then placed on the Chinese market, it is learnt.

Long-finned eels are popular in China, Japan and South East Asia.—*Myitmakha News agency*

Myanmar eel farmers to visit Viet Nam's eel husbandry businesses

MYANMAR eel farming businessmen will observe eel husbandry sites in order to adopt systematic farming techniques in local businesses, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, the vice chairperson of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

Myanmar's eels are being mainly sold on the Chinese market. But the supply of eels is decreasing year by year despite having a regular market since only the eels traditionally caught are sent to the export market. Currently, the businessmen are trying to farm the eels experimentally, but have not yet put an eel farm into operation. Therefore, they will go on a practical tour to eel husbandry sites in Viet Nam, Daw Toe Nanda Tin said.

Myanmar's eels go for a high price on the foreign market, with over 5,000 tonnes of eels exported in this fiscal year 2016-2017. The volume of eels which are caught even in the rainy season is declining, prompting those engaged in the business to establish eel farming businesses. Eel farmers will initially study in Viet Nam, a country that has attained much success in eel farming, much more than that of other countries, experts said.—*200*

Both domestic gold price and dollar exchange rate unstable

THE unstable global market adversely affected the domestic exchange market and the gold market, resulting in an unstable domestic market.

With the rise in the global gold price in 2016, both the dollar exchange rate and the domestic gold price rose. Despite the decline in the global market, the exchange rate was still on the rise.

The index of the US dollar in the global market was up from the 7th to the 9th January, and then slipped to 101.51 points on the morning of 10th January.

However, the dollar exchange rate was Ks1,369 in the morning of 10th January and was down to Ks1,362 in the afternoon.

The US dollar exchange rate was unstable in the domestic market throughout this month, with Ks1,360 on 4th January, Ks1,350 on 6th January and Ks1,365 on 9th January. The dollar exchange rate hit a recorded high of Ks1,438 on 16th December in 2016 and dropped to Ks1,350 on 3rd January, according to the external exchange market.

On 10th January, the Central Bank of Myanmar increased the dollar exchange rate to Ks1,350 from Ks 1,345 on 9th Jan.

The domestic gold price hit its highest rate of Ks900,200 per tical on 4th Oct 2016. The price was on the rise despite the drop in the global gold price because the US dollar exchange rate remained on the upward trend.

With the increase in global gold price on 10th Jan, domestic gold fetched around Ks862,000 per tical, but the price was down over Ks858,000 per tical in the afternoon, it is learnt from the gold and jewellery shops.—*Ko Khant*

Philippines Foreign Minister hopeful ASEAN-China maritime code ready by mid-2017

Philippine Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay speaks during a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (not pictured) in Moscow, Russia, on 5 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — The Philippines is hopeful that a code of conduct for Southeast Asian nations and China over the disputed South China Sea will be completed by the middle of this year, its foreign minister said on Wednesday.

"Even as we speak, we continue to have discussions with our high officials, below ministerial level, and these talks are ongoing," Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told a news conference.

"And this is precisely why we are hopeful that we would be able to come out with a code of conduct by mid-2017." The code of conduct has been in the works since 2002 and has been plagued by delays, which Yasay described as "intervening events" that had prevented it moving forward. Yasay said China had been "very cooperative" in helping it progress. —*Reuters*

China's Xi to promote globalization at Davos, not 'war and poverty'

China's President Xi Jinping . PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING/GENEVA — China's President Xi Jinping will promote "inclusive globalization" at this month's World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos and will warn that populist approaches can lead to "war and poverty", Chinese officials said on Wednesday.

This year's forum, from 17-20 January , is expected to be dominated by discussion of a surge in public hostility toward globalization and the rise of US President-elect Donald Trump, whose tough talk on trade, including promises of tariffs against China and Mexico, helped win him the White House. Trump will be sworn in on 20 January.

Xi is the first Chinese president to ever attend the WEF's annual forum in Davos, which brings together top-level political and business leaders.

Jiang Jianguo, head of the State Council Information Office, told a symposium hosted by the World Trade Organization in Geneva that President Xi would go to Davos to push for development, cooperation and economic globalization in order to build "a human community with shared destiny."

"With the rise of populism, protectionism, and nativism, the world has come to a historic crossroad where one road leads to war, poverty, confrontation and domination while the other road leads to peace, development, cooperation and win-win solutions," Jiang said.

At a briefing in Beijing on the Davos visit, Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong said China would respond to the international community's concern over globalization by putting forward Beijing's opinions on how to "steer economic globalization toward greater inclusiveness.".

Li said criticism of trade protectionism leveled at China, by Trump and others, was unjust. "Trade protectionism will lead to isolation and is in the interest of no one," he said. "Channels of communication are open" between China and Trump's transition team at the forum, Li said, but warned that scheduling a meeting might be difficult.

Days after Trump's victory, Xi vowed to fight protectionism and to push forward with multilateral trade deals. Foreign businesses in China have long complained about a lack of market access and protectionist Chinese policies.

Xi will attend the Davos forum on 17 January, part of a three-day state visit to Switzerland from 15 to 18 January.

The United States will be represented at Davos by Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry, days before they leave office, as well as someone from the Trump transition team, the WEF said on Tuesday.—*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Expatriate Consultant Editor
Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail .com
Senior Translators
Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
International News Editor
Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Local News Editors
Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)
Translators
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Chief Reporter
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Computer Team
Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
Circulation
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114
Advertising inquiry
01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Vucic meets with Indian PM Modi

GANDINAGHAR — Serbian PM Aleksandar Vucic met in Gandhinagar on Tuesday with Indian PM Narendra Modi to discuss bilateral relations and ways of strengthening economic cooperation and trade, Vucic's office said in a statement.

Vucic invited Modi to visit Serbia, noting this would be a new impetus to strengthening the bilateral cooperation at all levels.

Indian PM Narendra Modi will fully support Serbia's territorial integrity and India will in no way recognise Kosovo's independence, Serbian PM Aleksandar Vucic said on Tuesday. Speaking to reporters afterwards, Vucic said the meeting had been a great honour for both Serbia and him personally and that, in a long, cordial conversation, they had agreed on most current global political issues.—*Tanjug*

Indian PM Narendra Modi and Serbian PM Aleksandar Vucic. PHOTO: TANJUG

Indonesian nationals deported from Malaysia for IS logos in cellphone

JAKARTA — An Indonesian official confirmed the deportation of eight Indonesians from Malaysia on Wednesday following the finding of Islamic State (IS) logos in cellphone.

Citing the results of an investigation, Muhammad Iqbal, director of Indonesian citizen protection at foreign affairs ministry, said those deported nationals were students of a boarding school in Indonesia's West Sumatra province.

Iqbal said the students made trips to Malaysia and southern Thailand's Pattani area to undertake a study program in an education institution there.

On Monday, they were blocked from entering Singapore from Malaysia's Johor as Singaporean immigration officers found IS logos in a cellphone belonging to one of the eight.

They eventually returned to Malaysia.

Based on results of the investigation against the eight Indonesians by Malaysian police anti-terror squad on Tuesday, the Malaysian authorities concluded that the IS logos were unintentionally saved into the cellphone through social media, according to Iqbal.

Malaysian authorities deported them instantly, Iqbal added. "They were then sent back to Indonesia through Batam and are now in the custody of Riau provincial police," Iqbal said.—*Xinhua*

N Korea's ICBM not yet able to reach US mainland: S Korea

SEOUL — North Korea has not yet acquired the technology of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile that is capable of reaching the US mainland, a South Korean Defence Ministry official said on Wednesday.

In a briefing about the 2016 South Korean Defence White Paper, which was also released on Wednesday, the official said South Korea has removed the ministry's previous assessment included in the 2014 white paper that North Korea is believed to possess the capability of threatening the US mainland with its missiles.

"North Korea has not yet completed an ICBM and has not yet reached the stage that can earn credibility," the official said.

The official added that North Korea is trying to perfect the flight capability of its submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

The biennial report also said North Korea has about 50 kilograms of weapons-grade plutonium, having obtained about 10 kg last year through reprocessing of nuclear materials.

The 2014 defence white paper said North Korea is estimated to have about 40 kg of such plutonium.

A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Sunday that Pyongyang could carry out an ICMB test at any time and location determined by its leadership. In response, the United States said it would shoot down any missiles that threaten its territory or that of its allies.

Ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration on 20 January, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in a New Year address that his country has entered the final stage of preparing to test-launch the long-range missile.

Kim's regime conducted two nuclear tests and test-launched more than 20 ballistic missiles last year in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

As for relations with Japan, the latest South Korean defense white paper maintained the position that the South will continue to make a resolute and stern response to Japan's territorial claim over South Korea-controlled islets of Dokdo in the Sea of Japan. The islets are known as Takeshima in Japan.

Aside from the territorial dispute, South Korea will continue to cooperate with Japan in coping with North Korea's nuclear and missile threats for the sake of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, the paper said.—*Kyodo News*

China voices hope of building healthy ties with Japan

BEIJING — high-ranking Chinese official on Wednesday voiced hope of building healthy ties with Japan through more exchanges between lawmakers.

"Through exchanges, I hope for more sound and stable development of China-Japan relations," Zhang Dejiang, who is ranked third in China's Communist Party and serves as chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, told a cross-party group of Japanese lower house lawmakers in Beijing.

The meeting between the delegation and Zhang was held as the two countries are trying to accelerate their reconciliation efforts by using a wider spectrum of channels this year, in which they will mark the 45th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties.

The meeting materialized under the framework of the Japan-China Parliamentary Exchange Commission, which was convened for the first time in nearly two years.

"Under any circumstances for Japan-China relations, it is important to continue exchanges," said Tsutomu Sato of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who handed the Chinese leader a letter from lower house speaker Tadamori Oshima.

To discuss major bilateral issues and facilitate exchanges between Japan's House of Representatives and China's top legislature, the commission has met almost every year since 2005, alternately in Tokyo and Beijing.

The commission met for the first time in about three years in April 2015 after ties between Tokyo and Beijing plunged to the lowest ebb over a territorial row and wartime issues. —*Kyodo News*

Veteran Malaysian state chief dies in election blow for PM

KUALA LUMPUR — The veteran chief minister of the Malaysian state of Sarawak died on Wednesday in a fresh blow for Prime Minister Najib Razak who was counting on him to help secure victory in upcoming elections.

Adenan Satem, 72, died of a heart attack, media said. There was no official confirmation of the cause.

Adenan was one of Najib's closest allies, whose popularity helped the ruling Barisan Nasional alliance secure a landslide victory in the Sarawak state elections last year.

Najib was counting on Adenan to help him in a general election that the prime minister is expected to call this year.

Najib is mired in a multi-billion dollar graft scandal involving state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB). The fund is being investigated in at least six countries, including the United States, Singapore and Switzerland.

Najib has denied wrongdoing.

Sarawak rallied behind Adenan as he brokered greater autonomy for the resource-rich state on the island of Borneo and dealt with long standing issues such as recognition of native land rights since becoming chief minister in 2014.—*Reuters*

Samsung Electronics vice chairman Jay Y lee arrives to attend a hearing at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, on 6 December, 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Samsung leader named a suspect in South Korea political probe

SEOUL — A South Korean special prosecutor's office will question Samsung Group leader Jay Y Lee as a suspect in the widening influence-peddling scandal that led to a parliamentary vote to impeach President Park Geun-hye.

Prosecutors have been looking into whether Samsung payments of about 30 billion won ($25 million) for a business and foundations backed by Park's friend, Choi Soon-sil, were connected to a 2015 decision by the national pension service to back a controversial merger of two group affiliates.

Samsung has acknowledged making contributions to two foundations as well as a consulting firm controlled by Choi. The prosecution this week summoned two senior Samsung Group officials for questioning, though they were listed as witnesses.

Lee Kyu-chul, a spokesman for the special prosecution team, told a briefing the Samsung leader had been summoned for questioning at 9:30 am (0030 GMT) on Thursday, over suspicions including bribery, but did not elaborate.

"All possibilities are open," the spokesman replied, when asked if the prosecution team would request an arrest warrant for Lee. A Samsung Group spokeswoman declined to comment.

Park could become South Korea's first democratically elected leader to leave office early after parliament voted in December to impeach her over the corruption scandal, which has engulfed the country's power elite. The impeachment must be upheld or overturned by the Constitutional Court.

National Pension Service chief Moon Hyung-pyo was arrested in December after acknowledging he pressured the fund to approve the merger between Samsung C&T Corp and Cheil Industries Inc in 2015 while he was health minister.

Park has described it as a policy decision made by the world's third-largest pension fund in the national interest.

Lee, 48, denied bribery accusations during a parliamentary hearing in December, rejecting assertions from lawmakers that Samsung lobbied to get the fund to vote in favor of the merger.

The special prosecutors' office said it was looking into whether Lee gave false testimony during the parliamentary hearing.

"The special prosecutor needs Samsung to establish a potential bribery charge against President Park Geun-hye," said Shin Yul, a political science professor at Myongji University.

"Samsung is the one that has made the biggest contributions among conglomerates and it had an exclusive relationship with Choi Soon-sil, buying a horse," Shin said, referring to the firm's sponsorship of Choi's daughter's equestrian career.

The daughter, Chung Yoo-ra, was arrested in Denmark this month after being sought by South Korean authorities. Lee, the vice chairman of flagship affiliate Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS), has been leading South Korea's top conglomerate since his father, founding family patriarch Lee Kun-hee, was incapacitated following a May 2014 heart attack.—*Reuters*

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.

Reconciliation begins from the heart. So true

Kyaw Myaing

TODAY we wish to discuss about how to begin from the heart. According to Buddhist philosophy, human existence is a mixture of good times and bad times. What we experience from day to day is the result of our karma. The good and bad actions of the past add up and we get the resultant. If we have done more good deeds than bad deeds, our resultant karma will be positive and we will enjoy good health, good friends, a good job, etc.

Why do we say "begin from the heart". To forgive someone who has done many evil deeds to you is not easy. We will not say it is easy. In life, all goals which are worthwhile achieving are not easy.

Forgiveness begins from the heart. When you are angry at someone, it may be your wife or your son or your daughter, the anger plays in your mind like an endless video. It goes in a loop. You think about it again and again. The more you think about it, the more you become angry. When you get angry, your face turns red, your voice starts to shake and your face looks like the face of a demon or an ogre. There is heat in your heart and it burns with great intensity.

Is there a way to get out of this anger loop. The good news is that there is a way. Forgiving does not mean forgetting. You can remember the wrong done to your friends or family members. You can remember it with a positive attitude. However, if you let the anger in your heart remain there, it will continue hurting you the rest of your life. The other person who has done this bad deed has won twofold. Why? Because he or she has done harm once, say by killing your friend or family member. Then he or she has been able to torment you for the rest of your life. In this case the evil doer has succeeded in planting an "anger virus" in your heart. You will never be the same again. Every time you think about it this "anger virus" will be activated and you will relive the horror all over again.

There is a cure and that is done by forgiveness and meditation. We need to adopt a positive attitude about the evil deed for the sake of the living, including yourself.

People live and die according to their past karma. There is nothing we can do about it. This is the teachings of the Buddha. So if some evil doer does harm to you or your friends or family members, try to forgive. This evil person will pay a price many many times according to the law of karma.

By replacing anger and hatred with metta and forgiveness, we can achieve Inner Peace and go on with our lives.

Our friends who have died are dead and gone. In their memory, let us do our utmost to rebuild our society and country which we all love so dearly.

Pragmatic approach to establish "Home for the Aged" on self-help basis

Daw Myint Myint Kyi
(Wachet Hospital)

AS my age edges over (70) years, I feel the pulse of "getting old". Therefore, all the chilling thoughts on ageing have rush into my head, prompting me in finding possible solution for the simple living of older persons among my friends, including myself. In this connection, I sought ideas from Dhamma friends in our circle of Wachet Sangha Hospital Committee, especially with the Vice Chairwoman and Financial Secretary of the Lower Myanmar EC.

The idea for establishing "Home for the Aged" addition with nurse aid on manageable scale came up while visiting an orchid garden named "Thit Sar Minn" owned by Dhamma friends in Yangon. The owner of orchid garden asked me over the phone that she was desirous to donate Kyats (0.6) million for the Eternal Fund in addition to her earlier credit of Kyats (0.5) million. In fact, I went there to compliment one CD disk on the merit sharing ceremony event of Wachet Hospital Eternal Fund that hits Kyats (700) million.

While talking motley assortments of Dhamma topics, one of the hosts of the orchid garden asked me whether we have any vacant land in Wachet area on the Sagaing Hills. I told them that we have some empty spaces of land, but the new Hospital Annexe with the name of Shwe Mann Ratana has been recently commissioned, fulfilling the required accommodation for the patients. I responded to give a reply about vacant land after getting more information from the Chairman of Upper Myanmar EC in Sagaing.

Subsequently, I was informed over the telephone by the Chairman of Upper Myanmar that Wachet Hospital in Sagaing Hills has adequate premises for the patients, but donations of cash for the Wachet Eternal Fund is warmly welcomed as this fund truly contributes monthly interest from the bank in functioning the day to day tasks. Immediately, I relayed the message to the intended well wishers of the orchid garden in Yangon.

This article is intended for the pragmatic approach to establish "Home for the Aged" with nurse aid on self-help basis coming out from a beautiful orchid garden. In other words, it is a small project for the ageing persons.

My beloved mother is over (90) years and I am very happy to be with her under the same roof. As an ageing old woman, she talks aimlessly on pointless subjects. However, when angry, she responded with sharp tongue with loud and clear voice. A young man is a household member staying with us for more than one decade, who softly teases my old mother from time to time, for that, my mother shoots back with spiky words like machine gun. Due to ageing, we have to feed, bath and assist her in most of the movements. She is feeble without an aide. Ageing makes life difficult. Older persons in the age bracket of (80) and (90) are facing trouble in their moment to moment mobility. A few older persons, who spend their whole life in a proper way in accordance with the teaching of Dhamma, need no assistance in their daily activities. These older persons are, in fact, rare human species in our country.

The author of this article has just entered the age of (72). Instant care is always in my head even in climbing up and stepping down from a stairway at home and elsewhere. Especially at Super Markets and Malls, the writer is to be careful looking at the shining floor tiles whether they tend to be slippery, with a worrisome sensation. Ascending and descending through an escalator, cautious feeling is always on my mind. Despite a spectacle is placed before my eyes, the vision is not yet perfect. Still, the writer manages in maintaining the budget and accountings of the Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills. However, my keen interest in the accountings is sliding down. As a matter of fact, the huge task of statistics has been allocated to junior committee members and asked them to put up only delicate matters to my desk. Passing the line of the age (72), the author is uncertain on the bumpy path of aging. The age has just edge over the line of elderly and enters into illness and infirmity. Therefore, the dreamy idea of establishing "Home for the Aged" with nurse aid on self-help basis has come into my head.

One of our generous donors for the Eternal Fund of Wachet Hospital is "Phwar Nwe" and she is enjoying her days at the "Hninzigone Home for the Aged". Some Lower Myanmar EC members visited her from time to time to cheer her up. "Phwar Nwe" told us that the stay at the Hninzigone is comfortable and pleasant, with the opportunity to meditate peacefully. "Phwar Nwe" invited us to join her at the Hninzigone when our age is ripe for quiet stay away from hustle and bustle.

Indeed, the author has great interest in the "Hninzigone Home for the Aged". Being single without any support of family members, the author stands on her own two feet until now, and when the time has come for total retirement, a simple Road Map of chilling down at an appropriate venue has to be drafted. Caring for the old mother needs assistance as the author could not manage the daily chores. When the domestic help quits the job, it is the big headache for the author. Finding a care person for the elderly is very difficult. However, the older person at home is quite comfortable as her offspring come together in making a good plan for her living. Perhaps, this is the favorable fruits in present life due to her past good deeds. Meanwhile, on my part, a plan on self-help basis for total retirement is important.

Most of the homes for the aged established across our country refused to accept the older person passing the age of (80) years. An aging person is edging towards "illness and infirmity", which needs more attention for day to day care. The author and close Dhamma friends are desirous to take shelter at an appropriate "Home for the Aged" with nurse aid to face and encounter the inevitable illnesses.

Ultimately, the best choice has been decided.

The dreamy idea is the pragmatic approach to establish "Home for the Aged" with nurse aid on self-help basis at a place near the Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills on the west bank of famous and peaceful Ayeyawaddy River. With this wishful idea, the author started the campaign for the home for the aged.

First, the author has supplicated a letter of intent for the establishment of home for the aged to the respective Sangha Committee of Wachet Sector, providing a copy to the Hospital Support and Logistic Committee of Upper Myanmar and responsible persons. The project has many facets such as finding well wishers for the new building fund, structuring the "Home for the Aged" and recruiting staff members for caring assistances of the aged persons. Searching and possible recruiting the caring nurses for the elderly persons is the hardest part in the project.

The basic concept of the author is to establish "Home for Caring the Elder Persons", but not merely the "Home for the Aged" for shelter. The plan for caring the elderly person needs high budget. Currently, the Wachet Hospital is functioning at a cost of kyats (35) million a month in the treatment of patients, and therefore, the well wishers and the donors have to raise an Eternal Fund towards the Wachet Hospital to get bank interest.

To be continued

Ukraine FM arrives Yangon

THE Ukraine delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr Pavlo Klimkin arrived Yangon yesterday evening.

He was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Ukraine Ambassador based in Bangkok Mr Andrii Beshta, U Zaw Phyo Win, Deputy Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department, and U Zaw Tun Oo, Deputy Director-General of the Protocol Department and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Thaphan Seik dam to supply water for agriculture sector

THAPHAN SEIK DAM, which is located in Shwebo District, Sagaing Region, will supply sufficient water for more than 355,600 acres of farmland, including 232,000 acres of summer paddy fields starting on 7 February, said U Saw Thet Khine Win, Deputy Director, Shwebo District Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.

"We found a certain level of silt deposits in the dam because we have been using the dam for 16 years," he added.

The department will irrigate 1400,000 acres of agriculture land to plant the summer paddy and other crops. After irrigating supplementay water to summer paddy land, the department will keep water in the dam in order to supply 900,000 acre of monsoon paddy land in case the rain comes late.

According to a 1 January measurement, the Thaphan Seik Dam has a storage capacity of 2,443,752 acre, with 54,080 feet high. The dam can supply water dead storage for 95,600 acres, according to Snowy Mountain Engineering Group reports.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Bamboo growers boom in Mawlamyinegyun

THE number of growers of Wah Shar, a locally popular species of bamboo, has increased dramatically in Mawlamyingyun Township because of its fast growth and lower cost. There were over 1,600 bamboo growers in 2016, according to local bamboo growers.

There were 704 additional bamboo growers in 2016, up from 976 growers in 2015 and 2014. Most of the residents from the village are cultivating the seasonal crops as their primary occupations, though some grow bamboo to earn extra income.

"The bamboo which is called Wah Shar in Myanmar can be used in many ways. Also, it is one of the fastest-growing plants. So, we can sell this bamboos only in our region after we have cut the bamboo. The people from other regions also come and buy the bamboo in our village. The long and straight bamboo can make more money. So, we grow those kinds of bamboo," said U Aung Kyaw, a bamboo grower.

There are many kinds of bamboo in Myanmar. Most of the residents from Mawlamyingyun township grow more of "Wah Shar" bamboos. There are over 6,300 acres of bamboo land in their region.

Wah Shar bamboo is strong, straight and grows quickly with little maintenance required, growers said.

"We don't need to look back after we have taken care of the plant for a week," said U Tin Shwe, a Wah Shar bamboo grower. The bamboo from Mawlamyingyun Township has been distributed to Kyaikpi and Mawlamyingyun markets for many years. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Bamboo binds are sorted beside the road in Mawlamyingyun Township. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Thaton Police search for suspects in theft of raw ruby stone worth Ks80 million

POLICE in Thaton, a town in Mon State, are searching for suspects in the theft Tuesday of a raw ruby stone worth about Ks80 million, investigators said.

A gemstone flashlight was also stolen.

Investigators said the precious stone was in the possession of U Hla Than, who temporarily lives in a house behind a factory on Dattawphaya Street in Leikin Ward in Thaton Township.

According to U Hla Than, he arrived at his current place of residence on 2 January, waiting for an expert to examine his gemstone. He always placed the gem bag beside his pillow. He checked his bag after his confidant told him that he found the gem bag near a drainage ditch west of the house on the morning of 6 January. There was no raw ruby in the bag.

Police Captain Than Zaw said police are still investigating possible links between this case and others.

Four people, including the complainant, his confidant and two factory workers, were questioned by police on 7 January. Police investigated four colleagues of U Hla Than on 8 January.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Stimulants and marijuana seized

AN anti-narcotics squad comprised of police from Kyondoe and Mone townships searched a house owned by Zaw Win Tun at Sin Seik Village, Kyaukgyi Township, Bago Region on Tuesday and discovered 56,560 yaba pills, 1.06 kilos of marijuana and an air gun.

The combined team arrested Zaw Win Tun's wife Ma San Yi for possession of the drugs and the weapon.

Similarly, an anti-narcotics squad from Lashio searched a motorcycle driven by Shwe Tar near Oriental toll gate, Myoshaung Street in Lashio on Tuesday and seized 14,000 stimulant tablets.

Ma San Yi. PHOTO: MPF

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

Vehicle accidents on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

A Toyota Probox driven by Win Bo hit a road-divider on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway when he lost control of the vehicle after apparently falling asleep at the wheel near milepost 242/7 en route from Yangon to Mandalay at about 3:30 am yesterday morning.

The driver was seriously injured and was transported to Nyaunggone Township Hospital to receive medical treatment. The vehicle incurred damage in the amount of Ks15 lakh.

In a separate incident, a Kia Optima Saloon driven by Zaw Htet Ko Ko Myint en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay hit milepost 317/0 on the right side of the Yangon-Mandalay highway when the driver lost control. The saloon collided into the back of a Man Shwe Myo Taw Express bus driven by U Lin Aung, which was stopped because of engine failure near the milepost at about 2pm yesterday. The saloon damage was Ks 5 lakh. Damage to the bus amounted to Ks2 lakh. Highway Police filed charges against Win Bo and Zaw Htet Ko Ko Myint.—*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*

Highway Police inspects the vehicle at the accident. PHOTO: MPF

Obama pushes values and prods Trump in final, emotional address

CHICAGO — With a final call of his campaign mantra "Yes We Can," President Barack Obama urged Americans on Tuesday to stand up for US values and reject discrimination as the United States transitions to the presidency of Republican Donald Trump.

In an emotional speech in which he thanked his family and declared his time as president the honor of his life, Obama gently prodded the public to embrace his vision of progress while repudiating some of the policies that Trump promoted during his campaign for the White House.

"So just as we, as citizens, must remain vigilant against external aggression, we must guard against a weakening of the values that make us who we are," Obama told a crowd of 18,000 in his hometown of Chicago, where he celebrated his election in 2008 as the first black president of the United States.

Trump, who takes office on 20 January, proposed temporarily banning Muslims from entering the country, building a wall on the border with Mexico, upending a global deal to fight climate change and dismantling Obama's healthcare reform law.

Obama made clear his opposition to those positions during fiery campaign speeches for 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, but has struck a more conciliatory tone with Trump since the election.

In his farewell speech, he made clear his positions had not changed and he said his efforts to end the use of torture and close the US prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were part of a broader move to uphold US values.

US President Barack Obama delivers his farewell address in Chicago, Illinois, US, on 10 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"That's why I reject discrimination against Muslim Americans," he said in a clear reference to Trump that drew applause.

He said bold action was needed to fight global warming and said "science and reason" mattered.

"If anyone can put together a plan that is demonstrably better than the improvements we've made to our healthcare system, that covers as many people at less cost, I will publicly support it," he said in another prodding challenge to his successor.

Trump has urged the Republican-controlled Congress to repeal the law right away.

Obama, who came to office amid high expectations that his election would heal historic racial divides, acknowledged that was an impossible goal.

"After my election, there was talk of a post-racial America," he said. "Such a vision, however well-intended, was never realistic. Race remains a potent and often divisive force in our society."

However, Obama said he remained hopeful about the work that a younger generation would do. "Yes we can," he said. "Yes we did."

In an indirect reference to the political work the Democratic Party will have to do to recover after Clinton's loss, Obama urged racial minorities to seek justice not only for themselves but also for "the middle-aged white man who from the outside may seem like he's got advantages, but who's seen his world upended by economic, cultural, and technological change."

First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, his wife Jill Biden, and many current and former White House staff members and campaign workers attended the speech. Obama wiped his eyes as he addressed his wife and thanked his running mate. They all appeared together on stage after the address.

The Chicago visit is Obama's last scheduled trip as president, and even the final flight on the presidential aircraft was tinged with wistfulness. It was the president's 445th "mission" on Air Force One, a perk he has said he will miss when he leaves office, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

All told, Obama will have spent more than 2,800 hours or 116 days on the plane during his presidency. Obama plans to remain in Washington for the next two years while his younger daughter, Sasha, finishes high school. Sasha, who has an exam on Wednesday, did not attend the speech but her older sister Malia was there.

The president has indicated he wants to give Trump the same space that his predecessor, Republican President George W Bush, gave Obama after leaving office by not maintaining a high public profile.—*Reuters*

Iran decides not to upset nuclear deal over US sanctions extension

VIENNA — Iran decided not to escalate a stand-off over the extension of US sanctions at a meeting of diplomats overseeing the nuclear deal it reached with world powers in 2015, senior Russian and Iranian diplomats said after the session on Tuesday.

Tehran threatened last month to retaliate against a US Senate vote to extend the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA), saying it violated the landmark agreement reached with six major powers under which the Islamic Republic curbed its disputed nuclear programme in exchange for relief from international sanctions.

"Iran explained its concern on the extension of the Iran Sanctions Act ... as being an reintroduction of sanctions. I think the joint commission took Iran's concern very seriously," Abbas Araqchi, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, told reporters.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi leaves a hotel in Vienna, Austria, on 19 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

When asked whether Iran used the meeting of the so-called Joint Commission to trigger a dispute resolution mechanism set out in the accord for cases where one participating country feels there is a breach of the deal, Araqchi said, "No."

The bill extending US sanctions against Iran for 10 years became law in December without President Barack Obama's signature, but US officials said its passage would not affect implementation of the nuclear accord. Sanctions imposed by other parties, such as the European Union, have been lifted.

The regular commission meeting on the nuclear deal took place 10 days before US President-elect Donald Trump enters the White House amid great uncertainty about how he, as a fierce critic of a deal that Obama counts as a significant diplomatic achievement, will handle any future difficulties with Iran. —*Reuters*

Ex-manager of Swiss Bank jailed, fined in 1MDB-related offenses

SINGAPORE — A former local branch manager for Switzerland's Falcon Private Bank was sentenced by a Singaporean court to 28 weeks in jail and fined S$128,000 (US$89,000) for six offenses related to the government's probe into a multibillion-dollar scandal over Malaysian state fund 1MDB.

Jens Fred Sturzenegger, a 42-year-old Swiss national, had been slapped with 16 charges last week but pleaded guilty on Wednesday for only six of the charges while agreeing for the remaining 10 charges to be taken into consideration for the sentencing.

He is the fifth person, and the first foreigner, Singapore has hauled into court for offenses related to 1MDB's global money flows.

One of the charges to which he pleaded guilty was for not disclosing to Singapore financial authorities the inflows of about US$1.265 billion into two Falcon bank accounts in March 2013.

He also pleaded guilty to some of the charges of giving false information to investigating officers by creating the impression that Malaysian billionaire Low Taek Jho was not involved with the bank accounts. Low has been described in the media as a confidant of Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's family.

District Judge Ow Yong Tuck Leong, in passing the sentence, said Sturzenegger had shown a persistent "deceitful conduct."

Sturzenegger was arrested by Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department on 5 October last year but had been released on bail of S$80,000.

His name and his arrest were mentioned by the Monetary Authority of Singapore in October when it announced it had ordered Falcon Bank to close its operations in Singapore for "serious failures in anti-money laundering controls and improper conduct by senior management at its head office in Switzerland as well as the Singapore branch."—*Kyodo News*

Giant telescope in Chile to seek habitable planets in Alpha Centauri

SANTIAGO —The European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile will be modified in order to allow it to search more effectively for potentially habitable planets in Alpha Centauri, the nearest star system to Earth.

The ESO said it has signed a deal with Breakthrough Starshot, a venture that aims to deploy thousands of tiny spacecraft to travel to the system and send back pictures.

Starshot, which is backed by internet billionaire Yuri Milner and physicist Stephen Hawking, will provide funding to allow equipment on the Very Large Telescope that studies in the mid-infrared to be adapted to better detect faint planets, the ESO said in a statement on Monday.

The adaption will have the effect of reducing bright stellar light that drowns out relatively dim planets, improving the chances of finding them, it said.

Interest in exploring the sun's nearest neighbor has increased since scientists announced last year that they had discovered evidence of an Earth-sized planet circling Proxima Centauri, a star in the Alpha Centauri system.

Larger telescopes planned for the 2020s — such as the ESO's own Extremely Large Telescope, current under construction in Chile — should provide researchers with more information on the number and nature of exoplanets.

The ESO is an intergovernmental astronomy organization backed by 16 countries in Europe and South America and hosted in Chile.—*Reuters*

This artist's impression shows the planet orbiting the star Alpha Centauri B, a member of the triple star system that is the closest to Earth in this image released on 17 October 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nutella maker fights back on palm oil after cancer risk study

ALBA (Italy) — thorities listed the edible oil as a cancer risk, has found a vocal ally in the food sector: the maker of Nutella.

Italian confectionery firm Ferrero has taken a public stand in defense of an ingredient that some other food companies in the country are boycotting. It has launched an advertising campaign to assure the public about the safety of Nutella, its flagship product which makes up about a fifth of its sales.

The hazelnut and chocolate spread, one of Italy's best-known food brands and a popular breakfast treat for children, relies on palm oil for its smooth texture and shelf life. Other substitutes, such as sunflower oil, would change its character, according to Ferrero.

"Making Nutella without palm oil would produce an inferior substitute for the real product, it would be a step backward," Ferrero's purchasing manager Vincenzo Tapella told Reuters. He features in a TV commercial aired in Italy over the past three months that has drawn criticism from some politicians.

Any move away from palm oil would also have economic implications as it is the cheapest vegetable oil, costing around $800 a ton, compared with $845 for sunflower oil and $920 for rapeseed oil, another possible substitute.

Ferrero uses about 185,000 tonnes of palm oil a year, so replacing it with those substitutes could cost the firm an extra $8-22 million annually, at those prices. The company declined to comment on these calculations.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) said in May that palm oil generated more of a potentially carcinogenic contaminant than other vegetable oils when refined at temperatures above 200 degrees Celsius. It did not, however, recommend consumers stop eating it and said further study was needed to assess the level of risk.

The detailed research into the contaminant -- known as GE -- was commissioned by the European Commission in 2014 after an EFSA study the year before, into substances generated during industrial refining, identified it as being potentially harmful.

EFSA does not have the power to make regulations, though the issue is under review by the European Commission. The spokesman for Health and Food Safety, Enrico Brivio, said guidance would be issued by the end of this year. Measures could include regulations to limit the level of GE in food products, but there will not be a ban on the use of palm oil, he added.

The World Health Organization and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization flagged the same potential risk that EFSA had warned of regarding GE, but did not recommend consumers stop eating palm oil. The US Food and Drug Administration also has not banned the use of palm oil in food.

The issue became a hot consumer topic in Italy after the largest supermarket chain, Coop, boycotted palm oil in all its own-brand products following the EFSA study, describing the move as a "precaution". Italy's biggest baker, Barilla, also eliminated it and put "palm oil-free" labels on its wares.

The retailers' decisions followed pressure from activists, including Italy's main farming association Coldiretti and online food magazine Il Fatto Alimentare, which called on all food firms to stop using palm oil.

High temperatures are used to remove palm oil's natural red color and neutralize its smell, but Ferrero says it uses an industrial process that combines a temperature of just below 200C and extremely low pressure to minimize contaminants.

The process takes longer and costs 20 percent more than high-temperature refining, Ferrero told Reuters. But it said this had allowed it to bring GE levels so low that scientific instruments find it hard to trace the chemical.

"The palm oil used by Ferrero is safe because it comes from freshly squeezed fruits and is processed at controlled temperatures," Tapella says in the TV ad, which was filmed at the firm's factory in the northern town of Alba and was accompanied by full-page ads in newspapers carrying the same message. EFSA declined to comment on the possible risks of refining palm oil at lower temperatures.—*Reuters*

Jars of Nutella chocolate-hazelnut paste are displayed at a Carrefour hypermarket in Nice, France, on 6 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sri Lanka faces steep rise in dengue cases

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka has seen a steep rise in dengue cases with a thousand people detected with the virus in the first 10 days of January, the Health Ministry said Wednesday.

According to programs carried out by the National Dengue Prevention Unit and the Health Ministry, over 2 million premises were checked for possible dengue breeding grounds last year.

Out of these numbers, over 40,000 premises with dengue larvae were found, while over 450,000 premises were found to be possible dengue breeding grounds.

Last year, authorities filed legal action against 81 schools and 713 private institutions for not maintaining safe and clean premises.

On the request of the Health Ministry, the Education Ministry had also issued a circular to school principals, requiring them to ensure the schools free from dengue.

Sri Lanka will continue its dengue prevention programs this year and is also discussing revising the prevailing rules, regulations and fines, according to the Health ministry.

Last month, the Health Ministry warned that Sri Lanka was likely to face a dengue epidemic if the number of infected patients continued to rise.

Last year, 48,000 people were infected with dengue with 76 deaths reported.—*Xinhua*

Trump given unverified reports that Russia had damaging details about him

WASHINGTON — Classified documents that the heads of four US intelligence agencies presented last week to President-elect Donald Trump included claims that Russian intelligence operatives have compromising information about him, two US officials said Tuesday evening.

They told Reuters the claims, which one called "unsubstantiated," were contained in a two-page memo appended to a report on Russian interference in the 2016 election that US intelligence officials presented to Trump and President Barack Obama last week.

Trump responded on Tuesday evening in a tweet calling the reports: "FAKE NEWS - A TOTAL POLITICAL WITCH HUNT!" The Trump transition team did not immediately respond to a request for comment. One of the officials, both of whom requested anonymity to discuss classified matters, said the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other US agencies are continuing to investigate the credibility and accuracy of the claims.

US President-elect Donald Trump looks towards the media as he arrives at a costume party at the home of hedge fund billionaire and campaign donor Robert Mercer in Head of the Harbor, New York, US, on 3 December, 2016. REUTERS/Mark Kauzlarich

They are included in opposition research reports made available last year to Democrats and US officials by a former British intelligence official, most of whose past work US officials consider credible.

The official said investigators so far have been unable to confirm the material about Trump financial and personal entanglements with Russian businessmen and others whom US intelligence analysts have concluded are Russian intelligence officers or working on behalf of Russian intelligence. Some material in the reports produced by the former British intelligence officer has proved to be erroneous, the official said.

The FBI declined comment.

The charges that Russia attempted to compromise New York real estate businessman Trump were presented to the FBI and other US government officials last summer and have been circulating for months.

The FBI initially took the material seriously, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, which was first reported by CNN.

However, the FBI failed to act on the material, and the former British intelligence officer broke off contact about three weeks before the November election, they said.

The warning of information about Russia's compromising claims follows growing US intelligence and law enforcement concerns about what Director of National Intelligence James Clapper has called "multifaceted" Russian influence and espionage operations in Europe and the United States.

In addition to hacking computer networks and spreading propaganda and fake news, it includes efforts to cultivate business and political leaders and find compromising personal, financial and other information on persons of interest, US intelligence officials said.

The classified briefings last week were presented to Obama and Trump by Clapper, FBI Director James Comey, Central Intelligence Agency Director John Brennan and National Security Agency Director Mike Rogers.

US intelligence chiefs included a classified summary of the material to make Trump aware that it is circulating among intelligence agencies, senior members of Congress, government officials and others, one of the officials said.

An unclassified intelligence report released on Friday concluded that Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an effort to help Trump's electoral chances by discrediting Democrat Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential campaign.

The report said US intelligence agencies have concluded that as part of the effort Russia's military intelligence agency, the GRU, used intermediaries such as WikiLeaks and others to release emails it hacked from the Democratic National Committee and top Democrats.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: ITAR TASS

First S-400 missile systems put on combat duty near Moscow

MOSCOW — An air defence regiment of the Russian Airspace Forces stationed in the Moscow region has started combat duty after receiving the sophisticated S-400 missile systems, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

The ministry said in a statement that another S-400 missile system is on its way to the region after passing a successful combat test.

Russian Airspace Forces received four S-400 systems in 2016 within a re-equipment programme and will receive another four this year, the ministry added.

The S-400 Triumf, first commissioned in 2007, is a new generation of anti-aircraft missile system capable of hitting airborne targets at a distance of up to 400 km.

Russia deployed one S-400 system at its Hmeimim air base in Syria in November 2015, after Turkey downed a Russian jet on the Syrian-Turkish border. —*Xinhua*

US says might not shoot down North Korean ICBM, eying intel

WASHINGTON — The US military might monitor a North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile test and gather intelligence rather than destroy it, as long as the launch did not pose a threat, Defence Secretary Ash Carter said on Tuesday.

North Korea declared on Sunday it could test-launch an ICBM at any time from any location set by leader Kim Jong Un, saying a hostile US policy was to blame for its arms development.

"If the missile is threatening, it will be intercepted. If it's not threatening, we won't necessarily do so," Carter said in his final news briefing before President Barack Obama's administration leaves office on 20 January.

"Because it may be more to our advantage to, first of all, save our interceptor inventory, and, second, to gather intelligence from the flight, rather than do that (intercept the ICBM) when it's not threatening."

The top US military officer, Marine General Joseph Dunford, who will stay in his role as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, concurred with Carter at the event but did not enter into specifics. Carter's language left open the possibility of US military action in any scenario.

Carter's remarks came just over a week after US President-elect Donald Trump vowed that North Korea would never fulfill its threat to test an ICBM. Trump said in a 2 January tweet: "It won't happen!"

Preventing an ICBM test is far easier said than done, and Trump has given no indication of how he might roll back North Korea's weapons programmes after he takes office, something successive US administrations, both Democratic and Republican, have failed to do.

A 2016 assessment released by the Pentagon's weapons testing office on Tuesday said that US ground-based interceptors meant to knock out any incoming ICBM still had low reliability, giving the system itself a limited capability of shielding the United States.

Once fully developed, a North Korean ICBM could threaten the continental United States, which is around 9,000 km (5,500 miles) from the North. ICBMs have a minimum range of about 5,500 km (3,400 miles), but some are designed to travel 10,000 km (6,200 miles) or farther.

Former US officials and other experts have said the United States essentially had two options when it came to trying to curb North Korea's fast-expanding nuclear and missile programs — negotiate or take military action.

Neither path offers certain success and the military option is fraught with huge dangers, especially for Japan and South Korea, US allies in close proximity to North Korea.

US Secretary of State John Kerry warned the situation risked getting dangerous "and it's getting close to it right now."

"Because if he persists (on an ICBM)... it more immediately drags the United States into an immediate threat situation, to which we then may have to find other ways or more forceful ways of having an impact on the choices that he is making," Kerry said at the US Naval Academy.—*Reuters*

Trump choice for attorney general opposed law banning waterboarding

WASHINGTON — US President-elect Donald Trump's candidate for attorney general said on Tuesday he was against banning Muslims from entering the country and would enforce a 2015 law that outlawed waterboarding terrorism suspects, even though he had opposed the law.

During the 2016 election campaign Trump said waterboarding, which simulates drowning and is widely regarded as torture, was an effective technique and vowed to bring it back and make it "a hell of a lot worse."

Republican Senator Jeff Sessions, a close ally of Trump's and his nominee to be attorney general, told a Senate confirmation hearing that the law was "not the right step" and should not have applied to the "higher ups" in the military and intelligence community.

However with his remarks on enforcing the law, he indicated a willingness to resist the president-elect.

The hearing for Sessions, in line to be the country's top prosecutor and legal adviser to the president, was the first in a series this week for nominees to Trump's Cabinet ahead of the 20 January inauguration. Protesters charging Sessions has a poor record on human rights interrupted the proceedings several times.

US Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) is sworn in to testify at a Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing to become US attorney general on Capitol Hill in Washington, US on 10 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sessions, 70, became the first sitting senator to endorse Trump for the presidency in early 2016 and has remained an adviser on issues such as immigration. He is being reviewed by the Senate Judiciary Committee, a panel on which he serves, and is widely expected to be confirmed by the Republican-controlled Senate.

President George W Bush's administration was strongly criticized at home and abroad when intelligence agencies used waterboarding. More recently Trump has said retired Marine Corps General James Mattis, his nominee for secretary of defence, had persuasively argued against it.

On another counterterrorism issue, Sessions said he would not support banning anyone from the United States on the basis of religion, and said Trump's intentions were to block people coming from countries harboring terrorists, not all Muslims. During his campaign, Trump at one point proposed a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country.

Sessions also said he would recuse himself from investigating Hillary Clinton's email practices and charitable foundation if confirmed as attorney general, and he would favour the appointment of a special prosecutor for any such investigation.

"I have said a few things," Sessions said about his comments during the presidential race accusing former Democratic presidential candidate Clinton of illegal activity. "I think that is one of the reasons why I should not make a decision in that case."

Trump, who defeated Clinton in the 8 November election, said during the campaign that if elected he would ask his attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor to see that Clinton go to prison for her use of a private email server while she was secretary of state and her relationship with her family's charitable foundation.

"We can never have a political dispute turn into a criminal dispute," Sessions said. "This country does not punish its political enemies but this country ensures that no one is above the law."

Many questions on Tuesday aimed to establish how closely Sessions hewed to Trump positions.

Sessions said he agreed with Trump in opposing Democratic President Barack Obama's executive action that granted temporary protection to immigrant children brought to the country illegally by their parents and would not oppose overturning it.

Sessions, who has represented the deeply conservative Southern state of Alabama for 20 years, has a long record of opposing legislation that provides a path to citizenship for immigrants. He has also been a close ally of groups seeking to restrict legal immigration by placing limits on visas used by companies to hire foreign workers.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEA PROSPERITY VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA PROSPERITY VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2017 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 SUKARGO SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (160)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (160) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.1.2017 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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Emergency Support for Chin State Livelihoods Restoration Project (ESCSLRP) - G 9185-MYA (ADB)

THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT has received the Grant from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) and wishes to purchase for ESCSLRP project the following Vehicle by Shopping method as in the Asian Development Bank Procurement Guidelines:

Reference No. G 1: Vehicle (Double Cab) 1 unit

Sealed Quotations shall be submitted to Daw Tin Moe Myint, Director, Department of Rural Development, Office No. (14), Nay Pyi Taw, not later than (30.1.2017) 16:00 hour, after which no request for quotation will be accepted. Additional information and specification of the Vehicle may be obtained from the DRD webpage: http:www.drdmyanmar.org.

Office phone: 067-409410, 0943434333, 095118240
Email: rbb.drd@gmail.com

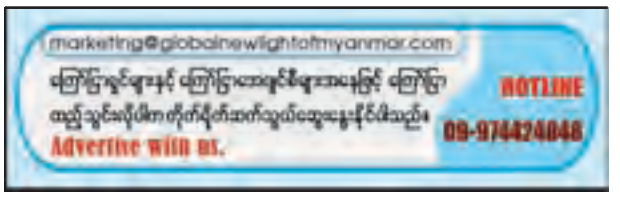
Mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik makes a Nazi salute as he arrives at a court in Skien, Norway, on 10 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mass killer Breivik makes Nazi salute at rights appeal case

SKIEN, (Norway) — Mass killer Anders Behring Breivik made a Nazi salute at the start of a court case on Tuesday at which Norway is trying to overturn a ruling that it has violated his human rights by keeping him isolated since he massacred 77 people in 2011.

Breivik, wearing a black suit and tie, raised his right arm to make the flat-handed Nazi-style salute as he entered the court in a converted gym at the jail where he lives in a three-room cell.

It was similar to the salute he gave at a lower court in March, when the judge ended up agreeing that the Norwegian state had violated a ban on "inhuman and degrading" treatment under the European Convention on Human Rights by keeping him too isolated.—*Reuters*



Musical 'La La Land' leads nominations for Britain's BAFTA awards

LONDON — Fresh from its success at Hollywood's Golden Globes, romance musical "La La Land" leads the field for next month's British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards after securing 11 nominations on Tuesday.

Sci-fi film "Arrival" and fashion designer Tom Ford's drama "Nocturnal Animals" each received nine nominations, while "Manchester by the Sea", about a family dealing with tragedy, got six.

"La La Land" stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone were nominated in the Leading Actor and Leading Actress categories. The movie about a pianist and struggling actress in Hollywood is also in the running for Best Film, Original Music, Editing, Cinematography, Sound, Production Design and Costume Design.

Damien Chazelle was nominated in the Director and Original Screenplay categories. On Sunday night, the musical won seven Golden Globes.

"Arrival" will compete for Best Film, Adapted Screenplay, Original Music, Editing, Cinematography, Special Visual Effects and Sound. Amy Adams is nominated as leading actress and Denis Villeneuve as best director.

Ford is in the running for Director and Adapted Screenplay for "Nocturnal Animals" while Jake Gyllenhaal is nominated for Leading Actor and Aaron Taylor-Johnson as Supporting Actor. The movie also received nods for Original Music, Cinematography, Production Design, Editing and Make Up and Hair.

Below are some of the key nominations for the EE British Academy Film Awards, which will be held on 12 February:

The cast and crew of 'La La Land' pose after winning the award for Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy among other awards backstage during the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California, US, on 8 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEST FILM:
"Arrival"
"I, Daniel Blake"
"La La Land"
"Manchester By The Sea"
"Moonlight"
OUTSTANDING BRITISH FILM:
"American Honey"
"Denial"
"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them"
"I, Daniel Blake"
"Notes on Blindness"
"Under The Shadow"
DIRECTOR:
Denis Villeneuve, "Arrival"
Ken Loach, "I, Daniel Blake"
Damien Chazelle, "La La Land"
Kenneth Lonergan, "Manchester by the Sea"
Tom Ford, "Nocturnal Animals"
LEADING ACTOR:
Andrew Garfield, "Hacksaw Ridge"
Casey Affleck, "Manchester by the Sea"
Jake Gyllenhaal, "Nocturnal Animals"
Ryan Gosling, "La La Land"
Viggo Mortensen, "Captain Fantastic"
LEADING ACTRESS:
Amy Adams, "Arrival"
Emily Blunt, "The Girl on the Train"
Emma Stone, "La La Land"
Meryl Streep, "Florence Foster Jenkins"
Natalie Portman, "Jackie"

SUPPORTING ACTOR:
Aaron Taylor-Johnson, "Nocturnal Animals"
Dev Patel, "Lion"
Hugh Grant, "Florence Foster Jenkins"
Jeff Bridges, "Hell or High Water"
Mahershala Ali, "Moonlight"
SUPPORTING ACTRESS:
Hayley Squires, "I, Daniel Blake"
Michelle Williams, "Manchester by the Sea"
Naomie Harris, "Moonlight"
Nicole Kidman, "Lion"
Viola Davis, "Fences"
ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY:
"Hell or High Water", Taylor Sheridan
"I, Daniel Blake", Paul Laverty
"La La Land", Damien Chazelle
"Manchester By The Sea", Kenneth Lonergan
"Moonlight", Barry Jenkins
ADAPTED SCREENPLAY:
"Arrival", Eric Heisserer
"Hacksaw Ridge", Robert Schenkkan, Andrew Knight
"Hidden Figures", Theodore Melfi, Allison Schroeder
"Lion", Luke Davies
"Nocturnal Animals", Tom Ford.—*Reuters*

British singers Church, Ferguson snub Trump inauguration

LONDON — British singers Charlotte Church and Rebecca Ferguson have rejected invitations from US President-elect Donald Trump's team to perform at his inauguration next week, they said in separate statements on Tuesday.

The rejections follow other apparent snubs by celebrities including Elton John, whose publicist denied in November that he would be performing at the event after an economic adviser to Trump had said that he would. "@realDonaldTrump Your staff have asked me to sing at your inauguration, a simple Internet search would show I think you're a tyrant. Bye," wrote Church in a tweet she concluded with derogatory emojis. Trump's inauguration committee did not immediately reply to a request for comment. Classical crossover singer Jackie Evancho, who rose to fame as a child performer on the TV show "America's Got Talent" six years ago, has confirmed she would sing the US national anthem at Trump's inauguration.

British singer Charlotte Church arrives at a division of the High Court, in central London, on 27 February, 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

Church also began her career as a child classical singer before branching out into pop and other musical styles. She has sold millions of records, including in the United States, and has performed in front of former US President Bill Clinton and the late Pope John Paul II. In recent years she has spoken out about her left-leaning political views, and over the course of 2016 she posted multiple tweets that strongly criticised Trump.

Ferguson, who gained prominence as a runner-up on the TV talent show "The X Factor" in 2010, said on Tuesday she too had refused to perform at Trump's inauguration because her choice of song, "Strange Fruit", was rejected.—*Reuters*

Actor Tom Hiddleston apologizes to aid workers for speech at Golden Globes

LONDON — British actor Tom Hiddleston apologized on Tuesday to aid workers for comments he made at the Golden Globe Awards about how viewing his TV series "The Night Manager" had helped them in a conflict zone.

Hiddleston, a UNICEF ambassador, was accused of being a "white savior" after telling the audience how he met some Medecins Sans Frontieres medics in South Sudan last year who told him they "binge-watched" the series while holed up.

He said the idea that he could provide some relief for people "fixing the world in the places where it is broken made me immensely proud". But after coming under criticism for his remarks, the 35-year-old actor said his "nerves got the better of me" while he accepted the award for Best Actor in a TV Drama for his role in the series that was adapted from a John le Carre novel. "My speech at the Golden Globes last night was inelegantly expressed ... I was very nervous and the words just came out wrong," he wrote on Facebook on Tuesday.

"Sincerely, my only intention was to salute the incredible bravery and courage of the men and women who work so tirelessly for UNICEF UK, Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), and World Food Programme." Hiddleston has been a UNICEF UK Ambassador since 2015 and recently traveled to South Sudan for a second time to see the impact of the civil conflict on vulnerable children, the United Nations children's agency said on its website.—*Reuters*

Gov't panel to release interim report on emperor abdication 23 January

TOKYO — A panel tasked with examining the potential abdication of Japan's aging Emperor Akihito, who has indicated his desire to step down, will release an interim report of its findings on 23 January, the six-member group said on Wednesday.

The advisory group plans to assess the pros and cons of the situation, including ways to alleviate the 83-year-old emperor's burden from duties, panel member Takashi Mikuriya said after a meeting at the prime minister's office.

The panel, chaired by Takashi Imai, honorary chairman of the Japan Business Federation, is expected to make its final proposal in spring.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government envisions enacting special legislation applying only to the current emperor, instead of creating a permanent system by revising the Imperial House Law, which lacks a provision regarding abdication.

The government hopes to submit to an ordinary Diet session to be convened later this month a bill for the legislation. The heads and deputy heads of the Diet's two chambers plan to gather next Monday to begin discussions on how the legislative body should handle the special legislation.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko attend a series of lectures by experts, known as the Imperial New Year's Lectures, at the Imperial Palace on 11 January 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Although government officials have refraining from clarifying the timing of the proposed abdication, a government source said on Tuesday the state has been considering the possibility of arranging for Crown Prince Naruhito to ascend the throne on 1 January, 2019. "I think it is important to deepen understanding of the people over the topic, by presenting issues and challenges in an easily understood manner," Mikuriya, a professor emeritus of political science at the University of Tokyo, said in explaining the aim of the upcoming report. Last year, the panel heard opinions of 16 experts on the Constitution, the Imperial Household system and other fields on such matters as the feasibility of formulating special legislation or creating a permanent system for emperors to retire.

During the panel's eighth gathering Wednesday, one of the participants pointed out that enacting special legislation is preferable to seeking a permanent system by revising the Imperial House Law, saying "special legislation is likely to have fewer risks as the Diet can proceed cautious deliberations in the context of the times, reflecting the people's will," according to Mikuriya.

The issue came to public attention after the emperor indicated his desire to abdicate and hand over the throne to the 56-year-old crown prince in a rare video message televised across Japan in August.

The advisory panel was established in September following the video message. —*Kyodo News*

A tourist poses with cartoon characters wearing Chinese traditional dress in Shanghai Disney Resort in Shanghai, east China, on 11 January 2017. As the Spring Festival approaches, Chinese traditional elements were added to the activities at Shanghai Disney Resort. PHOTO: XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(12-1-2017 07:00am ~ 13-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan)(Vitis)
07:57	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Pre Kayaw Dance"
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	The Stories of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son)
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Products of Myanmar - Stone of The Heavens
09:52	Am	Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township
10:51	Am	Well-Trained Elephants

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Journey to Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
07:46	Pm	Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing
08:44	Pm	A Life In The Ring

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

Pawn poll: Monopoly players get vote on new generation of game pieces

BOSTON — Will they deep-six the battleship? Give the boot the boot? Or, gasp, kill the Scottie dog?

Fans of the Monopoly board game have until 31 January to vote to keep their favourite playing pieces, some of which have been around since the game was introduced during the Great Depression, or replace them with newfangled options including a hashtag, monster truck or flip-flop.

It is not the first time that Hasbro Inc, which sells the game in which players buy and sell real estate, has given players the option of adding new tokens. A 2013 vote saw the iron voted out and replaced by a shiny metal cat.

"Only time will tell if fans will decide to stay with the classics, keep a few favourites or pick an entirely new lineup of tokens," said Jonathan Berkowitz, a Hasbro executive, in a statement announcing the vote on Tuesday.

Players can view the options at VoteMonopoly.com and the company will reveal the new pawns on 19 March. —*Reuters*

Players participate in a world record attempt by Monopoly enthusiasts across the world to set a Guinness world record for the largest simultaneous game of Monopoly, at a hotel in Madrid, on 27 August 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indonesia's Garuda to open new tourist route in China

XI'AN — Indonesia's flagship carrier PT Garuda will soon operate direct flights between the Indonesian tourist island of Bali and the northwestern Chinese city of Xi'an, company sources said.

The services every Thursday will start on 26 January. The flight will take six and a half hours. It will be served by an Airbus wide-body A330-300, with 358 seats.

Garuda currently flies to Bali from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. Foreign airlines are expanding their reach to west China as more Chinese can afford overseas trips. In January, Indonesia's Lion Air will also begin a four-time weekly service between southwestern city of Chengdu and Bali.

China has become the second largest source of foreign visitors for Indonesia after Singapore, partly thanks to Jakarta's visa exemption policy for Chinese tourists. —*Xinhua*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Fullmoon of Pyatho 1378 ME

Thursday, 12 January 2017

People walk past the statue of Argentina's soccer player Lionel Messi after it was vandalized in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 10 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Messi statue in Buenos Aires broken in two

BUENOS AIRES — A statue of Lionel Messi in Argentina's capital has been broken in half, with the player's upper body, arms and head removed.

The statue on the Paseo de la Gloria walkway overlooking the River Plate was severed at the waist leaving only the lower body and a ball.

City Hall said they do not know who was responsible or the motive for the damage.

"It was the victim of an act of vandalism," the city's culture secretariat said on Tuesday. "The city government is already working on repairs."

The statue was unveiled in June shortly after Argentina lost the final of the Copa America Centenario to Chile on penalties, a defeat that prompted Messi to say he was quitting the national team.

The Barcelona forward, who returned to international duty for World Cup qualifiers in September, is widely loved in his homeland.

He does, however, have his detractors, notably those who are critical of his performances for Argentina, who have lost three major finals in two years, including at the 2014 World Cup.

The walkway has statues of Argentine sports greats including racing driver Juan Manuel Fangio, NBA basketball star Manu Ginobili, golfer Roberto de Vicenzo and tennis players Guillermo Vilas and Gabriela Sabatini.—*Reuters*

Wenger hopes he has found a gem in non-league signing

LONDON—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has spoken out for the minor leagues after signing 20-year-old left-back Cohen Bramall, a former car factory worker, from unheralded Hednesford Town.

Hednesford play in the Northern League Premier Division, six tiers below the Premier League.

Wenger told the Arsenal website on Tuesday that players who came from such depths had shown they had the mental strength and hunger to succeed.

"It's a mental test — do you love football enough?," he said.

"Are you ready enough to fight (to show) that you are above this level and that you absolutely want to come back? Players like Giroud and Koscielny have had that test. They are similar to that. Once they get up, they really mean it."

Arsenal's French international Olivier Giroud started out in French lower league football. Compatriot Laurent Koscielny also spent time in the French second and third tiers early in his career. Arsenal last year tried to sign England striker Jamie Vardy, who has entered soccer lore with his rise to glory at champions Leicester City from non-league Stocksbridge Park Steels and FC Halifax via Fleetwood Town.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wenger described Bramall, who will join the club's under-23 squad, as a player with "tremendous pace, a good left foot, a great desire to do well. Overall, he's a very exciting prospect."

The youngster was working in a Bentley car factory in Crewe until last month, when he heard he was being made redundant.

"When they told me I was thinking I needed to sort something else quick, I needed more money coming in," he told Sky Sports television.

"But the next day I got a phone call saying Arsenal wanted me to come down for a trial."—*Reuters*

Real Madrid loan teenager Odegaard to Heerenveen

MADRID — Real Madrid's teenage midfielder Martin Odegaard has joined SC Heerenveen on an 18-month loan, the Dutch club announced on Tuesday.

The Norway international failed to force his way into the Real line-up, making just two appearances for the first team since joining the Spanish giants in January 2015 from home club Stromsgodset.

The 18-year-old said he was looking forward to getting more playing time for the Dutch club.

"This is an opportunity to show what I can do. I'm very excited," he said.

"The most important thing is my development and that is why I'm here. Real Madrid is the best club in the world but they have the best players there and that is why I decided to come here," he added.

Odegaard is under contract with Real until June 2021.

Heerenveen are fourth in the Eredivisie, with 29 points from 19 matches.—*Reuters*

Norway's Martin Odegaard reacts during their Euro 2016 Group H qualifying soccer match in Oslo on 12 June 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

FIFA agrees to expand World Cup to 48 teams

ZURICH — Football's governing body, FIFA, voted on Tuesday to expand the World Cup to 48 teams from its current 32, brushing aside concerns that the expansion would lower the overall standard of the tournament and make it too big and unwieldy.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino, fulfilling a promise he made during last year's election campaign, said the move meant that "more can participate and many more will have a chance to dream".

"It's not the 20th century any more. It's the 21st century.

Football is more than Europe and South America. Football is global," he told reporters.

"The football fever you have in a country that qualifies for the World Cup is the biggest promotion of the sport you can have."

FIFA's 211 member associations each hold one vote in the presidential election, and 135 of them have never played at a World Cup, so expansion of the tournament was always likely to appeal.

The new format, to be introduced in 2026, will feature a first round of 16 groups of three teams, with the top two in each qualifying for a round of 32. From then on, it would be a straightforward knockout contest.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino addresses a news conference after a FIFA Council in Zurich, Switzerland, on 10 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The hosts of the 2026 tournament will be decided in May 2020. The CONCACAF Confederation, representing North and Central America and the Caribbean, is seen as a strong contender, possibly providing a joint bid from at least two of the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The new-look tournament will increase the number of matches from 64 to 80, but Infantino said it would require the same number of match days and stadiums as now:

"This format can be played in exactly the same number of days as today, 32, and the winning team will play the same number of games, seven, as today, and in the same number of stadiums, 12, as today," he said.

Critics have said that FIFA is tampering with a winning formula; the last World Cup in Brazil was widely regarded as one of the best in the competition's 87-year-old history, featuring shock results, last-minute drama and outstanding individual performances.

One of the concerns is that the new format will make the group stage merely a matter of avoiding elimination, and so encourage negative play.

Infantino said it had not yet been decided whether penalty shootouts could be used to decide drawn group-stage matches.

The qualifying competition, meanwhile, is likely to become a mere formality for many of the strongest teams.

The number of extra slots for each continental confederation, as well as formats for the qualifying competitions, will be decided at a later date, Infantino said.—*Reuters*

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