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New bus system suffers first-day jitters

Ko Moe

A new public bus system that reduced and coordinated the number of bus lines from more than 300 to 70 launched in Yangon yesterday, easing traffic congestion but causing some chaos among confused passengers.

The first day of the new system saw fewer buses than expected, though more than 3,700 buses were expected to operate on the first day, according to Yangon Region Transport Authorities.

The shortage of buses and the ensuing delays prompted private buses from express bus lines and from tourism companies to voluntarily offer transportation to commuters who were crowded at bus stops. Other commuters who elected to not use the bus system on its first day used the circular train, which reported a jump in ridership yesterday.

It was learnt that one of the reasons for the shortage of buses was a lack of adhesive stickers that identified the vehicles.

“Buses launched operation late because they took about 30 minutes to put stickers identifying them as part of the new system early this morning. Meanwhile, passengers are not accustomed to the new bus numbers and their routes.

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There were many more passengers than buses yesterday, the first day of a new bus system in Yangon, which made for a chaotic rush hour. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Ks3 billion donated by philanthropic org to peace process

Ks3 billion was contributed to the peace fund for the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre yesterday by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar (BFM) foundation.

The philanthropic organisation said in its statement that it donated Ks3 billion to the peace process through the fund's account SF 004048 yesterday as part of its contribution to the

peace making process as the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people are making efforts for national reconciliation and peace in the country.

“Internal peace plays a major role in building a new modern nation and we hope that peace will prevail in the country and a modern new nation will emerge soon,” said an official of the foundation,

which has spent more than Ks114 billion so far on philanthropic works all over Myanmar.

For people to be able to take part in the peace process, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar national reconciliation and peace centre announced under notification 1/2007 on 10 January that contributions could be donated into bank account SF-004048,

Nay Pyi Taw branch, Myanmar Economic Bank.

The NRPC, chaired by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has also said that those wishing to donate in cash, another account, CF — 003434 — has been opened at the Nay Pyi Taw branch of Myanmar Economic Bank.

The BFM imported warm

clothes worth more than US\$2 million and delivered the items to the people, including IDPs, in areas which are expected to be hit by extremely cold weather due to La Nina.

Last year, BFM established a Ks100 million fund in each of 14 regions and states so that the areas could quickly respond to natural disasters.—Thiha Tun



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



UN Special Rapporteur visits Sittwe Correctional Department

A delegation led by United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Ms. Yanghee Lee visited Sittwe Correctional Department yesterday. Ms. Lee arrived back Yangon in the evening.—District IPRD

Five involved in violent armed attacks in Maungtaw Township arrested

IT is learnt that five people who got involved in Maungtaw armed attack were arrested on Sunday.

The government troops and border guard control police forces have been trying to find out and investigate those who were involved in the violent armed attacks in Maungtaw last year. At about noon on Sunday, five fugitives who it was learnt were involved in Maungtaw armed attack were arrested.

Those five were Inu, son of Nadu Hsaung, living in Ngakhura Village (middle), Swe Dulami, son of Abba Dula, living in Ngayantchaung Village, Mamud Karsin, son of Zawlarmauk, Shuhat, son of Muzinmay and Mamad Idaris, son of Adumalis, living in Padakar Village.

According to the confessions of those arrested, they took



Shuhat



Mamad Idaris



Inu



Swe Dulami



Mamud Karsin

part in armed attacks in Ngakhura and Kyikanpyin villages, giving monetary aid and recruiting new members for a terrorist

group. They were arrested while entering their respective villages, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

Former 100-household head missing in Maungtaw

A FORMER 100-household head who is residing at Ye Aung Creek village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, was reported as missing, according to the Taungpyo Police Station.

Phway Yar, alias Phway Yar Zu Hauk, was engaged in the shrimp farming business.

Four people came to buy shrimp at his shrimp breeding pond and abducted him from his house on Saturday morning, it

was reported.

Ma Arzita, alias Artumuch, wife of Phway Yar Zu Hauk, told the Taungpyo Police Station on Sunday afternoon that her husband had not come back home.—Myanmar News Agency

Fire losses last year totalled over Ks3.6 billion

FIRE-RELATED losses in 2016 in Yangon totaled over Ks3.6 billion, according to figures released by the Myanmar Fire Services Department, which urged people to follow suggestions provided by the department to reduce accidental fires.

The number of fire accidents in the country's largest city be-

tween January and December of last year reached 220, including the Mingala Market fire, a decrease of only four cases compared with 2015. Properties worth more than Ks3.6404 billion were destroyed in the fire in 2016.

The loss has increased a bit compared with the previous year.

According to the department,

the number of fires hit 224 in 2015, damaging Ks365.270 million worth properties. The majority of fires were caused by negligence on the part of people who used stoves and electronic devices carelessly. Over 1,446 fire accidents happened in 10 months of 2015, destroying properties worth nearly Ks2 billion.—200

Drugs Seized in Konegyan Township

ON Sunday morning, government troops seized a bag of drugs during an area clearance operation, it is learnt.

During the operation, government troops found a blue bag containing 800 grams of meth-

amphetamines worth Ks160 lakhs in a bamboo grove 11 miles north of Konegyan, in the Kokant Self-Administered Zone, classifying the seizure as owner-unknown drugs, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

KIA member fatally shot in Kutkai

DURING an area clearance operation in Kutkai Township early Sunday morning, Tatmadaw troops shot and killed a member of the KIA (Kachin Independence Army) armed group, it is learnt.

Tatmadaw troops found a suspect in civilian clothes driving a motorbike about 5,000 meters north-east of Manje vil-

lage, Monesee village-tract in Kutkai Township and tried to stop the vehicle.

But the rider failed to stop and tried to speed away.

Due to the fire from the authorities, the suspect was shot dead. A KIA uniform and a KIA belt were found in the toolbox of the motorbike.—Myanmar News Agency

Shan State man injured by land mine

A LOCAL man was seriously injured after stepping on a land mine in northern Shan State yesterday.

U Zaw Nyunt of Moegae Ward, Namhsam Township, who was returning from his tea farm, was about 2,000 meters north of Namhsam Township when he stepped on the mine, causing it to explode. U Zaw Nyunt suffered serious injuries to his right leg as a result of the explosion. The victim is now receiving medical treatment at Lashio General Hospital.—Myanmar News Agency



U Zaw Nyunt.
Photo: MNA

Corn-peeling machine causes fire in Laukkai

FIRE broke out in a three-storey RC building owned by U Maung El at No. 3/277, Phu Hong narrow-street (2), Ward 3 in Laukkai Township in Northern Shan State at 11:15am yesterday.

The fire started when a corn peeler machine overheated and

short-circuited, officials said. Firefighters and local residents put out the fire by 11:30 am.

The fire destroyed property worth Ks10 lakh, but no one was injured, police said. Laukkai Police have filed charges against U Maung El.—Myanmar News Agency



Smog are seen in Laukkai northern Shan Sate. PHOTO: MNA

President U Htin Kyaw meets with locals in Namyum

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw, his wife and entourage met with the clergy from the Holy Christian Associations at the Saramayri Rest House of Lahe yesterday morning in Lahe, Sagaing Region.

After their meeting with the clergy, the President and party flew from Lahe to Namyum, where they were welcomed by Brigadier Myint Soe, U Wan Hla, representative of the Pyithu Hluttaw, town-elders, members of a traditional cultural troupe and other officials. The President then proceeded to Namyum Hospital, where he gave words of encouragement to the patients, providing them with foodstuff and monetary assistance, followed by a meeting with a traditional cultural troupe, locals and township officials. In

the meeting that followed, U Wan Hla, Pyithu Hluttaw representative and U Shwe Lan, Vice-Chairman of Naga Literature and Culture Committee outlined the needs of the region.

In response, the President said the Union Government would fulfil the needs of the region as much as possible, noting that the Union Government has been assisting in the development of all regions and states.

Afterwards, Lieutenant-General Ye Aung, Union Minister, explained the acquisition of clean drinking water and the production of hydro-power. Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister, spoke of the importance of nutritious food during the time of pregnancy up to the age of two years. Upgrading



President U Htin Kyaw, third from right, at Namyum People's Hospital yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

the schools was addressed by Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister. Provision of ambulances and vaccinations for protection and eradication of malaria was discussed by Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister. Upgrading the Khamti-La-

he-Namyum Road and preparations for building the bridge were explained by U Win Khaing, Union Minister.

The President then gave relief supplies to U Zaw Maw Aung, Chairman of the Township Man-

agement Committee and U Wan Hla, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for the development of the area. The President and party left Namyum by helicopter, arriving back in Nay Pyi Taw the same day.—Myanmar News Agency

U Maung Wai concurrently appointed as ambassador to Bhutan

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Maung Wai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of India, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Bhutan.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko meets with Myanmar Calendar Advisory Board

THURA U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, met with the patron of the Myanmar Calendar Advisory Board (MCAB), the Reverend Sayadaw U Pannyeinda, members U Aung Chit and U Aung Nyein and reserve members at the 66th Anniversary of MCAB's meeting being held from 9 January to 20 January at the Yangon national theater at Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon.

In the meeting, the Union Minister made a solemn formal address to the Sayadaw that he was very happy to learn that the board managed to compile a complicated calendar without any errors that included going into the monsoon retreat during the Buddhist Lent, inserting an intercalary period in a calendar, coinciding with the solar year

and an extra intercalary day added to the month of Nayon during the intercalary month. The Union Minister solemnly urged the board to passion the methods of compiling a traditional Myanmar calendar so that new generations can value and inherit the system, which can be abstruse. The minister said the methods should be taught by doyen veterans and combine traditional methods with modern advances.

Afterward, the Union Minister went to the State High School of Fine Art and Musicians on Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, where he addressed the need to maintain and preserve Chinchang Palace on Kaba-Aye Pagoda in the original style so it could be a teaching tool for fine arts students.—Myanmar News Agency

Number of circular train commuters rising due to unfamiliarity with new bus routes

ON the first day the new bus service system, passengers who are not familiar with the new bus routes have turned to circular trains and the number of daily commuters on the circular trains yesterday increased from 80,000 to 100,000.

The average number of regular circular train commuters increased to around 77,000 from 65,000 on the public holidays. On weekends, the number reaches more than 80,000 per day.

Authorities are now arranging to link the new public

transport bus lines and the circular trains. With the use of government funds, bus gates are planned to be constructed within the compound of Yangon Railways Station where the public buses can stop.

Myanma Railways put forth continuous efforts to offer better services to its commuters through several railway improvement projects. The MR estimates that the number of commuters is likely to continue to increase after the current projects are completed.

In collaboration with Jap-

anese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the MR is implementing railway improvement projects including repair of railroads, replacement of carriages and installation of modern signals and communication systems to run all railways yards and workshop to full capacity.

Myanma Railways daily operates its transport service business with 38 high-speed trains, 56 postal trains, 58 cargo trains, 215 Yangon circulator trains and 20 more trains which run only short trips.—GNLM

New bus system suffers first-day jitters

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It is expected to take at least a week for passengers to become accustomed to the new system," said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein yesterday.

The imbalance between the number of buses and the passengers was most apparent in Hlinethaya, Thaketa and Thanlyin, it was reported.

One of the aims of the new bus service was to improve road safety by reducing the breaking of traffic rules by buses, said Dr Maung Aung, Secretary of the YRTA.



A volunteer helps a commuter find bus routes. PHOTO: PHOE KHAWAR

YRTA has also formed an Operator Team with representatives from bus lines of the new system in order to quickly respond to the chaos caused by the new system.

"It is very difficult to trans-

form from the old to the new system. There are many challenges and requirements. Anyway, we are committed to establishing the new transport system with good services to the public," said Dr Maung Aung.

Correction

The caption for a photo on the front page that accompanies a story in Monday's GNLM about the Naga New Year festival in Lahe should have read "Sagaing Region" not "Chin State."—Ed

Free Wi-Fi access available in 21 areas in Yangon

FREE Wi-Fi access is available in 21 zones in Yangon under the arrangement of Global Technology, an internet services provider, under its 5BB Broadband programme.

Under the first phase of the programme, free Wi-Fi access will be available in 50 areas including public places in Yangon, with the company planning to expand its Wi-Fi services not only in Yangon but in other big cities.

Currently, Wi-Fi is available in 21 zones in Yangon including the Shwedagon Pagoda, University of Medicine-1, Yangon University of Foreign Languages, Yangon International Airport, Yangon Cen-

tral Railway Station, Bogyoke Aung San Market, Kayaweik Garden, Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, Ya Kun Coffee & Toast at the Yangon International Airport, Lotteria near Pearl Condo, Lotteria in Chinatown, Eatfinity Thai Food, Shwe Kaung Hot Pot in Bahan Township, O-Shabu, Harmony in Hlaing University Campus, Café Milano, LA Bar, 7th Joint Bar & Grill, DIY BBQ & Hot Pot and Happy Cafe & Noodle on Inya Road.

According to the company, connect to the 5BB free Wi-Fi is very easy because there is no need to type in a password.—200

Crime NEWS

Yaba seized in Mandalay and Hpa-an



Two suspects with drugs are seen. PHOTO: MPF

An anti-narcotics suppression squad from northern Mandalay searched Min Htwe and Thet Hnin Aung, who were found near Nan Kalyar beer pub at the corner of 62nd street and Yadana street, Pyigyidagun Township on 15 January and found 18,260 yaba pills.

On the same day, another anti-narcotics suppression squad from southern Mandalay searched a motorcycle driven by Kyaw Thu Ya near Lin Myanmar beer bar at the corner of 59th and 28th streets, Kan Kauk Ward, Chanayethazan Township and found 1,780 yaba pills.

Similarly, police from Hpa-an District searched a house owned by Saw Myint Soe residing at Gyo Chaung village,

Hlaingbwe Township and discovered 4,000 yaba pills.

Police also searched a house owned by Ma Kyawt Myaing at Mu Ka Wah village, Naung Hta Lone village-tract, Hpa-an Township on 14 January.

Police found Ma Kyawt Myaing together with Aye Thein and seized 600 yaba pills. Interrogation of suspects led the police to search a motorcycle driven by drugs dealer Tun Naung on the Kaw Kyaik Taw Pon road near Hlaing village, Hpa-an Township and seized 2,200 yaba pills.

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

Passenger killed after car crashes into tree in Thaton Township

A PASSENGER died after a car crashed into a tree on the road between Yangon and Mawlamyine on Monday morning.

According to investigators from the Thaton Township Myoma Police Station, a car collided with a tree in the roadside

of Yangon-Mawlamyine Road near Gaw Village in Thaton Township in Mon State on 16 January.

Action has been taken against the driver who will be faced reckless driving charges under the Penal Code.—Myitmakha News Agency

In 23 years, 400,000 people helped by Sitagu's free eye care



Sitagu Sayadaw encourages an elder after she undergoes surgical treatment at Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital. PHOTO: SITAGU KYAW SAN WIN

NEARLY 400,000 people have received free vision care and eye surgeries under the eye care programme organized by Sitagu Sayadaw, a well-known Buddhist monk, over the past 23 years.

Between 1993 and 2016, a total of 388,170 people with eye disorders received eye care, while 71,090 others underwent surgical treatments provided by eye specialists at Sitagu Cakkhudana hospitals across the country.

Established by Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara,

those Sitagu Cakkhudana hospitals continue to offer free assessment and medical or surgical treatments to eye patients in need of help.

The Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital in Hpakant Township in Kachin State was officially launched on 12 January of this year. The new hospital offered medical treatments to nearly 2,000 eye patients and surgical care to over 200 others only two days before the launching ceremony.

The treatments were offered

with compassion to patients of all ages and without religious discrimination.

The most common eye diseases in the country are cataracts, glaucoma, corneal diseases, injuries and retinal diseases. Cataracts are the most common cause of vision loss in people over age 40 in Myanmar. It is the principal cause of blindness in the world. According to the World Health Organisation's assessment, cataracts are responsible for 51 per cent of the world's blindness.—

Khin Yadana

Elephant Conservation Workshop held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Ohn Win addresses an opening speech at MECAP Review Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

The opening ceremony of the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan – the MECAP Review Workshop – was held at Grand Amara Hotel yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The opening ceremony of the MECAP Review Workshop was jointly organised by the Forestry Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MNREC) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Union Minister U Ohn Win

delivered the opening speech at the ceremony, during which he noted the main enemy of wild elephants.

“We mostly found illegal hunting of wild elephants, the conflicts between human and elephants in Ayeyawady, Yangon and Bago Regions,” the minister said. “We have being co-operating with the Union Ministries concerned to handle the conflicts.”

Officials discussed the preservation of the pasturelands of

Myanmar wild elephants and of pet elephants as well as protection of the elephants against being killed. Part of the meeting involved submitting to the government a draft of the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan by Mr. Simon Hedges from the Wildlife Conservation Society, who also discussed the International Elephant Conservation Projects. The workshop will be held through 18 January, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

LOCAL Business

MRF requested Commerce ministry not to collect two per cent of advance tax on rice export

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) asked the Commerce Ministry not to collect advance taxes on rice and paddy exports, according to this Federation.

Additionally, MRF asked to reduce production costs, boost the production rate, shift the term to repay cultivation loans to the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank and cooperative associations, reduce the interest rate of loans from the state owned bank and other banks and have wider access to more ASEAN rice export markets like Indonesia and the Philippines under government to government (G to G) agreements, according to the aforementioned federation.

The committees concerned will meet the businessmen and merchants to



A farmer works on a paddy field near Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

deal with the difficulties in exporting in a bid to facilitate the trade.

"The Commerce Ministry will relax some rules

and regulations to improve the trade," said U Khin Maung Lwin, the assistant secretary of the Commerce Ministry. Advance tax has

to be paid at the department concerned, and then the tax will be reimbursed after deducting a relief, according to the MRF.—200

Sesame seed price declines due to decrease in demand from China

VARIOUS sesame seeds prices dropped from the decrease in China's demand, it is learnt from the Muse market.

The price of sesame seeds is down by Ks2,000 to 5,000 per 45-viss-bag. The price may vary on the

basis of demand from China, said the sesame seed merchants.

China had high demand for the sesame seeds once the Muse market reopened in December 2016, with the price rising slightly. But as demand from

China declined, so did the market price.

The prevailing price of sesame seeds ranges from Ks81,000 to Ks140,000 per 45-viss-bag depending on the variety and quality.

Sesame seeds produced from Meiktila are sent to

China. The sesame seed price reached its highest point of over Ks90,000 per three-basket-bag in 2014. By the end of 2016, the price dropped to Ks65,000 per bag, according to the commodity depot in Myeiktila.—Mon Mon

Myanmar Electrical and Electronic Association to set up public company

MYANMAR Electrical and Electronic Association is planning to establish a public company, according to a workshop discussion held at the Union of Myanmar Fed-

eration of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The policies which they want the government to support include establishment of electri-

cal industrial zones, public companies and office branches in each region, building training schools for producing skilled electric and electronic workers and setting up the schools

to enhance SMEs.

A public company will be set up depending on the results from the discussion and from the public opinions, it is learnt.—200

Deltapath introduced in Myanmar market

DELTAPATH, a leading provider of multi-vendor compatible unified communications, was introduced to the Myanmar market so as to widely use its service in the country, it is learnt.

Deltapath joined hands with Polycom, the leader in HD video conferencing, voice conferencing and telepresence, so as to offer web conferencing and video on mobile devices.

Deltapath is providing its services to top companies in 94 countries. Its network covers businesses, government enterprises, hospitals and education centres.

"We are interested in Myanmar because we want to help improve enterprise communications and production power," said Stephen Kwok, the vice president of sales at Deltapath.

The Deltapath Platform is able to offer wireless content sharing, mobile collaboration, high definition audio bridging, and gateways to telephone systems, it is learnt.

Currently, Deltapath Platform is being utilised in many foreign hospitals. Unified Communications Solutions are available to purchase at UCBI in Myanmar.—200

Ks2.4 billion in fire insurance compensation paid

FROM April 2016 to 7 January 2017, Myanmar Insurance paid almost Ks2.4 billion for its fire insurance policy holders, according to U Khin Maung Win.

Myanmar Insurance on Thursday issued the compensation of almost Ks750 million to fire insurance policyholders in Magway Region.

The compensation for policy holders is paid depending on the calculated amount of the losses in each case.

This kind of insurance protects policy holders financially from the loss of their possessions in the event of fire accidents, said an official of the MI.

Myanmar Insurance, a state-owned insurer, was founded in 1952. The MI invited the private sector to sell policies in 2013.

The MI currently underwrites 47 kinds of both life and non-life insurance. Non-life insurance policy is in higher demand in the local industry than that of life insurance, which is more popular in other countries.

Within a seven-month period last year, MI paid compensation of Ks883 million for damage caused by fire, about 500 million for damage caused by flooding and over Ks2 million for damage caused by earthquakes.—Htwe Htwe

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2017 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ROYAL 27 VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ROYAL 27 VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P-1 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 BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE
LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2017 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 NEW GLODEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Park's confidante denies charges of wrongdoing at impeachment trial

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun Hye's jailed confidante Choi Soon Sil on Monday denied charges that she used her ties with the president for financial gain, in testimony she gave at the Constitutional Court.

"The president also had not allowed me to interfere (in such things)," said Choi, who was summoned to testify at the fifth hearing of Park's impeachment trial at the court. "I have never gained any benefits or privileges."

She did admit to having obtained drafts of presidential speeches or other materials from Park's personal secretary and making some changes to them.

She also said she had made visits to the presidential residence just to help Park with "personal matters" without elaborating.

Choi, a private citizen with no security clearance, has been indicted on charges of meddling in key state affairs and using her relationship with Park for financial gain.

The scandal has also implicated two former presidential secretaries — Ahn Jong Beom and Jeong Ho Seong.

Park was also labeled by state prosecutors as a co-conspirator in various criminal charges brought against Choi and the former secretaries, becoming the first president in South Korean history to face a criminal investigation as a primary suspect.

South Korea's parliament voted on 9 December to impeach Park over the scandal. The Constitutional Court has until early June to deliberate on the legitimacy of the impeachment vote. —Kyodo News

Japan to supply new patrol boats to Vietnam



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc review an honour guard at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, Vietnam on 16 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

HANOI — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday promised Vietnam six new patrol boats during a visit to the Southeast Asian country locked in a dispute with China over the busy South China Sea waterway.

Abe's stop in Vietnam completes a tour through an arc of a region where Japan stakes a leadership claim in the face of China's growing dominance and uncertainty over what policy change Donald Trump will bring as US president.

"We will strongly support Vietnam's enhancing its maritime law enforcement capability," Abe said, while emphasising that the dispute over the South China Sea should be settled through talks and in accord-

ance with international law.

China claims almost all the South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion worth of seaborne trade passes every year. Vietnam and four other countries also have claims in the sea, believed to have rich deposits of oil and gas.

Tokyo has no territorial claims there, but worries about China's growing military reach into the sea lanes. Japan has a separate dispute with China over a cluster of tiny islets in the East China Sea.

In September, Japan had said it was ready to provide new patrol boats to Vietnam after earlier supplying six old vessels.

Maritime security and trade have been key themes during Abe's other stops

— in Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia.

Given the readiness of the Philippines under President Rodrigo Duterte to move closer to the Chinese and further from its traditional US ally, Viet Nam is one of fewer regional states showing potential readiness to confront China.

Uncertainty over US policy in Asia was amplified last week by comments from Secretary of State nominee Rex Tillerson that China must stop building islands in the South China Sea and that its access to those islands must not be allowed.

Despite their differences, Vietnam also maintains a strong diplomatic track with China. China and Vietnam said at the weekend

they had agreed to manage their maritime differences and preserve peace and stability.

Both Japan and Vietnam have also been strong supporters of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free-trade pact which looks to have stalled in the face of Trump's pledge to withdraw the United States.

In Hanoi, Abe stressed the importance of the TPP and other free trade agreements, but gave no further details.

The delegation signed a number of business agreements, including energy and textile projects and a project to help with the impact of climate change. Japan is Vietnam's biggest foreign investor after South Korea. —Reuters

Philippines says protested against China arms buildup on South China Sea isles

MANILA—The Philippines has filed a diplomatic protest with China, its foreign minister said on Monday, over Beijing's installation last year of anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems on its manmade islands in the disputed South China Sea.

The protest note was sent to the Chinese embassy in December, after confirmation of a report from the US-based Center for Strategic and International Studies about a weapons

buildup on seven artificial islands in the Spratlys.

One of those islands is located within the Philippines' 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told CNN Philippines it was important to raise concerns carefully, and not create a big row.

"I just want to assure the Filipino people that when we take action at engaging China in this dispute, we do not want to

take such aggressive, provocative action that will not solve the problem," he said.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion worth of goods passes every year. An international arbitration ruling last year invalidated those claims. Speaking up about that has become a tricky issue for the Philippines since President Rodrigo Duterte turned its foreign policy upside down by seeking



Philippine Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay. PHOTO: REUTERS

engagement and a new relationship with China. Until recently the Philippines had been one of the most outspoken critics of Beijing's maritime assertiveness. —Reuters

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China will 'take off the gloves' if Trump continues on Taiwan, state media warns

BEIJING — China will “take off the gloves” and take strong action if US President-elect Donald Trump continues to provoke Beijing over Taiwan once he assumes office, two leading state-run newspapers said on Monday.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal published on Friday, Trump said the “One China” policy was up for negotiation. China’s foreign ministry, in response, said “One China” was the foundation of China-US ties and was non-negotiable.

Trump broke with decades of precedent last month by taking a congratulatory telephone call from Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen, angering Beijing which sees Taiwan as part of China.

“If Trump is determined to use this gambit in taking office, a period of fierce, damaging in-

teractions will be unavoidable, as Beijing will have no choice but to take off the gloves,” the English-language China Daily said.

The Global Times, an influential state-run tabloid, echoed the China Daily, saying Beijing would take “strong countermeasures” against Trump’s attempt to “impair” the “One China” principle.

“The Chinese mainland will be prompted to speed up Taiwan reunification and mercilessly combat those who advocate Taiwan’s independence,” the paper said in an editorial.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the United States was clearly aware of China’s position on “One China”.

“Any person should understand that in this world there are

certain things that cannot be traded or bought and sold,” she told a daily news briefing.

“The One China principle is the precondition and political basis for any country having relations with China.”

Hua added, “If anyone attempts to damage the One China principle or if they are under the illusion they can use this as a bargaining chip, they will be opposed by the Chinese government and people.”

“In the end it will be like lifting a rock to drop it on one’s own feet,” she said, without elaborating.

The Global Times said Trump’s endorsement of Taiwan was merely a ploy to further his administration’s short term interests, adding: “Taiwan may be sacrificed as a result of this des-

picable strategy.”

“If you do not beat them until they are bloody and bruised, then they will not retreat,” Yang Yizhou, deputy head of China’s government-run All-China Federation of Taiwan Compatriots, told an academic meeting on cross-strait relations in Beijing on Saturday.

Taiwan independence must “pay a cost” for every step forward taken, “we must use blood-stained facts to show them that the road is blocked,” Yang said, according to a Monday report on the meeting by the official People’s Daily Overseas Edition.

The United States, which switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979, has acknowledged the Chinese position that there is only “One China” and that Taiwan is part

of it.

The China Daily said Beijing’s relatively measured response to Trump’s comments in the Wall Street Journal “can only come from a genuine, sincere wish that the less-than-desirable, yet by-and-large manageable, big picture of China-US relations will not be derailed before Trump even enters office”.

But China should not count on the assumption that Trump’s Taiwan moves are “a pre-inauguration bluff, and instead be prepared for him to continue backing his bet”.

“It may be costly. But it will prove a worthy price to pay to make the next US president aware of the special sensitivity, and serious consequences of his Taiwan game,” said the national daily.—Reuters

Ruling, opposition camps to begin discussing emperor’s abdication law



House of Representatives Speaker Tadamori Oshima (R) and his House of Councillors counterpart Chuichi Date meet in Tokyo on 16 January, 2017. After the meeting, Oshima said that members of both houses of the Diet will begin joint discussions on possible legislation enabling Emperor Akihito to abdicate despite a range of differing opinions being held across the party spectrum. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Members of both houses of the Diet will begin joint discussions on possible legislation enabling Emperor Akihito to abdicate despite a range of differing opinions being held across the party spectrum, lower house speaker said on Monday.

Representatives of the parties will meet Thursday to exchange opinions on how to proceed with discussions, House of Representatives Speaker Tadamori Oshima told a press conference after a meeting of parliamentary heads.

“We believe all the parties think it is necessary to draw a conclusion during the ordinary Diet session” running through 18 June, he said.

Other participants of the meeting were lower house Vice Speaker Tatsuo Kawabata, House of Councillors President Chuichi Date and Vice President Akira

Gunji.

The meeting comes a week before a government advisory panel releases an interim report summarizing its three-month discussions on issues pertaining to the 83-year-old emperor’s abdication. The report is likely to emphasize advantages of enacting special legislation applying only to him.

The issue of abdication arose after Emperor Akihito strongly hinted at his desire to retire and turn over the throne to Crown Prince Naruhito, 56, in a rare video message televised nationwide last August, citing his advanced age.

Anticipating the current emperor stepping down at the end of 2018, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government is expected to submit legislation to an ordinary Diet session to be convened later

this week.

While the government envisions special one-off legislation to enable the reigning emperor to step down, the main opposition Democratic Party is insisting on a permanent system through revising the Imperial House Law, which currently does not provide an avenue for an emperor’s abdication.

Given the differences in approach, parliament seeks to lay groundwork for smooth deliberations by holding prior negotiations between the ruling and opposition camps.

The 150-day Diet session begins Friday. Debate in parliament is expected to start after the advisory panel, which was established following the emperor’s video message, releases the interim report on 23 January.—Kyodo News

Hong Kong leadership race heats up as China clears way for top officials to run

HONG KONG — China on Monday approved the resignations of two of Hong Kong’s top officials, including its financial secretary, paving the way for them to contest a March election to become the next chief executive of the financial hub. China’s State Council has accepted the resignations of financial secretary John Tsang, and of Carrie Lam, the city’s chief secretary, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997, and its next leader faces challenges such as maintaining its competitiveness as China’s economy slows, and reconciling longstanding tension between Communist Party leaders in Beijing and pro-democracy advocates demanding universal suffrage. Speculation had swirled over the fate of Tsang, once considered a frontrunner for the position since resigning more than a month ago, but Beijing’s silence until now had fuelled questions about China’s support for his bid.

Tsang, 65, could not imme-

diately be reached for comment and has not yet made a formal announcement on his intentions.

Lam, 59, emerged as another leading contender last Thursday when she resigned and said she would contest the leadership election on 26 March.

The next leader of the city of 7.2 million will be chosen by a 1,200-person panel stacked with pro-Beijing loyalists in what could be one of the most fiercely contested races since the 1997 handover, with two other high-profile candidates set to run.

China governs Hong Kong under a “one country, two systems” principle that allows it a high degree of autonomy.

Hong Kong’s incumbent, Beijing-backed leader, Leung Chun-ying, surprised many in early December when he said he would not seek a second term of office. China’s State Council also said it had approved Hong Kong’s development secretary Paul Chan to replace Tsang and labour and welfare secretary Matthew Cheung as a replacement for Lam.—Reuters



Hong Kong Chief Secretary Carrie Lam leaves after speaking to journalists on her resignation in Hong Kong, China on 12 January, 2017. PHOTO: 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.

Youths are inviting us to pursue the same goal

Khin Maung Oo

A goal is defined as something that we hope to achieve. So, all of us will have particular goals. Sometimes our goals may differ from each other, but sometimes they may coincide. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that we—nearly all people in the country had the same goal for two times namely, in 1990 and in 2015 November. Our same goal is none other than change of government. Unable to tolerate bitter existences and sufferings, people long for a government that can fulfill the needs of the people. In the past, many of those who joined the government services, by claiming that they would serve the people and the country, had given way to bribery and corruption, when they reached positions of power and authority. Power can ruin a person and absolute power can ruin a man absolutely, as a political catch-

phrase goes. Thus, our country was destroyed in every way. The worst thing is that we became morally bankrupt. Apart from a few people, nearly all of us want to change the current situation. Especially, youths want to have a better education. They want to study cutting edge technologies and wish to get a chance to study in overseas universities. The majority of the people of Myanmar wanted change so they voted for the NLD which won the elections in a landslide. The people showed very clearly by their vote that they wanted a clean and just government that was effective and accountable. They wanted a responsive and transparent government that understood the nature of "good governance" and had the moral courage to meet any challenge to reach their stated goals.

When we look at the current situation, we can see that youths

are willing to take an active part in the government's initiatives to change into new systems. They contributed their voluntary labour in the Yangon Regional Government's initiative to introduce the New Yangon Bus System (YBS) for passengers and commuters on the very first day. We saw many youths helping commuters by handing out pamphlets, answering questions and assisting passengers to make their commute as smooth as possible. By observing this we could see that youths are with the government. On the other hand, it is like saying that they are inviting us to move on to the goal together with them, as they have decided to proceed to the goal under the leadership and guidance of the NLD led government which had gained their trust. Here, we urgently need to ponder the actual situations of the country. When we say "We", we mean all citi-

zens from all walks of life—from the poor to the rich, from every strata of society. There are persons with a clean slate in our society, but they are something of a rarity. In marching towards our goal, all are needed to take part on one condition that they need to get rid of their bad mind-sets and bad habits of taking unfair opportunities. If so, they will never be regarded to be those eager to jump on the situational bandwagon. Youths have made the choice to build themselves the best future for them and younger generations. Will we smear our names so that our ancestors cannot stand tall in public? Or will we have our names written in the lists of unsung heroes? Which way will we follow?

As for me, I would like to say like this, "Goodbye and good riddance to our bad habits!" deciding to follow the leaders together with the youths.

Is the World Headed for Doom?

Khin Maung Myint

IN one of my previous articles, "Doomsday Could be Real" (31/12/2016, GNLM), I had mentioned the three possibilities as to how the world could come to an end. Some of my peers criticized me for being so paranoid. I insisted that although my opinions expressed in that article may sound somewhat abstract, they could become realities, given the developing geo-political situations.

In that article I had outlined three of the most plausible concepts as to how the world could come to an end. Here I would like to recall what those were, for those who haven't read that article and also for those who had read it, lest they may have forgotten. They are:— if a very huge asteroid of the magnitude similar to the one that struck the Earth off the Yucatan Peninsular in Mexico, 65 million years ago that wiped out the dinosaurs from the face of the Earth, should strike again; an all-out nuclear war, which will have the same effects as that of the huge asteroid strike, should breakout; and last but not least, the climate change getting out of control if necessary measures are not taken in time.

For the purpose of this article I would be stressing solely on the most clear and present danger—the imminence of an all-out nuclear war. To realize that danger we need to go back in time and

have a glimpse of the past history of the arms race during the **Cold War Era (1947-1991)** and how they had been put under control to avoid a nuclear war.

Not very long after the Second World War, the **United States of America (USA)** and the **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)**, the two emerging superpowers had been locked in conflict in a **Cold War**. The whole world was on the toes in anticipation of another World War breaking out any moment, as the two giants are inventing more sophisticated and effective weapons that are nuclear-capable. If that should happen, it would be far more devastating than the previous two wars.

However, the **United Nations (UN)** in those days was able to convince both sides to resolve their differences and confrontations through diplomatic means. Also the leaders of both the parties were rational and had foresights and both sides were able to sit down at the conference tables to limit the arms race that was threatening the peace on Earth. The **Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT)** conferences were carried out in two rounds, namely the **SALT I** and **SALT II**, starting from 1969 to 1979. Although the **SALT I** was ratified by both parties, the **SALT II** wasn't ratified by the US because of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

Another attempt to stall the arms race was the **Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (STARTs)**,

which too was done in two rounds of negotiations—**STARTs I** and **STARTs II**. Agreements were reached, but again the US didn't ratify the **STARTs II**. That led to the convening of the **New STARTs** which got ratified in February, 2011 by both parties. The world was greatly relieved by that outcome.

While the **SALT**, the **STARTs** and the **New STARTs** conferences were going on, we were full of expectations and hopes that peace would prevail, but we were wrong. The arms race continued and worse still is the fact that even nations not considered to be superpowers are secretly carrying on creating nuclear weapons of their own. The agreements and ratifications came a bit too late. Now there are quite a handful of nations that have possessions of nuclear weapons. Some are rouge nations that will not be able to restrain by rules and regulations or negotiations nor would listen to anyone. Such situations pose great dangers and threats to the world.

Today, if you should observe the overall situations in the world, you are bound to notice that there are armed conflicts in most continents and even if there are no armed conflict they are not safe from the threats of terrorist attacks. Thus people the world-over are always living in anxiety, fright and deprived of peace of mind and tranquility.

In my opinion the present sit-

uations are more uncontrollable than those of the Cold War Era. We are witnessing today, that the UN is unable to intervene in the crises as in the past. One good example of an effective UN intervention in the past was the handling of the Cuban Missile Crisis that occurred in October, 1962. The then UN Secretary General U Thant was able to coordinate between the US President John F. Kennedy and the USSR President Nikita Khrushchev to solve the problem diplomatically, instead of waging war.

Today, if war should breakout in the China Sea over the dispute of the ownership of some small coral islands or because of the US's disregard to the One China policy, I doubt that the UN would be capable of thwarting off another World War. The latest provocation of China by purposely undermining the One China policy was a very irrational move, which was strongly retaliated by China with harsh warnings. The problem doesn't stop there. China's dispatching of a naval task force led by her lone aircraft carrier as a show of force into the waters close to Taiwan was an indication that they are prepared to back up their words with actions. This is a clear message to the US that they mean business and not to meddle in their internal affairs. This is a very dangerous move by China in such a tense and fragile situation.

Also the latest deployment of 3500 combat-ready US troops to

Poland can be viewed similarly. These two moves are equally provocative in nature and are like explosive kegs waiting for accidental sparks to ignite them and explode. These are the two hottest issues that could flare up and could escalate into all-out wars of global proportions and eventually lead to nuclear wars. If those assumptions should become real, our world would definitely be doomed.

A nuclear war could also be inflicted by rouge nations, which are in possessions of nuclear weapons. One such nation is in the process of testing **Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs)** claimed to be capable of reaching the West coast of the US. They could be used to carry nuclear warheads.

Finally, I sincerely hope that the superpowers and the small nations alike, who possess nuclear weapons, to resolve their differences and problems diplomatically and peacefully. Also the United Nations should be more involved and aggressive in solving the differences and problems between nations to avoid another World War in future. If that cannot be done a nuclear war is quite inevitable and such a war in the present days would be greatly devastating even if it isn't an all-out one. Every nation should practise constraint when it comes to the choice of weapons because in an all-out nuclear war no one will win as all will have to suffer.

Visiting Czech Deputy Foreign Minister pledges bilateral cooperation

MR MARTIN TIAPA, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, said that there are many opportunities between and two countries and pledge to cooperate in various sectors.

He also said that there are a number of similarities between the transition of the two countries including the expectations of the people that changes will happen overnight. He said it takes time to complete a reform and patience and forbearance are essential during such period as there are many challenges including security affairs.

Such issues were serious challenges to his country and he learned that Myanmar is addressing peace and human rights issues. He said that such issues cannot be addressed overnight.

He pledged cooperation between the two countries.

Concerning that his country was a trading partner with all countries in 1950s and Czech technicians built many factories in other countries. He also said that his country is determined to help promote the competitiveness of businesses in Myanmar and



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr Martin Tiapa gives interview to a reporter from MRTV. PHOTO: MYAT NANDAR

wants to cooperate in infrastructure development of Myanmar as well as in other fields of need. He also pointed out that energy sector of Myanmar is important for the country and said that a capable energy sector will be able to fulfill the needs of the people. He also added that the second and third sector his country would like to contribute to are the mining and industrial sector and the tourism as more and more Czech tourists are visiting Myanmar because Myanmar is famous as the

Golden Land.

Furthermore, he said that there has been no problem in the relations of the two countries and his country is ready to cooperate in any sector including business and culture before adding that there are many projects for co-operation between the two countries.

The Czech foreign minister also met with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 13 January.—Nandar Win, Myat Sandi

KOICA hosts “Cinema Paradiso Project” in Mandalay



Cinema Paradiso showing films in Mandalay. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

KOREA International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) hosted “Cinema Paradiso Project” at Kanphyu village, Madaya Township in Mandalay on 14th January 2017 through World Friends Korea (WFK) volunteers in co-operation with students from Mandalay University of Foreign Languages and 300 community members as well.

This project was led by KOICA WFK volunteer, Ms. Hwang Seo Ok who has been performing her voluntary service in Mandalay under the Ministry of Irrigation, Livestock and Ag-

riculture since May 2016. “Cinema Paradiso Project” aims to provide mobile theaters and video content to the regions in Myanmar where movies are difficult to come by.

WFK volunteers have been implementing this project with the collaboration of different WFK volunteers in various remote areas throughout Myanmar. There were two consecutive Cinema Paradiso Projects which were held in Yintaikkwin village, Tikegyi Township (Yangon) and in Mawlamyine ISPE (Institute of Sports and Physical Educa-

tion) respectively prior to this project in Mandalay.

Along with the Cinema Paradiso (showing Korean films), various activities such as sharing Korean food and other entertainment programmes were carried out in this project with the aim of exchanging cultures between Korea and Myanmar.

Through this project, Korean Filming Team will make a documentary which will be broadcasted in thousands of theatres in Korea to strengthen friendly relationship between two countries.—GNLM

New toilets for primary schools in Hlaingthaya

INTERNATIONAL Cultural and Charity Group pledged to build new toilet facilities in primary schools across Hlaingthaya, the satellite town in the western part of Yangon, according to the wife of the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar and chair of the charity organisation.

The main aim of the donation is to promote good hygiene habits such as washing hands to help students ward off illnesses and minimise risk of infection and enhance their overall health.

The charity group was founded over 50 years ago by the wives of ambassadors from foreign embassies based in Myanmar, female diplomats and others in the diplomatic community.

The group will organise

the 2017 Valentine's Charity Gala Ball, a fund-raising event, on 9 February at Yangon's Sule Shangri-La Hotel, where a T-shirt signed by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be auctioned for charity.

The new project will include construction of toilets, water storage tanks, tube-wells, and hand washing facilities. The works are planned to start in March of this year, said Daw Myat Kaythi, an advisor of the charity.

The initial funding worth Ks30 million was donated by U Ko Ko Htwe, chair of the Taw Win Development Foundation.

The International Cultural and Charity Group has previously donated a school building worth over Ks40 million in Thawawaddy.—Myint Maung Soe



Press conference on 2017 Valentine's Charity Gala Ball at Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon. PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

Chinese New Year Festival on 28-30 January in downtown Yangon

THE CHINESE New Year Festival will be celebrated in Chinatown in downtown Yangon at the end of this month on a grand scale, with a wide range of entertainment programmes, according to the organising body.

In partnership with relevant organisations, the Chinese Chambers of Commerce will organise this year's event in Latha, a township located in the west of downtown Yangon, bordering with Lanmadaw township in the west and Pabedan township in the east, between 28 and 30 January from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

More than 3,000 light bulbs are planned to be installed along Mahabandoola Road during the three-day festival and five archways at-

tached with stages will be built on Latha Street and related locations including Lanmadaw and Sinohtan streets as well as Shwedagon Pagoda Road.

Big dragon dances, lion dances and other forms of entertainment will be performed during the event, with the organisers planning to showcase Chinese traditional handicrafts and cultural objects through booths.

The Yangon City Development Committee will grant permits to those who want to sell their goods at the festival, a member of the YCDC said.

The large Chinese community in Yangon annually celebrates the New Year on Chinatown streets with the sound of music produced from percussion instruments.—200

Turkish cargo jet crash kills 37 in Kyrgyzstan

BISHKEK — A Turkish cargo jet crashed near Kyrgyzstan's Manas airport on Monday, killing at least 37 people, most of them residents of a village struck by the Boeing 747 as it tried to land in dense fog, Kyrgyz officials said.

According to the airport administration, the plane was supposed to make a stopover at Manas, near the capital city Bishkek, on its way from Hong Kong to Istanbul. It crashed when trying to land in poor visibility at 7:31 am (08:31 pm ET). The doomed plane plowed for a few hundred meters (yards) through the village, shattering into pieces and damaging some 15 buildings.

Initial estimates put the death toll from the crash at 37, said Kyrgyzstan's emergencies ministry.

Kyrgyz officials initially identified the Boeing 747-400 as belonging to Turkish Airlines (THYAO. IS), but Turkish cargo operator ACT Airlines said the jet was theirs.

"Our TC-MCL signed plane, flying on 16 January from Hong Kong to Bishkek, crashed on landing at Bishkek at the end of the runway for an unknown reason," ACT Airlines said in an emailed statement.

"More information will be disclosed concerning our four-person team when we get clear information."—Reuters



Plane debris is seen at the crash site of a Turkish cargo jet near Kyrgyzstan's Manas airport outside Bishkek, on 16 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraqi forces push into Mosul district in clashes with IS



Iraqi Special Operations Forces (ISOF) gather near a building of the University of Mosul during a battle with Islamic State militants, in Mosul, Iraq, on 15 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSUL — Iraqi special forces pushed into a new district in Mosul near the Tigris river and battled Islamic State militants there on Monday, bringing them closer to recapturing the east of the city.

The clashes took place in the Shurta district, a Reuters correspondent near the frontlines in Mosul said. A spokesman for Iraq's elite Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) said the militants were fighting back.

"We've begun breaching (the area) but there was an attack a few moments ago. By the end of the day we'll make some progress," spokesman Sabah al-Numan told Reuters.

Shurta lies towards the eastern bank of the Tigris, which Iraqi forces say they will soon fully control. They have already taken areas of the river bank further south. Once the east bank is recaptured, they can begin attacks on western Mosul, which Islamic State still holds.

Iraqi forces have seized most of eastern Mosul in a 3-month US-backed campaign to drive the militants out of the city, their last major Iraqi stronghold. The Tigris bisects Mosul from north to south.

Fighting has intensified since the turn of the year as Iraqi forces launched a renewed push

against the ultra-hardline militants. Troops had got bogged down in late November and December after entering the city as IS fighters fought back with car bombs and snipers, and hid among a civilian population of up to 1.5 million. The United Nations said a further 32,000 Mosul residents had fled the city in just over two weeks, bringing the total number of people made homeless in the campaign to retake Mosul to 161,000.

A resident in western Mosul, reached by phone, said Islamic State fighters had stopped people living in the west from crossing the river to the east. —Reuters

Pakistan villagers attack convoy of Qatar royal hunting rare bird

QUETTA, Pakistan/DOHA — A group of Pakistani villagers brandishing guns and knives attacked the convoy of a Qatar royal family member on an expedition to hunt the houbara bustard, a rare bird whose meat is prized by Arab sheikhs, officials said on Monday.

The hunting party was unhurt, but three security guards were wounded during the attack on Sunday evening in Musakhel, in Pakistan's southwestern province of Baluchistan, district deputy commissioner Muhammad Yasar said.

"A case has been registered against 25 people," he added.

Police said the villagers turned violent after they were prevented from meeting the visiting royal to seek donations to build a mosque.

A Qatari official involved in the sport of falconry confirmed the attack by a large group of men on a convoy of hunters that included a royal family member. He declined to identify the individual, but said the party was safe.

"Qatari hunters apply and pay for government hunting permits and donate to local communities and wildlife conservation," the official said. "Unfortunately there have been attacks led by armed groups."

The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists the bustard as a vulnerable species with a global population ranging from 50,000 to 100,000. It has almost vanished on the Arabian peninsula.

Last year, Pakistan's Supreme Court lifted a ban on hunting the bird after the government argued it hurt relations with Gulf states

whose wealthy hunters traditionally travel to Pakistan to pursue the endangered species with falcons.

To seek favor with communities on whose land they pursue prey, Arab hunters have built roads, schools and mosques in places like Baluchistan and the province of Helmand in neighboring Afghanistan, while residents also benefit from the international-standard airstrips that can spring up.

New four-wheel-drive vehicles brought in for the hunt are sometimes left behind as gifts for regional leaders.

But critics say that hunting with falcons, a practice Arab nomads used to survive life in the desert, is today a reckless hobby that threatens the houbara and funnels money into areas controlled by militias.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (2 / 2017)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-080(16-17)	Spares for 3300V Water / Oil Pumps Motors (19) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-081(16-17)	Gas Supply Accessories (8) Items	US\$
(3)	DMP/L-023(16-17)	Hydraulic Oil Light (H.O.L) (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 6-2-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17TH January, 2017 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Trump says NATO is obsolete but still 'very important to me'

WASHINGTON — US President-elect Donald Trump said NATO was obsolete because it had not defended against terror attacks, but that the military alliance was still very important to him, The Times of London reported.

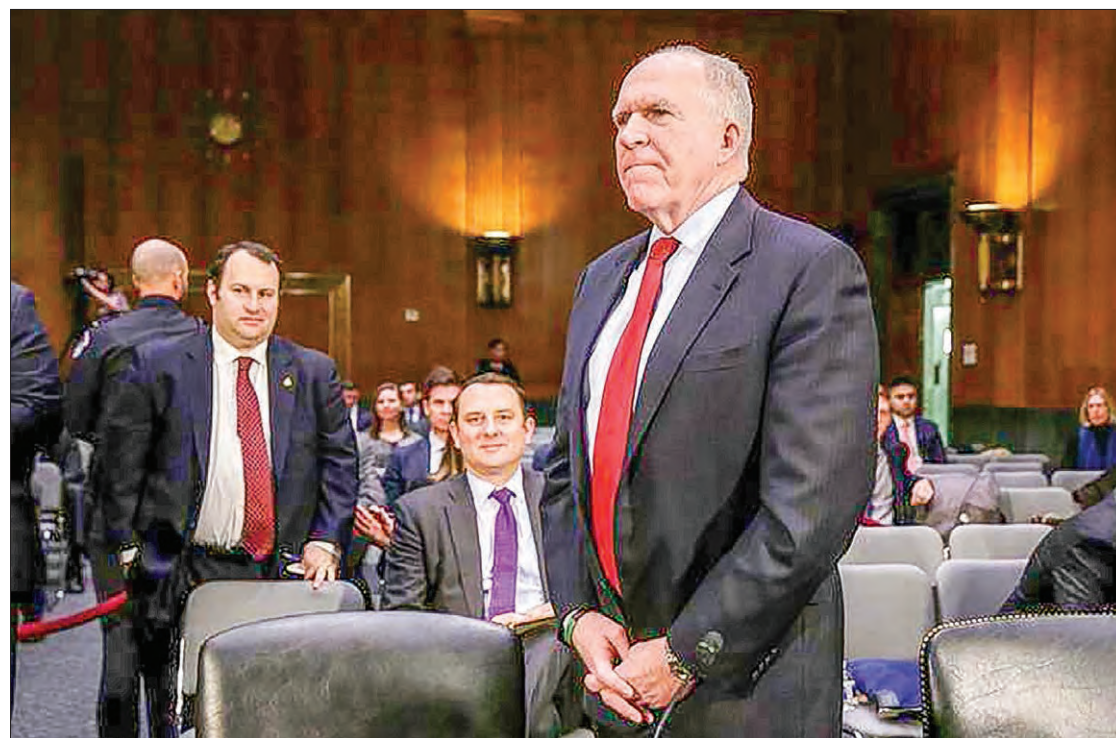
"I took such heat, when I said NATO was obsolete,"

Trump told the newspaper in an interview. "It's obsolete because it wasn't taking care of terror. I took a lot of heat for two days. And then they started saying Trump is right."

Trump added that many NATO members were not paying their fair share for US protection.

"A lot of these countries aren't paying what they're supposed to be paying, which I think is very unfair to the United States," Trump said. "With that being said, NATO is very important to me. There's five countries that are paying what they're supposed to. Five. It's not much." —Reuters

CIA director warns Trump to watch what he says, be careful on Russia



CIA Director John Brennan prepares to testify to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hearing on "Russia's intelligence activities" on Capitol Hill in Washington, US, January 10, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON— CIA Director John Brennan on Sunday had a stern parting message for Republican Donald Trump days before he assumes the US presidency, cautioning him against loosening sanctions on Russia and warning him to watch what he says.

Brennan rebuked the president-elect for comparing US intelligence practices to Nazi Germany in comments that laid bare the friction between Trump and the intelligence community he has criticized and is on the verge of commanding.

In an interview with "Fox News Sunday," Brennan questioned the message sent to the world if the president-elect broadcasts that he does not have confidence in the United States' own intelligence agencies.

"What I do find outrageous is equating intelligence community with Nazi Germany," Brennan said. "I do take great umbrage at that."

His comments followed a tumultuous week of finger-pointing between Trump and intelligence agency leaders over an unsubstantiated report of compromising information Moscow had collected on Trump.

The unverified dossier was summarized in a US intelligence report presented to President Barack Obama and Trump this month that concluded Russia tried to sway the outcome of the Nov. 8 election by hacking and other means. It did not make an assessment on whether the attempts were successful.

Trump accused the intelligence community of leaking the compromising information, which its leaders denied. They said it was their responsibility to inform the president-elect that the allegations were being circulated.

Brennan sounded an alarm on the topic of US relations with Russia, something Trump has vowed to improve as he beats back criticism that he is too eager to make an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Trump does not yet have a full understanding of Russia's actions, Brennan said, noting its seizure of Crimea from Ukraine, its support for President Bashar al-Assad in Syria's civil war and Moscow's activities in the cyber realm. "Mr Trump has to understand that absolving Russia of various actions it has taken in the past number of years is a

road that he I think needs to be very, very careful about moving down," he told Fox.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal published on Friday, Trump suggested he might do away with sanctions imposed by the Obama administration in late December in response to alleged cyber attacks if Moscow proves helpful in battling terrorists and reaching other US goals.

The president-elect's comments about Putin and his reluctance to assign blame to Moscow for the hacking of Democratic political groups has opened him up to criticism that he will be too soft on Russia.

For months, Trump had publicly doubted US intelligence conclusions about the cyber attacks before acknowledging at a news conference on Wednesday that he thought Russia was behind the hacking.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence told the Fox program, "What the president-elect is determined to do is to explore the possibility of better relations."

Pence did not say whether Trump would undo some of the sanctions and diplomatic expulsions Obama had slapped on Moscow. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian anti-aircraft forces fire shots at non-military drone

DUBAI — Iran's anti-aircraft forces fired shots at a drone in central Tehran on Monday, the governor of Tehran Province was quoted as saying by Tansim news agency, but he said the unmanned aircraft was not military.

"It has not been a military drone. It entered the no-fly zone... We do not know where it belonged to," Isa Farhadi said.

Fars news agency reported that the drone has been shot down. —Reuters

May's spokeswoman says talk of hard Brexit is 'speculation'

LONDON — Media reports that Prime Minister Theresa May will unveil plans for a "hard" Brexit in a speech this week are "speculation", her spokeswoman said on Monday.

Newspapers have suggested May's speech on Tuesday will outline plans to prioritise immigration controls and bilateral trade deals with Britain leaving the EU's single market and customs union.

Asked whether the markets were right to expect an indication of a "hard" Brexit with no access to the single market, the spokeswoman said: "It's speculation".

The pound fell as much as 1.5 percent on Monday, hit by media reports that May will signal Britain is on course for a "hard" Brexit from the European Union. —Reuters

South African guide killed at crocodile farm outside Cape Town

CAPE TOWN — A South African tour guide working at a crocodile farm in the Western Cape province near Cape Town has been mauled to death by the beasts, police said on Monday.

An inquest has been opened after the body of the 54-year-old man was discovered in one of the ponds at Le Bonheur crocodile farm in Paarl over the weekend, police said in a statement.

Le Bonheur, which provides interactive tours for visitors, says it keeps more than 1,000 crocodiles at the farm. They are generally farmed for meat and leather products. —Reuters

Istanbul nightclub attack involved an intelligence organisation - deputy PM

ANKARA — The mass shooting at an Istanbul nightclub on New Year's Eve was carried out professionally with the involvement of an intelligence organisation, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said on Monday.

"It appears the Reina attack is not just a terrorist organisation's act, but there was also an intelligence organisation involved. It was an extremely planned and organised act," Kurtulmus said during an interview with broadcaster A Haber.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack in which 39 people were killed, saying it was revenge for Turkish military involvement in Syria. —Reuters

Teachers kidnapped by suspected Islamic State fighters in Afghanistan

JALALABAD — Suspected Islamic State militants kidnapped 12 teachers and two other staff of a religious school in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, officials said.

The teachers were taken on Sunday when a group of Islamic State (IS) fighters entered the school in Haska Mina district during an examination, the education department in the provincial capital Jalalabad said.

It was not possible to confirm independently that the fighters were from IS. No group has claimed responsibility.

"We are saddened by the news and ask security departments, local elders and prominent figures in the area to help us release our teachers," the department said in a statement.

Kidnapping for both criminal ransom and political gain is a major problem in Afghanistan. Although foreigners have also been targeted, most victims are Afghans. —Reuters

Australian gov't criticizes Japan's Antarctic whaling operations

SYDNEY — Australian Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg on Monday criticized Japan for continuing its whaling program in the Antarctic, saying the government is “deeply disappointed” that the international moratorium on commercial whaling is not being observed.

The comments come as Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull takes flak at home for failing to seriously address the issue with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe during his visit to Australia last weekend.

In a statement, Frydenberg reiterated Australia's opposition to “all forms of commercial and so-called ‘scientific’ whaling,” saying there is no need to kill whales in order to study them.

The whaling issue again came to the fore in Australia after the Sea Shepherd activist group released photos Sunday showing a protected minke whale on the deck of the Nisshin Maru, a Japanese whaling vessel, with the group alleging the animal has been taken from Australian waters.—Reuters

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
(Myanmar Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project)

Department of Rural Development has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Myanmar Flood and Landslides Emergency Recovery Project and wishes to purchase the following respective items for supporting project by Shopping method as in the World Bank Procurement Guidelines:

Sr No	Description	Nos
1.	Double cabs vehicle	2
2.	Extra Pick up vehicle	3
3.	Motorcycles	60
4.	Office equipment (Computer, Projector Laptop, Printer, Copier, Plotter, camera, Scanner, Fax, Eng; Software)	121
5.	Electronic Supplier (Air Con)	24
6.	Telecommunication equipment (mobile phone, internet)	21
7.	Office furniture (Desk table, chair, Computer desk)	107

Sealed Quotations shall be submitted to U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Department of Rural Development, Office No. (14), Nay Pyi Taw, no later than (31.1.2017) 16:00 hour, after which no request for quotation will be accepted.

Additional information and specification for Vehicles and goods may be obtained from the DRD webpage: <http://www.drdmyanmar.org>.
Office phone: 067-409413, 0943434333, 095118240
Email: rbbdrd@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.1.2017 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

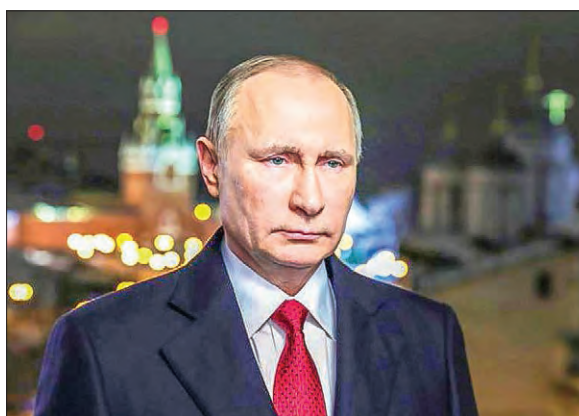
Phone No: 2301185

Kremlin says too early to react to Trump nuclear cuts offer

MOSCOW—The Kremlin said on Monday it was too early to comment on a proposal by US President-elect Donald Trump to do a deal with Moscow on nuclear arms cuts in exchange for Washington lifting sanctions imposed on Moscow over the Ukraine crisis.

Trump told The Times of London in an interview published online on Sunday that he would propose offering to end sanctions imposed on Russia for its annexation of Crimea in return for a nuclear arms reduction deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, in a conference call with reporters,



Russia's President Vladimir Putin. PHOTO: REUTERS

said Russia would wait until Trump took office before commenting on any proposed deals.

There were currently no talks on possible nuclear arms cuts with the

United States and Russia did not intend to raise the sanctions issue itself in negotiations with foreign countries, said Peskov.

He also dismissed media reports of a planned

meeting between Putin and Trump.

“All these statements about preliminary agreements about a meeting do not correspond to reality,” said Peskov.

“Right now there are no agreements, drafts or any preparations underway for a meeting because the president and Mr Trump have not discussed this in any way.”

Asked if the Kremlin agreed with Trump's view that NATO is obsolete, something the U.S. president-elect repeated in the same interview, Peskov pointed out that the Kremlin had long been making the same point.—Reuters

In Kiev, Biden says world must stand against Russian aggression

KIEV—US Vice President Joe Biden said on Monday that “the international community” must stand up against Russian aggression and urged the incoming Trump administration to be a strong supporter and partner of Ukraine.

This is the last official visit to a foreign government that Biden will make as vice president, reflecting the special focus Ukraine has received under the outgoing Obama administration.

“You're fighting both the cancer of corruption ... and the unrelenting aggression of the Kremlin,” Biden told reporters, standing



US Vice President Joe Biden. PHOTO: REUTERS

alongside Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

“The international community must continue to stand as one against Russian coercion and aggression,” he said.

Comments by US President-elect Donald Trump in an interview published on Sunday suggest he is looking to cut a deal with Russia over Ukraine's head. He mooted ending sanctions on Moscow in exchange for a deal on cutting nuclear weapons.

Under President Barack Obama, the United States has invested heavily in helping Ukraine make a success of a 2013-2014 uprising which forced a Kremlin-backed leader to flee and installed the pro-Western opposition in power. Its support

for Ukraine, which has included the economic sanctions against Russia linked to the annexation of Crimea and a separatist conflict, has contributed to a deterioration in US-Russian relations to their worst since the Cold War.

Biden has been the front man for US policy towards Ukraine, visiting Kiev five times since the change in power and maintaining such regular telephone contact with Ukrainian officials that he has joked he talks to them more than his wife.—Reuters

UK PM May agrees on changing economic model post-Brexit if forced — spokeswoman

LONDON—Prime Minister Theresa May shares her finance minister's view that Britain stands ready to consider alternative economic models following Brexit if forced to, her spokeswoman said on Monday.

Philip Hammond was quoted on Sunday as saying the country could change its economic model to regain competitiveness if it were to leave the EU without an agreement on access

to the single market.

“She shares the view that (Hammond) set out. That we would want to remain in the mainstream of a recognisable European style taxation system,” she told reporters.

“But if we are forced to do something different because we can't get the right deal, then we stand ready to do so.”

The spokeswoman declined to comment on a fall in sterling to three-month



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May and Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond tour the Renishaw innovation and engineering plant in Wootton, south west England, in Britain, on 24 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

lows over fears May will use a speech on Tuesday to say Britain is set for a “hard” Brexit, making a clean break from the EU's single market.

She also said she did

not recognise media reports over the weekend which cited a government source saying May's office was expecting a market correction as a result of the speech.—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

South Korea prosecutor seeks arrest of Samsung chief for bribery

SEOUL — South Korea's special prosecutor on Monday sought a warrant to arrest the head of Samsung Group, the country's largest conglomerate, accusing him of paying multi-million dollar bribes to a friend of President Park Geun-hye.

Investigators had grilled Samsung Group chief Jay Y. Lee for 22 straight hours last week as a suspect in a corruption scandal, which last month led to parliament impeaching Park.

The special prosecutor's office accused Lee of paying bribes total 43 billion won (\$36.42 million) to organizations linked to Choi Soon-sil, a friend of the president who is at the center of the scandal, in order to secure the 2015 merger of two affiliates and cement his control of the family business.

The 48-year-old Lee, who became the de facto head of the Samsung Group after his father, Lee Kun-hee, was incapacitated by a heart attack in 2014, was also accused of embezzlement and perjury, according to the prosecution's application for an arrest warrant.

"The special prosecutors' office, in making this decision to seek an arrest warrant, determined that while the country's economic conditions are important, upholding justice takes precedence," special prosecution spokesman Lee Kyu-chul told a media

briefing.

Prosecutors have evidence showing that Park and Choi shared profits made through bribery payments, he said, without elaborating.

Lee is due to appear on Wednesday morning at the Seoul central district court, which will decide whether to grant the arrest warrant.

Samsung, whose companies generate \$230 billion in revenue, equivalent to about 17 per cent of South Korea's economy, rejected the accusation that Lee paid bribes.

"It is difficult to understand the special prosecutors' decision," it said in an emailed statement.

Prosecutors have been looking into whether Samsung's support for foundations and a company backed by Choi was linked to the National Pension Service's 2015 decision to support a controversial \$8 billion merger of Samsung C&T Corp and Cheil Industries Inc.

Samsung has acknowledged providing funds to the institutions but has repeatedly denied accusations of lobbying to push through the merger.

"It is especially hard to accept the special prosecutor's assertion that there was improper request for a favor related to the merger or succession of control," it said on Monday.

NPS chairman Moon Hyung-pyo was indicted on Monday on charges

of abuse of power and giving false testimony. Last month he acknowledged ordering the world's third-largest pension fund to support the merger of Samsung C&T Corp and Cheil Industries in 2015 while heading the health ministry, which oversees the NPS.

The special prosecutor's office said in its indictment of Moon that Park, through her aides, ordered Moon to ensure the merger of the two Samsung companies succeeded.

Park, 64, remains in office but has been stripped of her powers while the Constitutional Court decides whether to make her the country's first democratically elected leader to be forced from office.

Park has denied wrongdoing but admitted to carelessness in her relationship with Choi, a friend for four decades. Choi, in jail as she undergoes criminal trial and also denies wrongdoing.

Prosecutors opted not to seek the arrest of three other Samsung executives they had questioned, including Vice Chairman Choi Gee-sung, a group veteran who is seen as Jay Y. Lee's mentor and a likely caretaker head of the conglomerate in the event Lee is arrested.

Shares in flagship Samsung Electronics, the world's biggest maker of smartphones, flat-screen TVs and memory chips,

ended 2.14 per cent lower, underperforming the 0.61 per cent drop in the broader market.

Investors say that while key Samsung businesses are run by professional CEOs and would not be hurt on an operational basis if Lee is arrested, his absence would slow bigger-picture decision-making.

The Korea Employers Federation, a business lobby, said arresting Lee would undermine confidence both in Samsung and the country's economy, Asia's fourth-largest, and called the special prosecutor's probe "very regrettable."

South Korea has seen numerous corporate scandals over the years. Jay Y. Lee's father Lee Kun-hee was himself handed a three-year suspended jail sentence in 2009 for tax evasion. He was later pardoned.

Public opinion has in recent years grown less tolerant of leniency extended to the heads of conglomerates, or chaebols, for the sake of the economy.

Related Coverage

Samsung Group says does not accept bribery accusations

South Korea president's friend denies knowledge of Samsung's 2015 merger plan

South Korea prosecutor says Samsung's Lee paid bribes to Park's friend.—Reuters

US Congress will not allow Trump to pull out of NATO — German official

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel "read with interest" US President-elect Donald Trump's interview with the Bild newspaper in which he called NATO "obsolete", her spokesman said, adding Berlin still aimed for close cooperation with Washington. Government spokesman Steffen Seibert declined to comment on specific remarks in the interview, saying many of Trump's positions were known.

"We will wait for the

inauguration of President Trump and then will work closely with the new administration," Seibert told a regular government news conference.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Martin Schaefer said it was difficult to get a clear view of Trump's policies given contradictions in his statements in interviews and on Twitter.

"We will see what policy really is after the inauguration on Friday," he told reporters.—Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For **Pacific Star Development Pte. Ltd.**,

C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botataung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 17 January 2017

lmm@kcyangon.com

INVITATION FOR BID

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Department of Rural Development

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Grant from the Federal Republic of Germany (KfW Bank) through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation towards the costs of Rural Development Programme Phase(I).

Department of Rural Development (DRD) wishes to purchase for the Supply, Delivery and Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of **Mobile Laboratory Equipment** (Including vehicle with two trailers) and Practical training and After-sales services for Department of Rural Development in Nay Pyi Taw.

Interested qualified bidders may obtain further information and may purchase the DRD office on or before **31-01-2017**.

Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and must be delivered by hand or by registered mail to following address on or before **17-03-2017** at 14:00 hours

Attention:

Daw Tin Moe Myint,

Director

Department of Rural Development

Office no-14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Tel: 95 67 409410, 9595118240

Fax: 9567409210

E-mail: rbbdrd@gmail.com

For Detailed information please contact

U Soe Soe Oo

Deputy Director

Department of Rural Development

Office no-14, Nay Pyi Taw,

+95(0) 9448539415

soesoeoo.npt@gmail.com



Actor Idris Elba. PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Sweetheart’ British actor Idris Elba auctions Valentine’s date for charity

LONDON — Lonely hearts this Valentine’s Day will have a unique chance to spend an evening with British actor Idris Elba after he auctioned himself off to raise money for an African girls charity.

“I’d like you to be my Valentine. That’s right love, just you and me. No-one else around, just us,” Elba said while sipping champagne in a video posted on website Omaze, which raises money for charities through celebrity experiences.

By donating money to charity W E Can Lead, members of the public are eligible to win a “candlelit meal” with the actor, according to Omaze.

Proceeds from the auction will help finance the charity’s aim of offering mentorship, educational support and leadership skills to teenaged girls in Sierra Leone.

Elba, best known for his

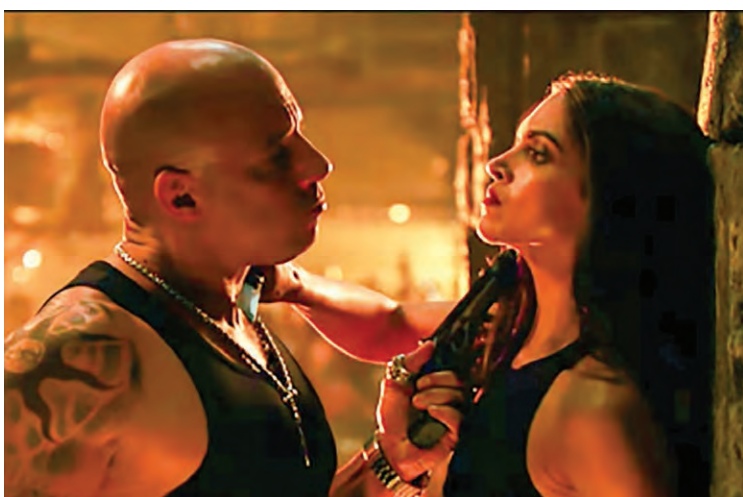
role in US television series “The Wire”, was last year named as one of the members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hands out the Oscars.

The actor, whose father is from Sierra Leone, is one of the frontrunners to be cast as the next James Bond, the fictional British spy movie franchise.

Isha Sesay, founder of W E Can Lead, said Elba was a “good sport” for being involved, and that the response to the campaign had so far been overwhelming.

“Idris and I were messaging earlier on and I said, ‘I think we may have a female stampede on our hands,’” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview.

“He said, ‘As long as we raise money.’ He’s completely committed. He was a complete sweetheart.” —Reuters



Vin Diesel and Deepika Padukone in xXx: Return of Xander Cage. PHOTO: PTI

Vin Diesel enjoys cutting chai with Deepika Padukone

MUMBAI — Hollywood action star Vin Diesel has shared a picture of Deepika Padukone in which the duo can be seen enjoying cutting chai together.

The “xXx: Return of Xander Cage” actor took to Instagram to post the photograph with his co-star.

In his post, the-49-year old actor thanked his fans around the world, especially the Indian audience, for their astounding

response to his recently released film.

Diesel captioned the post as, “Global... India already breaking records...You called it. Wow. #Blessed #Grateful.”

Deepika also gave a shout-out to Diesel by reposting the image on Instagram.

The actor had visited India, alongside “xXx” director, DJ Caruso on 12 January for the premier of his film.—PTI

I will be ok: Priyanka Chopra assures fans post accident

NEW YORK — Actor Priyanka Chopra, who was hospitalised with concussion after a nasty fall on the set of her TV show Quantico, has assured fans that she will be “ok”.

The 34-year-old star is currently resting at home and hopes to resume shoot of her hit FBI TV series soon.

She took to Twitter to thank fans and well-wishers for their “warm thoughts”.

“Thank you for all of your warm thoughts and well wishes. I will be ok, and am looking forward to getting back to work as soon as I can. Much love,” Priyanka tweeted.

On Thursday, the former Miss World was taken to a hospital after she slipped while shooting a stunt on the sets of her TV show and fell so hard on the floor that she suffered a concussion.

Priyanka was examined, treated and discharged a few hours later. Confirming the accident, her representative had said, “Yes, we can confirm there was a minor accident ... and she will return to work after the weekend. She is now resting at home.”

The accident came after Priyanka attended the 74th annual Golden Globe awards.

The star has already finished shooting Seth Gordon’s action comedy Baywatch, in which she plays the main antagonist opposite Dwayne Johnson and Zac Efron. The film will release on 26 May.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Angry Birds maker Rovio to open game development studio in London

HELSINKI — Finnish mobile games and animation company Rovio Entertainment is stepping up its hunt for new hit games by opening a studio in London to focus on multiplayer games that would not rely on the company’s Angry Birds brand.

Privately-held Rovio has struggled in recent years as profits from the Angry Birds franchise dropped, prompting deep job cuts and divestments.

But last year Rovio launched an animated Angry Birds 3D Hollywood film that it said did well at the box office

and yielded new licensing deals.

Rovio is now looking to build a team of about 20 people in London to create “massively multiplayer online” (MMO) games that support a large number of players simultaneously, with a focus on new characters.

“MMO is a genre that is growing in mobile, but it is not fully saturated. We are not looking for a niche position but a very wide, inclusive game,” Wilhelm Taht, head of games, told Reuters.

The original Angry Birds game, in which players use a

slingshot to attack pigs who steal the birds’ eggs, was launched in 2009 and it remains the top paid mobile app of all time.

Rovio exploited the brand early on by licensing its use on a string of consumer products. But the company’s failure to bring out new hit games resulted in falling profit, prompting Rovio to cut more than 300 jobs in 2014 and 2015.

“In the long term, our new characters may generate intellectual property and even a brand,” Taht said.

Rovio has a series of smartphone games based on Angry Birds characters. In 2015 it published a puzzle game called Nibblers and it will soon put out Battle Bay, a real-time multiplayer game.

Rovio is not looking to launch a large number of games this year, Taht added.

“Perhaps there’s been some change in our thinking here,” he said. “The market is favorable for games that will live long and that are operated with a service mindset.”

Asked about Nintendo’s hit smartphone game Pokemon GO, Taht said the game truly put augmented reality (AR) on the gaming map.—Reuters



An employee walks out an office of Rovio, the company which created the video game Angry Birds, in Shanghai on 20 June, 2012.

PHOTO: REUTERS

It's the Year of the (Giant Inflatable Trump) Rooster at one Chinese factory

BEIJING — A factory in eastern China is racing to keep up with demand for its new clutch - giant inflatable rooster balloons that bear what some say is an uncanny resemblance to US President-elect Donald Trump.

The Zhejiang-based factory has already produced 30 of the inflatables, some of which are up to 20 metres (65.6 feet) in height, and all sporting puffed-up combs of gold.

Li Haiyan, manager at Caile Inflatable Products Co, said he still has plenty of orders to go before the

Lunar New Year arrives on 28 January.

The likeness to Trump is pure coincidence and unintended, Li said, and many Chinese will only associate its appearance with that of this year's zodiac animal -- the rooster.

Li would not say where the inspiration for the design came from, but local media have commented on the inflatables' remarkable likeness to a statue that appeared in front of a shopping mall in northern Shanxi province in late December.

Seattle-based US

graphic artist Casey Latiolais, the statue's designer, said he was commissioned to produce something rooster-like but agreed there were some similarities.

"I can definitely say Mr Trump has a lot of similarities in that he likes to tweet," Latiolais said.

"And he also likes to tweet at or around sunrise, and if you take away the fact that roosters are kind of loud and self-absorbed, then I think you can start drawing similarities that way." China is paying close attention to Trump

as he takes the reins on 20 January.

During his election campaign, the billionaire and former reality show star took an aggressive tone with China, blaming Beijing for US job losses and vowing to call China a currency manipulator on his first day in office.

"Maybe the meaning (behind the statue) is in that 2017, the year of chicken, there will be a bigger and better breakthrough in diplomacy (between the US and China)," said Taiyuan resident and teacher Wang Hainan. —Reuters

Iraqi artist recreates ancient works destroyed by Islamic State

ERBIL — As Iraqi forces fight to retake the northern city of Mosul from Islamic State, an artist in nearby Erbil is chiseling at clay in a tiny, unheated studio to recreate historic Assyrian monuments destroyed by the group.

Ninos Thabet, an 18-year-old Christian who studied art at Mosul University, is creating miniature replicas of statues the jihadists destroyed when they overran the 3,000-year-old Assyrian city of Nimrud, south of Mosul, 2-1/2 years ago.

Once the capital of an empire stretching across the ancient Middle East, Nimrud is one of several historic sites that Islamic State looted and ransacked when they seized large swathes of Iraq and neighbouring Syria in 2014.

The statues included winged bulls with human faces, known as lamassu, and a bronze head of King Sargon of Akkad.

"Seeing the antiquities of your country, a civilisation that is thousands of years old, destroyed within minutes is very painful," he told Reuters during a visit to his studio. "It was difficult seeing such a setback to our culture and history."

Islamic State, whose ultra-hardline doctrine deems pre-Islamic religious heritage idolatrous,

released video footage last year showing its fighters bulldozing, drilling and blowing up murals and statues at Nimrud.

"I wanted to send a message to the world saying, 'We ... want to rebuild our civilisation and to continue to grow artistically'", said Thabet.

Iraqi forces pushing through eastern Mosul took control over the weekend of Mosul University, once a premier institution in the Middle East that became a strategic site for the militants, as part of a three-month, US-led offensive to recapture the entire city, Islamic State's last major stronghold in the country. Western Mosul remains under Islamic State control.

Thabet fled with his family from the Christian town of Qaraqosh, east of Mosul, to the Kurdish capital Erbil when Islamic State took over. He says art brought him comfort while he was away from his home and friends.

Since leaving his home, he has created more than 50 statues and figures. Some of them have been displayed in exhibits and museums, and others he sold to collectors. Iraqi troops pushed Islamic State from Nimrud in November, giving officials a clearer idea of the scale of the damage. —Reuters



Workers show to visitors an inflatable chicken that local media say bears resemblance to US President-elect Donald Trump as their factory braces for the Year of the Rooster in Jiaxing, Zhejiang province, China on 12 January, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

German swimmers dive into frosty waters to become 'Ice King of Chiemsee'

MUNICH — Some 30 swimmers braved the frosty waters of Germany's Chiemsee over the weekend, racing to be crowned "Ice King" of the famous lake near Munich.

In driving snow, with air temperatures around freezing and water temperatures around 4 degrees Celsius, men and women competed in several disciplines such as breast stroke and freestyle in a 50 m course off the town of Prien.

The lake is known for its beautiful scenery and for a palace on one of its islands. Begun but never completed by Ludwig II of Bavaria, the palace was meant to the king's own Versailles, but he stayed

only a few nights at the palace before his premature death in 1886.

Competitor Mirko Roever told Reuters TV he enjoyed the challenge.

"Ice swimming is one of those things where you ask yourself: Why are you doing this? Well, for the health, the stamina," Roever said.

"And it requires a bit of willpower. That is very important. To overcome your 'weaker self' and be able to say that you did it. That is the great thing about it," he added.

Ice or winter dips are common in Scandinavian and Baltic countries, where swimmers will take to saunas afterwards to warm up. —Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(17-1-2017 07:00am ~ 18-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)
07:44	Am	Myanmar Betels
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Most Prominent Resort And Residence – Ngapali
08:51	Am	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:43	Am	Graffiti: Portraiture
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: CBT in Kampetlet Township
10:03	Am	News

10:27	Am	Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bon Yatanamingalar Palace
10:46	Am	Products Of Myanmar - Mya Setkyar Pure Silk Fabric From Inle Lake

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:54	Pm	Sticky Shan Snack
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Rice Salad with Vegetables)
08:46	Pm	Chef Life: Avi Bitton (Israeli Chef)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Top seed Kerber overcomes nerves, Tsurenko to advance

MELBOURNE — Defending champion and top seed Angelique Kerber battled her nerves and faltered badly with victory in sight before finally overcoming Lesia Tsurenko 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 to reach the second round of the Australian Open on Monday.

The 28-year-old German was starting the defence of a grand slam title for the first time and initially struggled with her serve and the accuracy of her groundstrokes on Rod Laver Arena.

Once she found her range, however, Kerber proved more than a match for world number 51 Tsurenko, who was reduced to scrapping to save her serve and the odd pearl of a consolation point off her rasping backhand.

The German's nerves returned when Kerber was serving for the match, however, and the world number one started ballooning shots all over the place, allowing her Ukrainian opponent to break back for 5-5.

Tsurenko grasped her opportunity with both hands and broke the Australian and US Open champion again after a marathon nine-minute game to send the match into a decider.

The third set developed into a battle of wills but Kerber grabbed the key break for a 4-2 lead before rattling off the next two games to set up a second round tie against compatriot Carina Witthoeft.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Federer, Kerber in the spotlight on day one in Melbourne

Switzerland's Roger Federer hits a shot during a training session ahead of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, January 15, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS



MELBOURNE — Roger Federer takes the spotlight on his return to grand slam tennis on the opening day of the Australian Open on Monday but those looking for title contenders might be wise to cast their gaze elsewhere.

Seeded 17th after six months away from the sport nursing a knee injury, Federer's first round match against Austrian qualifier Juergen Melzer has nevertheless been awarded the prime spot of the final match on Rod Laver Arena. The 35-year-old won the last of his four titles at Melbourne Park in 2010 and half a year out of the game combined with the tricky draw that comes with the lowly ranking, makes a fifth crown a bit of a long shot, even for the Swiss Master.

Andy Murray embarks on his first grand slam campaign as world number one with much stronger title credentials, even if he has lost five finals at Melbourne Park, four of them to the man he usurped in the rankings, Novak Djokovic. The British top seed takes on Ilya Marchenko in the last match of the afternoon session on Rod Laver Arena and will have to contend with tem-

peratures in excess of 30 degrees Celsius as well as the Ukrainian.

Stan Wawrinka, the 2014 champion, also begins his quest for a third grand slam crown, against Slovakia's Martin Kližan, while Japan's fifth seed Kei Nishikori renews his crusade to give Asia its first men's champion against Andrey Kuznetsov. Women's top seed Angelique Kerber opens the night session on the main showcourt as she begins her first grand slam title defence against Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko, who pulled out of a warm-up tournament in Hobart last week with a virus.

Simona Halep, Garbine Muguruza and Svetlana Kuznetsova are the other top 10 women's seeds in action on day one and they will be glad to be early starters with temperatures forecast to soar when the bottom half of the draw plays on Tuesday.—Reuters

China set to tighten limits on foreign players

BEIJING — China will tighten rules over the number of overseas players able to appear in domestic games, amid concerns that clubs have been over-spending on foreign talent with a rapid growth in the huge fees being paid for high-profile imports.

Clubs in the country's top leagues would be limited to fielding a maximum of three foreign players per game for the 2017 season, down from the current five, China's Football Association said in a statement

on Monday.

A spate of investment by Chinese clubs has seen players such as Brazil's Oscar and Argentine Carlos Tevez make big-money moves to China over the last month. Shanghai SIPG signed Oscar from English club Chelsea in a deal said to make him the highest-paid player in the world.

However, the drive has prompted fierce criticism from officials and local media, with Xinhua saying earlier this month that clubs were "burning mon-

ey" on overpaid foreign talent and neglecting the development of domestic players.

Chinese officials have said clubs should impose salary caps and create special funds to develop home-grown talent.

Teams can currently have three foreign players plus one Asian player on the field at any one time, a system referred to as the "3+1" rule.

A fifth foreign player can be used as a substitute as long as the "3+1" rule is maintained.—Reuters

United's Ibrahimovic strikes late to rescue Liverpool draw

LONDON — Zlatan Ibrahimovic delivered his most important goal yet for Manchester United as he sent Old Trafford wild with his 19th of the season in all competitions to salvage a 1-1

draw with their fiercest rivals Liverpool on Sunday.

James Milner, so often a scourge of United, had silenced the home crowd with a 27th minute penalty as Liverpool seemed to be coasting with relative comfort to a crucial Premier League win until the irrepressible Swede struck with an 84th minute

gave away the penalty with a clumsy handball, missed a golden opportunity to score and looked lost on defensive duty.

Mourinho brought on captain Wayne Rooney as a second half substitute, hoping he would break the club's scoring record but Liverpool, for whom Simon Mignolet made key saves, held United comfortably until Ibrahimovic's decisive late intervention. Ibrahimovic, who scored his 11th league goal in as many matches, had to twist backwards to get power on a header from an Antonio Valencia cross to earn what he felt was a crucial point.

"We would like to win every game, of course, to close the gap even more but 1-1, we continue like this, we haven't lost a game in 15 or 16 and we are there," Ibrahimovic told Sky Sports.—Reuters



Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic.
PHOTO: REUTERS