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Commuters check the bus routes on the second day of a new bus system at a bus stop in Yangon yesterday.
PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Yangon to invest Ks8 billion into agricultural sector

Ko Moe

THE Yangon Region Government has earmarked about Ks8 billion to spend on development of the mechanised agricultural sector in Yangon Region as part of a revitalization effort for farmland, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

"As far as the industry sector is developed in Yangon Region, it is found that the agriculture sector is weakening. We need to upgrade the agricultural sector with the use of modern ways in attempts to boost the agricultural production," said U Phyo Min Thein.

The remarks were made at a workshop on promoting the agricultural sector in Yangon Region held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Yangon yesterday.

Meanwhile, Yangon Region Government is drafting a master plan for development of agricultural mechanisation in the region to be implemented within three years.

Under the plan, irrigation will be extended in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, according to the Yangon Region Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Energy Minister U Han Tun.

Currently, more than 700,000 acre feet of water stored in a year in nine dams in the region have not been effectively used for irrigating farmland in the summer and winter seasons.

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Yangon Region Gov't vows to solve bus problems

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

THE Yangon Region Government is conducting surveys on the difficulties for the public during the recent transportation system change in Yangon in order to solve them as soon as possible,

according to U Phyo Min Thein, chief minister of the region.

He said that the government has conducted a study and found out that they did not have enough buses for all residents of Yangon, although all buses were running. He said that people stranded at

Pansodan and Sule at rush hour cannot be allowed to continue before promising new buses in February.

The chief minister took buses in downtown Yangon yesterday afternoon and talked to the media.

He said that the regional government was examining the causes that led people to change buses repeatedly, before adding that they can add more bus routes after consultation with authorities concerned.

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Interview with Czech Republic Deputy Foreign Minister

THE following is an interview with Mr. Martin Tlapa, the deputy minister for foreign affairs of the Czech Republic, who visited Myanmar from 12-14 January. Myanmar established diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia in 1956 and with the Czech Republic in 1989. It reopened its embassy in Myanmar in 2014.

Q: Please tell us the reason why the Czech Republic decided to reopen its embassy in Myanmar.

A: I am very happy to be here. Your country is very beautiful. The reason for the reopening is, first, the bilateral talks between the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and

the Czech Republic. I met your leaders because this is the important to enhance cooperation. We discussed how we will do this together. The second reason why I'm here is because we arranged a meeting we have embarked on a mission to meet in your beautiful country.

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We would like to cooperate more with your government with infrastructure projects.

Czech Republic Deputy Foreign Minister



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Message of Greetings sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the occasion of the 17th Anniversary of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference

It gives me great pleasure and honour to send these warm greetings to all Myanmar Traditional Medicine healers and all Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners who have come to attend the 17th Anniversary of the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference which is being held today. I send them good wishes for their physical and mental well-being.

Today marks the 17th Anniversary of the "Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference", which had been convened annually since the year 2000. This Conference had been convened annually without fail with the following objectives: to ensure that the world of Myanmar Traditional Medicine achieves all-round improvement; to promote the development of Myanmar Traditional Medicine; to raise the integrity and professional ethics of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners; and to raise the quality and effectiveness of Myanmar Traditional Medicines.

At every conference, representatives from the Department of Traditional Medicine who have been responsible for matters relating to Myanmar Traditional Medicine, representatives from the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council, representatives from the Association of Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners, representatives of Myanmar Traditional Practitioners from various localities in various states, representatives of those whose professions are related to traditional medicine have met to discuss and exchange views with the objective of ensuring the progress and development of the world of Traditional Medicine Practitioners. I believe that they had no doubt succeeded in achieving their objectives.

At this conference, the traditional medicine practitioners and professionals closely related to this practice of healing have come together in friendship and unity to consult, discuss and reason together and to present their experiences, ideas, and positive viewpoints with good intentions for the progress of Traditional Medicine and with the objective of protecting public health and traditional medicine. I am sure that significant and good results will emerge from these deliberations not only for traditional medicine practitioners but also for the State and the people.

Myanmar Traditional Medicine may be considered a heritage and healing practice born out of tradition which has developed based on Myanmar's climate and geographical location, Myanmar traditional philosophies and beliefs and Myanmar society. It developed in correlation with all these factors.

It is for these reasons that the Union Government has been giving special emphasis and encouragement to

Myanmar Traditional Medicine as a traditional cultural heritage and as a healing practice which can take care of the health care needs of the Union nationals. We want this practice to endure for a long time and progress on a systematic basis.

In accordance with the saying "Health is the greatest of blessings," only healthy and robust citizens will be able to work for the promotion of the Nation's interest effectively. The Union Government for its part has been working for the health of all Union nationals and to raise the educational level of the people. As we do this, we are working to raise the level of traditional medicine and to provide better health care coverage to the people using traditional medicine. We have included this as a new policy item in our National health programme.

Esteemed delegates of the Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference,

As Myanmar Traditional Medicine is a collection of many basic healing techniques, many tomes of medicinal treatises, innumerable books of healing practices, and many potent medicines and potions, it is comprehensive and at the same time profound, extensive and subtle. It is for these reasons that we need to systematically preserve and promote it. Only then will these healing practices endure for a long time to develop and spread without disappearing into oblivion.

Thus it is necessary for us to collect and unify the essence of Myanmar Traditional Medicine which is rich and comprehensive and try to develop standards using modern techniques, so that we could all contribute to elevate this healing practice into a comprehensive National Traditional Medicine Practice.

With respect to Traditional Medicine which is truly a traditional heritage of Myanmar and for which we should have Intellectual Property Rights, traditional medicines, traditional healing practices, and medicinal herbs, in order to draw up an Intellectual Property Rights Law, we need to study how laws are related to Intellectual Property Rights Law in foreign countries, so that traditional medicine practitioners, scientists, and legal professionals can cooperate and work together. Furthermore, as we draw up laws suitable for Myanmar and Intellectual Property Rights, it is important to include Myanmar Traditional Medicine, medicinal herbs, healing practices and methods. This is indeed something that is necessary because of the circumstances and the age we are living in.

Esteemed delegates of the Traditional Medicine Conference,

In this age, we have to rely on modern scientific medicine to identify, understand, and cure various types of diseases and ailments that afflict mankind. At the

same time the essence of Myanmar Traditional Medicine guides us how to eat and live in harmony and balance in accordance with Karma, Citta, Uttu and Ahara; and how to live in harmony with the climate and environment and how to live and eat accordingly. Thus Myanmar Traditional Medicine enables us to live long free from dangers and diseases; therefore it is truly dependable as a set of healing practices and philosophies. Its principles are sound and correct. In this day and age, we have noticed that not only Myanmar people, but other peoples of the world are also relying more on natural healing methods, natural foods and natural medicines.

That is why we might say that the role of traditional medicines which have been formulated using natural medicines and the healing practices professed by the Myanmar Traditional Practitioners, have become bigger and more widespread.

Knowing and understanding the favourable times and conditions, I believe that all the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners will be able to join hands in unity using this Conference as the platform to:

- To uplift the level of Myanmar Traditional Medicine.
- To gain more trust and confidence on Myanmar Traditional Medicine.
- To work for the sustainability, development and spread of Myanmar Traditional Medicine.
- To work for advancement towards international scientific standards.
- To work for the development of correct and reliable research facilities in the area of traditional medicine.
- To work for the further consolidation and cohesiveness of the Myanmar Traditional Practitioners Association.
- To work for the emergence of modern traditional medicine enterprises and to ensure that truly potent medicines are developed.
- To work for the training and development of traditional medicine practitioners who are more qualified.

Therefore, I send this Message of Greetings with these wishes:

- May the 17th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners Conference conclude successfully in accordance with the objectives of the conference,
- May the name and dignity of Myanmar Traditional Medicine grow and prosper,
- May you all be able to provide health care and good health of the people using Myanmar Traditional Medicine,
- May all the people have good health.



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs receives Australian MPs, reps from Save the Children

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin received Australian members of Parliament and representatives from Save the Children Australia at 2:30pm yes-

terday. The Australian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Nicholas Coppel was also present at the meeting.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on

Myanmar's relations with ASEAN and Australia; promotion of bilateral investment; ongoing developments in Rakhine State and the peace process.

Australian members of

Parliament also expressed their continued support to Myanmar's democratisation process, stating that Australia is a true friend of Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

Yangon to invest Ks8 billion into agricultural sector

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Meanwhile, the Master Plan also focuses on getting quality rice strains and on producing value-added products for export.

U Aung Than Oo, Vice-President of the Myanmar Rice Federation, has suggested for the Yangon Region Government to establish service centres in townships in the region in order to grant agricultural loans to farmers sufficiently through the centres.

Regarding the master plan, he also suggested the government to give priorities to development of the

farmland sector, providing quality strains of rice to farmers and assisting the farmers to be able to use agricultural machinery.

"We should renovate dikes which prevent intrusion of sea water to farmland and dredge silt out of creeks and rivers so that water recedes quickly after flooding because the Yangon Region sees natural disasters nearly every year," said U Aung Than Oo.

The Yangon Region has more than 2.5 million acres of farmland.—Ko Moe

Investigation Commission on Maungtau holds its meeting 2/2017

U Myint Swe, Vice President and Chairman of Investigation Commission on Maungtau addressed the meeting 2/2017 held at the meeting hall of the Office of the President at 2 pm yesterday.

At the meeting, Vice President said, "Now meetings of the investigation commissions on Maungtau had been held for 5 times. The commission formed on December 1 in 2016 held its first meeting on December 8, issuing a press release. The commission paid a visit to Maungtau during December 11 and 13 and investigated in detail. On December 12, the second meeting was held in Maungtau, issuing a

press release for the second time. During the trip, the commission went to 11 villages and met with local villagers to enquire about the necessary matters. On December 26, the commission held its third meeting 3/2016 and discussed and re-assessed the facts on the previous investigations. On January 3, 2017, the interim report of the commission was released. On December 5, the commission held its meeting 1/2017, and went to Maungtau on January 6 & 7 again.

In today's meeting, necessary matters for the final report of the investigation commission need to be discussed in detail."



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting 2/2017 of Investigation Commission on Maungtau at the meeting hall of the Office of the President. PHOTO: MNA

Afterward, U Zaw Myint Pe, secretary of the investigation commission, clarified the situations concerning the completion of the final report.

In addition, Police Major General Zaw Win, a member of the investigation commission, explained the latest situation in Maungtau, followed by discus-

sions from commission members.

The Vice President made a closing address, instructing members over the discussions.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Yangon Region Gov't vows to . . .

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He also said that the changes in the bus system are flexible and promised to satisfy the transportation needs of Yangonites.

The chief minister took a bus trip from Thakin Mya Park in Ahlone Township together with the public so that he could experience the effects of the bus system change first-hand.

The public encountered difficulties on Monday because there were an insufficient number of buses and because passengers did not know the new bus routes.

But a volunteer who was helping guide passengers said the situation improved yesterday as there were more buses running in Yangon.

Other private vehicles and those owned by businesses and philanthropic associations were also providing transportation the public free of charge during rush hours yesterday.

Operators of such volunteer vehicles said that they were determined to provide help to the public.

A passenger said that she felt relieved yesterday because she now knew her bus line and there were more buses, which alleviated much of the crowding that occurred on Monday.

Yangon Region Police also lent a helping hand to the public by providing free transportation services for passengers yesterday.

The chief minister said that the regional government had just started the change of the system and would upgrade the buses in February and March and further improve the system over the next three months. He promised he would try to make a change that all Yangonites could appreciate.

Interview with Czech Republic Deputy Foreign Minister

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All countries in Asia decided to come as the ambassadors are meeting here to discuss strategy, what we can do together in the Asia Region. So, I'm very happy to spend the time here and to tour a very good visit.

Q: We would like to know your opinion on Myanmar's endeavours for democratic transition.

A: I think we have a lot of similarities. Of course, your country is five times larger than the Czech Republic. We transformed to a democracy in 1989. I was studying that every country has to choose on their own what they would like to transform their country. We will not give you advice what to do or not to do. But, according to our experiences, what's important is to have a vision. In the Czech Republic, everybody expected that a day after the change, everything would be new, the standard of living would be very high, exports will grow significantly and everything will be perfect. This is not possible. You have to be patient. So vision and patience is important. We are facing challenges regarding security. Unfortunately, terrorism is spreading around the world. The third important thing is to give the people security in your country. These three things are important for the moment. I'm sure your country will be successful because of the beautiful country and the beautiful people and your country is playing a more and more important role in global economy.

Q: You mentioned security. Our country is endeavouring for peace and national reconciliation. What is your opinion on this?

A: Security is important both for investors and for the people living in the country, of course. I come from Europe. We were watching all the terrorism on TV



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

in the past. Now unfortunately, this is a part of everyday life in Europe. This is much bigger challenge for us. This is a global threat for us. We must work together at a multi-national level on how to tackle that. We have to work efficiently because this is the basic thing.

Of course, we have to go hand in hand with the peace process in your country and the human rights issue as well. That is important both for people living in your country and investors coming to your country. As I mentioned, you need to create a vision and every day take a step ahead. Because it can change day to day. You are on the good path and can do a lot of things, including ambassador cooperation with Czech Republic and Myanmar.

Q: Czechoslovakia was Myanmar's economic partner around 1950. We had very good relations. What will be your priorities in terms of economic cooperation with us?

A: In 1950, your country is our fourth most important economic partner in Asia. There

were a lot of factories built by Czechoslovakian technicians. We decided to come back and to help industrialisation and modernisation and economic changes to be more competitive. We would like to be more cooperative with your government in the infrastructure projects. We do our homework for researching and needs and plans to fit your economy. Definitely, energy is one of the key sectors because this is high priority of your government to have access to energy for many people. The second part is the mining industry and also the machinery industry. The third one I would like to mention is tourism. You may see more and more tourists are coming into the Czech Republic and more and more Czechs are coming to Asia. I think if you have a good strategy you can invite much more people travelling, for example, to Thailand and other parts of Asia, you can also invite to your country. Golden Land is very attractive. I hope it should be a successful partner for us. These are the three sectors we discussed in our

meeting. We got concrete things, like inviting companies in Czech Republic to your country for your business and we hope politicians from your country will come to the Czech Republic in the near future and our ambassador here is also preparing for the companies to come together. He would like to have more cooperation for the practical project. This is the priority for our ministry and government.

Q: My last question is your opinion for future cooperation between us for strengthening bilateral relations.

A: We don't have any problems in our relations. We have to cooperate on three levels: one is the bilateral level, the second one regional and the third is multi-national. You are an important partner in ASEAN and you are an important partner in WTO. I would be happy to coordinate with you to encourage the livelihoods of your people. In the regional level, is also important for us to have projects which will help competitiveness with your country. In bilateral relations, we decided to open a full-fledged embassy here. We are providing the services because this is important evidence for our peoples that we believe in your country and we are happy to be here. And I hope Myanmar will open its embassy in Prague, a beautiful city. Lots of plans are coming together, I am happy talks are very fruitful and very concrete. I think a very practical thing is how we can help to build competitiveness in both countries and assist companies. I am very happy to visit here. The beautiful country believes me. I hope people from Czech Republic and your country will have regular people-to-people contacts. This is important in how to overcome doubts in our relations. We are happy to assist with this from the Czech side.

Rakhine gov't provides food in Maungtaw



Rakhine government officer delivers instant noodles to villagers in Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: KO MIN

THE Rakhine government provided food to villagers from Maungtaw Township on 15 and 16 January, it is learnt.

Rakhine State Electric Power and Road Transportation Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan and Rakhine State development affairs minister U Min Aung provided 32 bags of rice, 40 viss of cook-

ing oil, and 400 packs of instant noodles to 96 households from Taung Pyo Let Wae town, 49.3 bags of rice, 74 viss of cooking oil and 740 packs of instant noodles to 148 households from Thinbaw Hla and Tharyargone villagers and 20 bags of rice, 30.50 viss of cooking oil and 315 packs of instant noodles to 63

houses from Htarein village.

Similarly, the ministers provided 162.34 bags of rice, 243.5 viss of cooking oil and 2,435 packs of instant noodles to the 487 households in three other villages. The ministers later inspected the hydropower plant and a rural housing construction site, it is learnt—*Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn)*

Action taken against two men for vandalism

LEGAL action has been taken against Aung Soe, 25, of Halingthaya township for destroying a YBS bus sign erected at Zaybutar bus station, Ward 1, Mayangon township, Yangon Region, according to the Yangon regional police force.

The vandalism was discovered after police received a tip-off and went to the scene of inci-

dent. The suspect has had action taken against him under section 6(1) of the Public Property Protection Act by the police.

On the same day, police who were patrolling with a community organization found another man shouting and swearing on Yazar Darit road, Dagon Myothit (North) township. They also found that the man had de-

stroyed a YBS bus road sign near Ayeyawady bank on Union Road.

The police identified the man as Zaw Min Tun, alias Win Oo, 41, from Dagon Myothit (east) township. The man was charged under section 6(1) of the Public Property Protection Act by the police.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Htantabin Township IPRD organised story telling competition, poem reciting competition, ad lib speech contest and painting contest

HTANTABIN Township Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) under the Ministry of Information organised a story-telling competition, poem reciting competition, ad lib speech contest and painting contest at the Public Library in Htantabin Township, Taungoo District, Bago Region on 16 Jan-

uary.

IPRD aims to enhance students' IQ, improve their creativity, allow them to become confident and provide for relaxation.

Sixty pupils from Basic Education Primary Schools, Basic Education Middle Schools and Basic Education High Schools participated in the event.

At the prize presentation ceremony, Township officer Daw Tha Zin of Htantabin IPRD elaborated the aim of holding the contests. Next, author Htantabin San Lwin, member of Township Writer's Association explained the assessment of the contests. Officials gave awards to the winners.—*Shwe Win (PYAY)*



Students participating in painting competition. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Two more villagers suspected of involvement in Buthitaung attack arrested

IN the continuous effort at finding who were involved in the Buthitaung armed attack last year, the combined forces of Tatmadaw troops and border guard police arrested two more fugitives near the village of Badakar at about 10am yesterday.

The two arrested were Jamar Husin, son of Mamot Husaung and Rahat, son of Adu

Suri, both of Kyehnotethee Village. It is learnt that they took part in the armed attack in Buthitaung armed attack and escaped.

The two will be handed over to the No. 3 border guard control police force in Buthitaung so that legal action can be taken against them, in accord with the law.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Jamar Husin



Rahat

Crime NEWS

Ten-year-old child dies on the spot on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

A 10-YEAR-OLD child who was crossing the Yangon-Mandalay Highway on foot died on the spot when a van driven by U Myint Wai en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay crashed into him between milepost 340/4 and 340/5 near Tada-U Township at 8:30am yesterday. The child was identified as Maung Nay Lin Oo from Boo-nauk village in Tada-U Township.

The driver and passengers in the van were not injured, but the child soon succumbed to extensive injuries. The body was taken by car from Saga Inn Highway Police Station to Tada-U Hospital. Police filed charges against the child for careless crossing of the highway road under section 304-A of the Penal Code.—*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*



Highway Police are taking the 10-year-old child dead body. PHOTO: MPF

Heroin and stimulants seized

AN anti-narcotics squad from Namkham searched a man and a woman, Sai Shwe Oo and Ma Khin Thida Win, at Thiha Yarzar Namkham-Bhamo bus gate north of Myoma Market, Kaung Htet area in Ward 5 in Namkham on 15 January and found 99 soap boxes containing heroin weighing 1.1286 kilos and 7,600 stimulant tablets.

Police from Kalay District searched a motorcycle driven by Go Swin Mon on Bogyoke Road between Taung Phi La Street and Sein Pan Myaing Street, Tahan Ward in Kalay on Monday, and found stimulants.

Likewise, an anti-narcotics squad from Muse searched a house owned by Sai Kyar Tun at Ho Pop Village in Muse and found 12 soap boxes containing heroin weighing 132 grams and 780 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, another anti-narcotics squad from Myeik searched a house owned by Kaung Htet Lin at TatPyin ward, Myeik on 15 January and found 800 stimulant tablets.

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

LOCAL Business

US Dollar price drops lower than set rate by the CBM

THE US dollar exchange rate dropped lower than the rate set by the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), with an exchange rate of Ks1,348 per dollar.

The unstable dollar price in the global market affected the domestic currency exchange market. The US dollar exchange rate hit the recorded high of Ks1,438 on 16th Dec 2016 and then became unstable, fluctuating up and down thereafter. The dollar exchange rate reached a low of Ks1,348 on 16th Jan 2017, according to the external currency ex-

change market.

With the drop in the dollar exchange rate in the external market, CBM set the exchange rate at Ks1,355 from 11 to 16 January.

The index of US dollar in the global market dropped down to 101.17 on 16 January and then rose back to 101.70 in the evening.

Meanwhile, the global gold price rose to US\$1,203 per ounce and the domestic gold price was Ks865,000 per tical on 16 January, according to the gold market.—*Ko Htet*

Young engineers need support from gov't, private sector

YOUNG engineers badly need support from both the government and the private sector, and the tax rate levied on businesses needs to be reduced so that the businessmen can participate in the contribution of commerce, according to Myanmar Engineering Society (MES).

The junior engineers need the government's subsidy as well as the assistance from the businessmen so as to innovate new things. The businessmen also need to support the young people and in return, the government should reduce the tax rate for the businessmen,

said U Tin Lat, the general secretary of MES.

"The young engineers are faced with financial problem. The concerted efforts are needed to be made by the government and private sectors to support the young people," said Daw Phyu Phyu Aung, a young engineer.

MES formed a committee to effectuate the development of the young engineers and upgrade their qualifications, offering courses, discussions, educative talks and linking them with businessmen, it is learnt.—*Myitmakha News agency*

CB Bank issues Gold and Platinum Visa credit cards

Co-operative Bank Ltd (CB Bank) partners with Visa started to issuing Gold and Platinum Visa credit cards for the first time in Myanmar.

These cards can be used locally in Myanmar as well as overseas and the settlement can be made in Myanmar kyats. CB Bank has always been at the forefront

of the payment and card services since the opening up of Myanmar banking sector. CB Bank is the first bank in Myanmar that has started accepting cash withdrawal at the ATMs and issuing Visa prepaid debit cards back in 2013.

CB Bank has already issued around 25,000 Visa prepaid cards.—*GNLM*



A visitor checks baskets and household utensils made of branches of palm trees in Bagan. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Three traditionally made items planned to export to America

THREE items traditionally made from palm leaf and bamboo leaf are planned for export to America, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The export of the new items consists of nearly 100 chairs and 60 tables made from palm leaves and 350 hats made

from bamboo leaves, with a value of about US\$4,770.

Myanmar has exported traditional handicrafts worth about US\$12million to European Union countries. Among ASEAN member countries, Viet Nam was able to export handicrafts worth

US\$442million and Cambodia exported the handicrafts worth US\$45million to EU countries.

The Commerce Ministry is making efforts to boost the export volume of Myanmar's handicrafts to foreign countries, offering courses of marketing, holding workshops and

job fairs and linking local businessmen with the foreign buyers.

The ministry will enhance the traditional handicraft business on a manageable scale. Concerted efforts will be exerted to improve Myanmar's traditional handicraft sector.—*200*

Excessive use of fertilizer and pesticide could possibly harm farmer's profits

THE excessive use of fertilizer and pesticides on Muiyin paddy in Thabaung Township in Ayeyawady Region could create financial hardship for farmers.

Farmers are using more pesticide and fertilizer in paddy fields, which are not doing well because of diseased due in part to unfavourable weather.

Additionally, the paddy price is not good, which could result in losses for the farmers at harvest time, said U Win Kyaing, a farmer from Thabaung Township.

Farmers have been seen using large amounts of fertilizer and pesticide in an attempt to boost this year's production. But the

paddy price in January has been low, which cuts into profits, said the local farmers. Pesticides and fertilizer are selling well this year, with shops often out of stock of the items, said U Tun Tun Lin, who works in a Phu Pwint Wai pesticide and fertilizer shop in Thabaung Township.

The paddy price in

Thabaung Township is over Ks400,000 per 100 baskets, and farmers are concerned about the possible price decline at harvest time of Muiyin paddy. There are over 150,000 acres of paddy fields in Thabaung Township, which has 70 wards and village tracts, it is learnt.—*Myitmakha News agency*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2017 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SHIPPAN ISLAND VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIPPAN ISLAND VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Myanmar Parliamentary Union's Meeting 1/2017 Held

Myanmar parliamentary union's Meeting 1/2017 was held at 10 am yesterday at the meeting room of Zambu Thiri Hall in the Hluttaw Premises, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and chairman of the Myanmar parliamentary union commented on the approval of office staff hiring regional and state Hluttaws.

"In the previous meeting, it was decided to open the Offices of Region and State Hluttaws separately with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office designated as the mother organisation. The decision was submitted in accord with the procedures, and it was approved at the meeting 18/2016 of the Union Government, held on 22 December, 2016 and the permission was granted on 5 January, 2017. Thus, Region and State Hluttaws will have rights to separately appoint



Speaker U Win Myint addresses the Myanmar parliamentary union's Meeting 1/2017. PHOTO: MNA

their office staff. I am very pleased with this," Mahn Win Khaing Than said.

In response, U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and vice-chairman of the Myanmar

parliamentary union said: "Hluttaws are principal images of Democracy. Provided that there were no conveniences in performing Hluttaw affairs, it cannot be assumed to be successful. For dem-

ocratic movement to be smooth, Hluttaw Office staff members are required to abide by the laws on Civil Service, rules and regulations. Head of Hluttaw and departmental heads as well must be well

versed in ethics and discipline, and need to be well equipped with management skills and efficiency in administration. And it needs to improve individual abilities and qualifications in performing checks and balances over other entities."

After that, U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and secretary of the Myanmar parliamentary union's clarified decisions of the Meeting 4/2016 and situations on performances including discussions in the preliminary meetings, followed by respective discussions of chairmen and officials from Region and State Hluttaws and those present at the meeting.

Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of the Myanmar parliamentary union and U Win Myint Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw made closing addresses. —Myanmar News Agency

Missing former 100-household head found



PHWEYAR ZHUROK, who had been missing from Yeaungchaung Village in Maungtaung Township since Saturday, was found at midnight on Sunday.

It was learnt that Phweyar Zhurok, a prawn farm owner, was abducted by four people at about 11 pm on Saturday. U Hla Thein, the in-charge of the village, then received information that the abductee was in the house of Swayauk Turin in Fari Village. Authorities were called and Phweyar Zhurok was taken to the local office by security forces.

Phweyar said that he was abducted along the forest path near Medi Village and blindfolded Near Kyungpaukpyusu (North) Village.

He was then tortured at a house by about 10 people for cooperating with the village administrator. He was also asked for ransom, before he was blindfolded and sent back to Kyaukchaung Village junction by four people.

A knife injury was found on his back and action has been taken against the abductors. —Myanmar News Agency

Drugs worth Ks 370 million seized in Kunlong



Drugs are seen together with the vehicle in Kunlong. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

MILITARY columns performing security duty seized narcotic drugs worth Ks 370 million between Kunlong and Narte in Kunlong Township yesterday afternoon.

The military column stopped a Toyota Harrier but the

driver tried to escape, raising suspicions and forcing the security forces to conduct clearance operations in the area. Later, the vehicle and drugs worth Ks 370 million, including 18 packets of ice weighing one kilo each and 19 packets weighing 0.7 kg

each, were found in the vehicle at milepost 37.

The seized vehicle and the drugs have been handed over to the local police and security forces continue to conduct area clearance operations. —Myanmar News Agency

Special Rapporteur meets press council



Ms Yanghee Lee is welcomed by personnel from Myanmar Press Council. PHOTO: YE HTUT (MNA)

Ms Yanghee Lee, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, met with the Myanmar Press Council in Yangon yesterday.

Queries raised by Ms Yanghee Lee on the challenges facing the press council were answered

by the vice chairman of the council.

Also discussed was the role of the council in covering the news events involving the violent attacks last year in Buthidaung and Maungtaung. —Zaw Gyi (Panita)

Rifle, hand grenade seized near Muse town

THE Tatmadaw seized a carbine rifle and a hand grenade near Muse town, northeastern Shan State on Sunday.

According to the army troops, the hand grenade, the carbine and bullets were found

amidst the banana plants by the Tatmadaw when they were conducting an area clearance operation.

The army troops are still conducting clearance operations in those areas. —MNA

Philippines defence minister says China arms on islands worrying

MANILA—China's recent installation of weapons on artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea was "very troubling", the Philippines' defence minister said on Tuesday, after Manila quietly protested against Beijing's activities.

The Philippine foreign ministry sent a note verbale to the Chinese embassy last month after confirming a report from the US-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies about China's arms buildup in the Spratlys.

"The actions of China in militarising those disputed features are very troubling," Delfin Lorenzana said in a statement.

"They do not square with the Chinese government's rhetoric that its purpose is peaceful and friendly," Lorenzana took a stronger line than Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay, who refrained on Tuesday from criticising China, but said the issue had to be handled carefully and the public should know "we are not sleeping on the job".

"When something happens that can pose us some kind of threats to our sovereignty rights we issue a note verbale so we can talk about it and make sure it is properly addressed," he told ANC television.

With billions of dollars of potential Chinese trade and investment at stake, the Philippines has a difficult balancing act in upholding its sovereignty claims while staying on the better terms President Rodrigo Duterte has established with historic rival China. Mischief Reef, one of the islands where China has modern weapons, is located within the Philippines' 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

In Beijing, when asked about the Philippine protest, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China had the right to deploy on the Spratly islands "necessary and appropriate defence equipment to protect its sovereign territory".

At a daily briefing, she reiterated a call for two-



Chinese dredging vessels are purportedly seen in the waters around Mischief Reef in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea in this still image from video taken by a P-8A Poseidon surveillance aircraft provided by the United States Navy on 21 May, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

way talks between China and maritime claimants, adding that work between China and relevant parties, including the Philippines, was "progressively lowering the temperature in the South China Sea".

The Philippines, for its part, has decided to shelve planned upgrades to facil-

ities on islands it controls, such as repairing an eroded runway, to avoid incurring China's wrath. Lorenzana said a diplomatic protest was the correct procedure and despite warming relations with China, the government still had a duty to protect the national interest.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion of goods passes annually. An international arbitration ruling last year invalidated those claims.

China's artificial islands became a hot issue last week when the US nominee for Secretary of

State, Rex Tillerson, told a Senate hearing that Beijing should be repelled from, and then denied access to, the controversial islets.

Yasay last week suggested the Philippines would play no part in such efforts, saying of the United States, "Let them do it".—Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editor

Mark Angeles

markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International News Editor

Ye Htut Tin

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Local News Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,

reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

Advertising inquiry

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Cambodia cancels joint military exercises with US for 2 years

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia has cancelled routine joint military exercises with the United States for the next two years, a defence spokesman confirmed on Tuesday.

"Cambodia has cancelled the Angkor Sentinel

exercise with the United States in 2017 and 2018 because we will be busy with elections and anti-drug campaign," Cambodian Defence Ministry spokesman Chhum So-cheat told Xinhua.

He added that armed

forces are needed to protect security and public order during the commune election in June 2017 and the national election in July 2018. Also, the forces are required to join with national police in the six-month anti-drug campaign

which started at the beginning of this month, he said.

Angkor Sentinel is an annual bilateral exercise between Cambodian and US military personnel. It had been conducted seven times since 2010. —Xinhua

Thailand to begin amending draft constitution on king's request

BANGKOK—Thailand's junta chief said on Tuesday he would begin amending the country's draft constitution after the new king requested changes to provisions relating to royal powers.

The military-backed constitution is a vital part of the ruling junta's plans to hold a general election at the end of this year to return Thailand to democratic rule following a 2014 coup.

Political observers say the amendments requested by the king will likely delay the polls to mid-2018.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn's office last week requested changes to the draft constitution, which Thais overwhelmingly approved in a 2016 referendum, to allow the king to avoid appointing a regent



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha gestures in a traditional greeting as he arrives at a weekly cabinet meeting at the Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

when traveling abroad, among other changes.

The intervention is rare for a sitting Thai monarch, who are granted limited formal powers but wield significant political influence.

Parliament on Friday voted overwhelmingly to make amendments to the constitution as suggested by the king, who ascended

the throne on 1 December following the death of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

"I have drafted a letter to ask for the return of the constitution so that it can be improved and amended. The process will take one month," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who is also junta chief, told reporters.

Prayuth said a committee of 11 legal experts would be assembled to amend the charter.

The prime minister has said that only provisions related to royal powers would be changed and matters related to government and civil liberties would be left untouched.

The draft constitution will be re-sent to King Vajiralongkorn for endorsement after it has been amended, lawmakers said.

The king will have three months to approve the revised draft.

"Once the constitution is endorsed, election and political party laws can take up to eight months to be passed. Elections will take place five months after those laws are passed," Somchai Sawangkarn, a member of parliament, told Reuters.

"Overall, the process could take a maximum of 17 months."—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.

Vandals & Vandalism

Khin Maung Oo

THOSE above the sexagenarian age-group had ever faced several experiences about several regimes. To put it simply, we had not yet savored the fruits of the Independence, to the full. Especially, our national brethren had no chance to live in peace in their regions, being displaced by their brethren, holding mistaken belief which is a legacy left by colonialists that had governed the country for a century or so. Hence, flames of wars are still burning in some areas. Today, what the whole populace living in the same land—Myanmar is none other than the Peace, that is to say, nationwide ceasefire & national reconciliation. Though successive governments tried to achieve it, our hope was still far away from our goal. Now, our incumbent government chosen

by a landslide victory of the people is trying its best to bring about our long-hoped Peace in the whole country while implementing national economic development.

In a short period of time, promising signs of its effort are ubiquitous in many sectors. Progress is being seen in Yangon Region, especially. In making changes, some are reluctant to wholeheartedly take part in the regional cabinet's initiatives. Some even did against the authorities' changes. Yet, they had to yield to the People's unprecedented supports. Problems have been solved to satisfactory extent, in traffic-jam and undisciplined sellers on roads, which were annoyed for the city-dwellers for a decade. In fact, these urbanization issues were caused by poor man-

agement of previous regimes. Destructive elements and ultra-opportunists would like to take advantages of the existing issues, failing to abide by rules and laws to cause unnecessary conflicts and riots. By nature, bad things happen at the same time as good ones. At the time of implementing new plans for the betterment of the people, vandals are trying to exercise vandalism. As known by all, youths and those wishing to take part in the government's activity to change new Bus Transport System exerted their concerted effort to contribute voluntary labor. In such a time, pieces of news expressing the destruction of a map of new bus routes in Hlinethayar township were found on the website. Due to the combined effort of local police and conscientious people, the

culprits were arrested. Why did they do such destructive activities? We need to ponder about their mischievous deeds. This event may be attributed to two reasons—lack of knowledge on the government's Cetana in launching the new system and being paid to vandalize to annoy people. Whatever it is, these are mostly least educated. Some people are poor but they will never do such deeds, even if they are paid. Why? It is clear that lack of reading makes them fail to love the truth and disobey rules and laws. So, we firmly believe that the culprits should be severely punished for others not to copy them, and that compulsory education should be extended to the middle level in near future so that everybody can have the sense of obeying law.

Ethics and Medical Doctors

Daw Lwin Zar Naing Win

The following statements are asking for medical students. Is it true or false?

1. "Your loss is my gain." ()
2. "I will do anything to gain". ()
3. "You can cheat on an examination so long as you don't get caught". ()
4. You can do everything to get what you want without thinking about what kind of person will be. ()
5. You can tell everything what you know at anytime about you know his or her personal affairs. ()
6. You may not take into account the dignity of any others. ()

If the answers are "yes" that we get from medical students, it is more dangerous from the other "yes" from other students in different fields. People have unethically acted, the results have been very bad for the people who trusted them. What we are looking at is wrong doing by people in public life whom we have been accustomed to

be trust. As I am being a teacher from **Health & Human Resources Department, Ministry of Health & Sport**, I would like to say that **Medical Profession** is not only the enrichment of **martial prowess** but also **mental faculty** with the *lion heart* and the *lady's fingers* to save the human life; the most valuable and precious **Noble profession** to everybody in the world. If he is a good qualified doctor, he will be just like the Angel created by the God instead of him to save their life. Not only a good man but also a brilliant person who stands out of 100 is a little percentage among others in Myanmar. Humanity, Patience and Noble aim are the integrated qualities of 100% Ethical conductor Medical doctor. He can manage very well in his field and communicate among the medical society as well as to be handling the whole of Public Health with the target for the Noble aim to achieve their goals. He will be the Messenger from the God if it is a qualified Doctor having 100% Ethical conduct and consideration.

If we are concerned with right and wrong at the time of decision, our ethical sense overrules our concern for getting into "trouble". How to be Ethical and practicing Ethics is the most important role for Medical field. I would like to present about "What is a medical doctor" "The quality of a good doctor" "Duties of doctor in General"

"Duties of doctor to the sick" Duties of doctors to the others" "Ethical consideration from doctors' point of view and how to train the outcome for 100% Ideal professional qualified doctors in Myanmar. Generally, Ethical consideration standards are based on core values such as honesty, respect and trust and formalized in the mission and value states. Medical profession is a high standard. Ethics of the doctors do affect to life of the public or patients as well. Wrongly treats patients, it can even endanger someone's life. So, ethics should be taught as a part of every curriculum to expand peer counselling services offered at the Medical Campus.

With Love,

Lwin Zar Naing Win

Further Reading: P.H Nowell-smith-Ehtics-Defining Ethics questions:
Curriculum & Modules for Medical Ethics.
International Code of Medical Ethics of World Medical Association-1949
Roger Detels, Robert Detels, Robert Beaglehole, Mary Ann Lansang, Martin Gull: ford (Public Health)

BFM provides Ks60 million for 70th Union Day, 102nd birthday of Bogyoke Aung San in Shan State



BFM's officials present Ks 60 million for holding 70th Union Day and 102nd birthday of Bogyoke Aung San in Shan State. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

THE 70th anniversary of Union Day and 102nd birthday of Bogyoke Aung San will be observed on a grand scale in Panglong in southern Shan State, by the Shan State Government.

KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, which is carrying out philanthropic works nationwide, contributed Ks60 million on Monday for holding the anniversary of Un-

ion Day through Shan State Planning and Economic Minister U Sai Nyunt Lwin and responsible personnel.

The 70th anniversary of Union Day will be held nationwide with the theme of helping the Union Peace Conference — 21st century Panglong, according to the Union Government.

BFM's philanthropic activities include sinking tube-wells,

digging lakes for drinking water, free health care services and building health care facilities in Shan State. In the recent past, the organisation imported more than US\$2 million worth of warm clothes and delivered the articles and food aid to internally displaced persons in eastern, northern and southern Shan State who were facing extreme cold weather due to La Nina. — *Thiha Tun*

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 4 January.

**From Majesty Akihito,
The Emperor of Japan
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of your country.

**From H.E. Mr. Tateshi Higuchi,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency sincere felicitations and best wishes for the progress, the success in the efforts of new nation building and prosperity of your country.

On this happy occasion, I would like to express my sincere wish that the friendly relations, which exist between our two countries, will be maintained and further strengthened for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

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

**From H.E. Mr. Hwang Kyo-ahn,
Acting President of the Republic of Korea
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency and to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am deeply impressed by the progress made in Myanmar in advancing democracy and achieving national rec-

onciliation last year. I sincerely hope that our governments can build on the shared value of democracy and work more closely together to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between our peoples.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for your good health and for the enduring prosperity of your country.

**From His Excellency General the Honorable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd),
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of Myanmar's Independence, I wish to convey to the Government and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar my warmest wishes, together with those of the Australian Government and people.

Myanmar's modern history entered a new era in 2016, as the first freely-elected civilian government in over 50 years took office and continued the vital task of national reform. A democratic, peaceful and prosperous Myanmar will benefit the people of Myanmar and the region more broadly.

Australia has long been a supporter of political and economic reform and the peace process in Myanmar. Our development assistance program provides targeted support to education, as well as the peace process, governance, and economic growth.

We enjoy close cooperation on international and regional issues. We appreciate Myanmar's support as our ASEAN country coordinator, and look forward to working together towards a successful ASEAN-Australia Forum in Myanmar in 2017 and ASEAN-Australia Summit in Australia in 2018.

People-to-people links are developing rapidly, including through Australia Awards scholarships and the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan. I am encouraged to see Australia's growing commercial interests in Myanmar. Australia looks forward to continuing to work cooperatively with Myanmar in 2017.

May I express my confidence that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to prosper in the coming year.

**From H.E. Mr. Kim Yong Nam,
President of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Excellency,**

I extend warm congratulations to you and, through you, to your government and people on the 69th anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar.

I wish you good health and success in your work to promote the stability and prosperity of the country.

**From H.E. Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj,
President of Mongolia
Excellency,**

On the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency and to the friendly people of Myanmar.

I have no doubts that the bonds of friendship between Mongolia and Myanmar would be further strengthened and deepened to the mutual benefit of our two peoples and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Taking this opportunity, may I extend to Your Excellency my best wishes for your good health and personal well-being as well as for the progress and prosperity to the friendly people of Myanmar.

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

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

**From H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe,
Prime Minister of Japan
Excellency,**

On the 69th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend my warm congratulations to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan.

It was a great honor that we were able to host Your Excellency as a new leader of Myanmar in Japan last year, when your country achieved a historic transfer of the government. Japan will provide its full support to the new Government's efforts as a friend who shares the fundamental values with Japan.

Along with the wishes for your good health and for people's great prosperity, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From H.E. Mr. Fumio Kishida,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan
Excellency,**

On the 69th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of your country.

The year 2016 was a remarkable year for Myanmar as it turned a new page in its history. It was significant for me that I had the opportunities to meet and exchange views with Your Excellency on how Japan

can contribute to Myanmar's nation building efforts, on both occasions when I visited Myanmar in May just after the beginning of the new Government and when Your Excellency visited Japan last November. I am determined to further strengthen bilateral relationship with Myanmar in a close collaboration with Your Excellency.

I wish your country and its people great success and prosperity.

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

**From H.E. Mr. Tateshi Higuchi,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency sincere felicitations and best wishes for the progress, the success in the efforts of new nation building and prosperity of your country.

On this happy occasion, I would like to express my sincere wish that the friendly relations, which exist between our two countries, will be maintained and further strengthened for the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

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

**From H.E. Mr. Ri Yong Ho,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Excellency,**

I extend warm congratulations to you on the 69th anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar.

Convinced that the cooperation between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs aimed at expanding and developing the friendly and cooperative relations between our two countries will further strengthen, I wish you good health and greater success in your work.

**From H.E. Mr. Tsend Munkh-Orgil,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mongolia
Excellency,**

I am pleased to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

It is a source of great satisfaction that the friendly relations and cooperation between Mongolia and Myanmar have been markedly intensified in recent years thanks to goodwill and concerted efforts exerted by both sides. And in this connection, I wish to express my confidence that our bilateral cooperation would continue to flourish and brought to even new heights.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to Your Excellency my best wishes for your good health, happiness and personal well-being.

759 officials, technicians, teachers receive Chinese training in 2016

MINISTRY of Commerce of China- MOFCOM has trained 759 officials, technicians and teachers for Myanmar in 2016.

The trainees are from various sectors and industries, among which 619 attended official seminars, 132 participated in technical training courses and 8 got their master degrees.

Official statistics of Myanmar shows that China ranks 1st

among all the foreign countries providing training programs to Myanmar in terms of the number of short-term training programs and trainees.

All training programs are held in China and last for 20 to 90 days. All the expenses including flight tickets, accommodation and meals are borne by the Chinese side.

"These programs are highly

regarded by the concerned departments of Myanmar and more training programs are expected to assist Myanmar in capacity building." Ms. Zhao Jin, official of the Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office of the Embassy of P.R. China who is in charge of training programs introduced.

Among all the trainees received by MOFCOM, the num-

ber of trainees from Myanmar ranks 4th in Asia and 8th in world-wide in 2016.

"MOFCOM provides training programs to Myanmar in various fields including education, culture, health care, economy, trade, finance, administration, industry, agriculture, fishery, forestry, communication, aviation, media, police, law, environment conservation, city management,

Chinese language, disaster prevention and management, etc

In order to assist the development of vocational education in Myanmar, the Economic and Commercial Counsellor's Office of the Embassy of China arranged 17 teachers and officials from Myanmar vocational schools to participate in training programs in China in 2016.—
Kyaw Htike Soe

Chinese president to defend globalisation in Davos

DAVOS, Switzerland — Chinese President Xi Jinping will defend globalisation in the face of mounting public hostility in the West on Tuesday in a speech at the World Economic Forum that will underline Beijing's growing global role.

Xi's appearance, a first for a Chinese leader at the annual meeting of political leaders, CEOs and bankers in Davos, comes as the part the United States plays as a force for multilateral cooperation on issues like trade and climate change is in doubt following the election of Donald Trump.

Europe, meanwhile, is pre-occupied with its own troubles, from Brexit and militant attacks to the string of elections this year in which anti-globalisation populists could score gains.

This has left a vacuum that China seems eager to fill.

"It is no coincidence that Xi chose this year to make the trip up the magic mountain," said Ian Bremmer, president of Eurasia

Group, a US-based political risk consultancy.

More than half a dozen senior Chinese government figures will be in Davos this week, far more than in past years. And a large number of sessions are focused on Asia, including one entitled "Asia Takes the Lead".

WEF founder Klaus Schwab said Xi's presence was a sign of the shift from a uni-polar world dominated by the United States to a more multi-polar system in which rising powers like China will have to step up and play a bigger role.

"We can hope that China in this new world will assume a responsive and responsible leadership role," Schwab told Reuters. "So in some ways it is very symbolic to have the president of China here."

Xi's appearance comes amid rising tensions between Beijing and president-elect Trump, who will be inaugurated on Friday, the final day of the Davos meeting.

Trump campaigned on a promise to confront



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland on 17 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

China more aggressively on trade and broke with decades of precedent last month by taking a congratulatory telephone call from the president of Taiwan, which Beijing sees as part of China.

He has not toned down his rhetoric since, saying only last week that Amer-

ica's "One China" policy was up for negotiation, triggering a furious response from state-run Chinese newspapers.

"If Trump is determined to use this gambit in taking office, a period of fierce, damaging inter-actions will be unavoidable, as Beijing will have no

choice but to take off the gloves," the English-language China Daily said.

Xi is not expected to wade into the tit-for-tat with Trump in Davos. Speaking in the Swiss capital Bern on the eve of his speech, he stressed the importance of cooperation.

"Protectionism, pop-

ulism and de-globalisation are on the rise. It's not good for closer economic cooperation globally," Xi said.

China, the world's top exporter, is heavily dependent on free trade and could be hit hard by a new wave of protectionism.

"Today, I think there is a big question mark as to how China pivots in this world. Will they be more regional or global in their mindset and, more importantly, in their negotiations? It's something we are going to have to watch over the next 12 months," said Bob Moritz, global chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Fears of a hard economic landing in China roiled global markets during last year's Davos. And while those concerns have eased, the International Monetary Fund warned on Monday of ongoing risks to the economy, including its high reliance on government spending, record lending by state banks and an overheating property market.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INLE STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INLE STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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MV LE TONG VOY. NO (127)

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING
CO LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV UNI AMPLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI AMPLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SHIBA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIBA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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Turkey says New Year's nightclub attacker captured in Istanbul

ISTANBUL — Turkish police have captured the gunman who killed 39 people in an Istanbul nightclub on New Year's Day after a two-week manhunt, authorities said on Tuesday, seizing him with four other suspects at a hideout in an outlying suburb of the city.

Istanbul Governor Vasi Sahin named the man as Abdulgadir Masharipov and said he was born in 1983 in Uzbekistan and received training in Afghanistan. He had admitted his guilt and his fingerprints matched those at the scene, Sahin said.

"He knew four languages and was well-educated," Sahin told a news conference after Masharipov's capture overnight.

There were strong indications he entered Turkey illegally through its eastern borders in January 2016 and it was clear the attack was carried out on behalf of Islamic State, Sahin said.

Masharipov was seized with an Iraqi man and three women from Africa, one of

them from Egypt, in the Esenyurt district on Istanbul's western outskirts.

"I congratulate our police who caught the perpetrator of the Ortakoy massacre," Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus, who is also the government spokesman, said on social network Twitter.

"Our war with terror and the powers behind it will continue to the end," he added.

Dozens of people have previously been detained in connection with the attack for which Islamic State has claimed responsibility, saying it was revenge for Turkish military involvement in Syria.

On 1 January, the attacker shot his way into the Reina nightclub then opened fire with an automatic rifle, reloading his weapon half a dozen times and shooting the wounded as they lay on the ground.

Turks as well as visitors from several Arab nations, India and Canada were among those killed



The alleged attacker of Reina nightclub, who is identified as Abdulgadir Masharipov, is seen after he was caught by Turkish police in Istanbul, Turkey, late 16 January, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

in the attack. Masharipov was caught in an apartment at a housing complex in Esenyurt at around 11 pm (2000 GMT) on Monday.

Dogan news agency published a photo of the alleged attacker with a black eye, a cut above his eyebrow and bloodstains on his face and t-shirt. It broadcast footage showing plain-clothes police leading a man in a white t-shirt to a waiting car.

The suspect was be-

ing questioned at Istanbul police headquarters, while other people were detained in raids across the city targeting Uzbek Islamic State cells, Anadolu said.

The shooting in Istanbul's Ortakoy neighbourhood, an upscale district on the Bosphorus shore, came after a year in which NATO member Turkey was shaken by a series of attacks by radical Islamist and Kurdish militants and by a failed coup.—Reuters

Ivory Coast begins paying bonuses to mutinous soldiers

ABIDJAN — Ivory Coast's government has begun paying bonuses to soldiers who staged a two-day mutiny earlier this month, leaders of the revolt said on Tuesday, in a move aimed at quelling unrest that could undermine the country's post-war success story. Soldiers poured out of their barracks and seized the top cocoa grower's second-largest city, Bouake, on 16 January in an uprising that quickly spread across the West African nation, forcing the government to capitulate to the mutineers' demands.

Negotiators for the mutineers say that, among other promises, the government agreed to pay bonuses of 12 million CFA francs (\$19,541) each to around 8,400 soldiers, beginning with an instalment of 5 million.

Government officials have declined to reveal details of the deal. Defence Minister Alain-Richard Donwahi would not con-

firm the payments but said the government planned to make a statement on the issue after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

"The treasury began transferring money into bank accounts last night, but not everyone has received their money for the moment," said Seydou Camara, a soldier who negotiated on behalf of the mutineers. A second mutiny leader confirmed the payments had begun.

Donwahi led a delegation to Bouake on Friday for a second round of talks after the bonuses were not paid last week as expected, leaving the soldiers — most of them former rebel fighters — poised to relaunch their revolt.

Ivory Coast has emerged from a 2002-2011 crisis marked by two civil wars as one of the world's fastest-growing economies under the leadership of President Alassane Ouattara.—Reuters



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DICA Requests for Public Comments on Myanmar Investment Rules

Myanmar Investment Law was enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 18th October 2016 by Law No. 40/2016 and the Myanmar Investment Implementing Rules are being drafted. The first tranche of the Myanmar Investment Implementing Rules which mainly include “the scrutinizing of proposal, endorsement application and other forms” was posted on our website www.dica.gov.mm to seek public comments or suggestion Hence, DICA welcomes the comments or suggestions via email at policylegal.dica@gmail.com, or by fax at 01-658139, or by phone at 01 658131 not later than 20th January 2017.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
Ministry of Planning and Finance

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

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:	For Detailed information please contact
Daw Tin Moe Myint,	U Soe Soe Oo
Director	Deputy Director
Department of Rural Development	Department of Rural Development
Office no-14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar	Office no-14, Nay Pyi Taw,
Tel: 95 67 409410, 9595118240	+95(0) 9448539415
Fax: 9567409210	soesoeoo.npt@gmail.com
E-mail: rbbdrd@gmail.com	



PHOTO: ITAR TASS

Russia successfully test-fires Topol-M ballistic missile

MOSCOW — Russia conducted on Monday a successful test launch of a silo-based Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) from the Plesetsk launch site, the Russian Defence Ministry

said on Tuesday.

“The simulated warhead hit a designated target at a firing range on the Kamchatka peninsula with high precision,” the ministry said in a press release.

The test launch was

intended to confirm combat capabilities and reliability of Topol-M ICBMs, the ministry said.

The Topol-M single-warhead ICBM has a maximum range of about 11,000 kilometres and can

carry a nuclear warhead with a yield of up to 550 kilotons.

The missile can be deployed on both silo-based and mobile land-based launch platforms. —Xinhua

Teenagers taking selfies on rail tracks smashed by train in India

NEW DELHI — Two teenagers were crushed to death in Indian capital New Delhi by a speeding train while they were busy posing for selfies at a railway track, officials said on Tuesday.

The duo was killed on Saturday at the Anand Vihar railway station in East Delhi. Relatives of the victims told police they along with five others had reportedly rented a camera to take pictures for a modelling

portfolio.

“Preliminary investigations revealed the teenagers were clicking selfies in front of an approaching train and while doing so they ignored another train coming on the adjacent track,” a railway police official quoted eyewitnesses as saying.

“In the confusion the boys tried to jump aside to avoid the speeding train but were crushed on the track,”

the official said.

The other five accompanying the duo had a narrow escape, as they stood at a distance from their friends. The teenagers were classmates at a private-run school in Delhi.

Police officials said they have seized the camera and ordered an investigation into the deaths. Selfie deaths are not uncommon in India. Last year seven youth were drowned in riv-

er Ganga at Kanpur district, in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, after a selfie session went awry.

Piqued by increasing number of deaths in India in the process of taking selfies at accident prone locations in tourist destinations, India’s federal government issued directions to its states asking them to take steps to ensure that tourist attractions are self-
ie-safe.—Xinhua

Australian family found safe at Japan ski resort

NAGANO, (Japan) — An Australian family of four who went missing at a popular ski resort in Nagano, central Japan, were found safe in Tuesday morning, Japanese police said.

The police and ski patrols located a woman and her three sons at 8:40 am near the entrance of a mountain trail at a ski resort in the hot-spring village of Nozawaonsen, Nagano Prefecture, when they were walking down to the entrance on their own, the local police said.

The mother, 57, who is a doctor by profession, and her sons — a civil engineer, 25, a company employee, 23, and a university student, 18 — were taken to a hospital as they were



Skiers, believed to be Australians, are rescued on 17 January, 2017, in the central Japan prefecture of Nagano, after spending the night in the mountains. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

suffering from hypothermia, according to the police.

The four went missing on Monday and spent the night without food, the police added, but declined to disclose their names.

The four are believed to have lost their way while they were skiing or snowboarding near the top part of a mountainous ski slope.

When reporters asked one of the sons when they

returned to the resort if he was doing fine, he replied “OK.” The mother, however, looked weak.

The local meteorological observatory had issued a warning that the area would see heavy snow from last Friday.

“I think the four were saved as it snowed less on Monday and the temperature went up,” said an official of the resort.

A member of the family had said on Facebook that they had dug a hole in the snow to keep themselves warm. The family had informed an acquaintance who was at another spot about their situation and that person alerted the resort, according to the police. —Kyodo News

Top German court refuses to outlaw far-right NPD party

BERLIN/KARLSRUHE — Germany's Constitutional Court on Tuesday said the far-right National Democratic Party (NPD) resembled Adolf Hitler's Nazi party, but ruled against banning it because it presented no threat to democracy.

Germany's intelligence agency described the NPD as racist and anti-Semitic and the attempt by the country's 16 federal states to outlaw the party came amid rising support for right-wing groups stoked by popular resentment over the influx of migrants.

While the court said the party's aims violated the constitution, it ruled that there was insufficient evidence it would wield power. Under German law there must be hard proof that a party puts democracy at risk for it to be banned.

"The NPD intends to replace the existing constitutional system with an authoritarian national state that adheres to the idea of an ethnically defined 'people's community'," the court said in its ruling.

"However, currently



German federal state Interior Ministers Ralf Jaeger, Boris Pistorius, Ralf Jaeger, Bundesrat upper house of parliament head Malu Dreyer and state Interior Minister Roger Lewentz (L-R) talk after the verdict at the German Constitutional Court about the attempt by the country's 16 federal states to ban the far-right NPD in Karlsruhe, Germany, on 17 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

there is a lack of specific and weighty indications suggesting that this endeavour will be successful."

The tough conditions for banning a political party is in part a legacy of the crushing of dissent in the Nazi era and communist East Germany.

Ahead of federal elections in September, the NPD has been largely overshadowed by the anti-immigrant Alternative

for Germany (AfD), for whom support has soared to 15 percent in polls, and it has failed to capitalise on the refugee crisis.

The NPD has never won enough support to win seats in the federal parliament and in September lost its last seat in a regional assembly. It is, though, represented on local councils and in 2014 won a seat in the European Parliament.

"It appears to be entirely impossible that the

NPD will succeed in achieving its aims by parliamentary or extra-parliamentary democratic means," said the court.

Germany's domestic intelligence agency says the NPD, established in 1964, has about 5,000 members, in a country of 82 million, and links to some violent neo-Nazis. Several senior NPD figures have been convicted of Holocaust denial or incitement but the party denies any involvement in violence.

"Identification with leading personalities of the (Nazi) party, the use of selected National Socialist vocabulary, texts, songs and symbols, as well as revisionist statements with regard to history demonstrate an affinity ... with the mindset of National Socialism," said the court.

Some politicians argue that allowing the fringe NPD to exist would legitimise it and send a signal that its right-wing views are acceptable. Others say a ban could be counterproductive and push its members underground.—Reuters

Polish minister says Le Pen's vision would mean "law of the jungle"

WARSAW — Poland's Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski said after meeting French presidential hopeful Marine Le Pen her vision for Europe would mean "a return to the law of the jungle".

During a visit to Paris on Sunday, Waszczykowski had an unusual 90-minute discussion with the far-right leader, who is rarely met by top diplomats from European Union states.

Since coming to power in late 2015, his eurosceptic government has clashed with EU officials over what critics call a drift towards authoritarian rule in Warsaw.

"Here is an EU that's broken apart into a loose union," Waszczykowski told journalists on Monday on the sidelines of a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

"Mrs Le Pen also wants less European solidarity in such a union. And this would mean a return to the law of the jungle," he said. Waszczykowski was in Paris on Sunday to

participate in a Middle East peace conference.

Poland's ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party shares Le Pen's opposition to the euro currency and is against any EU quotas for the resettlement of migrants from the Middle East.

Its leader, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, has expressed ambitions to help reshape Europe into a bloc where member states have significantly more say at the expense of Brussels institutions. Most Poles want to remain in the EU.

Opinion polls predict that Le Pen, leader of the anti-immigration, anti-EU National Front will make it to the French presidential election's second round in May, but they see her losing that run-off.—Reuters

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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

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- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (385) TONS
HARD WOOD LOGS
- PADAUK ABOUT (217)
- PYINKADO/IN/KANYIN/INGYIN/SAGAWA ABOUT (4859) TONS

(c) PLACE - TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEBSITE (www.myanmtimber.com.mm).

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OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
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Dated: 18-01-2017

Box Office: 'Hidden Figures' Dominates MLK Weekend as 'Live by Night,' 'Monster Trucks,' 'Silence' Collapse

LOS ANGELES — Fox and Chernin Entertainment's "Hidden Figures" dominated the domestic box office, topping charts for the second straight weekend after earning \$26 million. The film's message of empowerment and triumph over prejudice was amplified by the Martin Luther King Jr holiday weekend.

"This continues to be a movie for everyone," said Chris Aronson, Fox's head of domestic distribution. "It's not just entertaining. It's life affirming. It celebrates the triumph of the human spirit and that's so important in these times."

"Hidden Figures" is a late-comer to the awards season race, but the film, which stars Taraji P. Henson and Octavia Spencer as African-American scientists and mathematicians in the early days of the space program, ranks as one of the most successful dramas of 2016. So far, it has earned \$60.4 million. That commercial success could translate into Oscar attention when Academy Award nominations are announced next week.

It will likely face fierce competition from "La La Land," a critically beloved movie musical with Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling. Fresh off its sweep of the Golden Globe awards, "La La Land" sang and danced its way to \$17.5 million over the holiday period, good enough for a third place finish. That brings the Lionsgate release's domestic total to \$77 million and more than \$132 million globally. Not bad for an original musical that hit theaters without the benefit of being based on a beloved Broadway show.

The holiday weekend wasn't as kind to a flood of new wide releases and expansions. Para-



Cast member Janelle Monáe and soundtrack artist Pharrell Williams pose at a special screening of the movie "Hidden Figures" in West Hollywood, California, US, on 4 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

mount's "Monster Trucks" collapsed at the box office; the \$125 million family film eked out a meager \$15 million over the four-day-long weekend. The studio had already ripped off the bandage. Last year, it took an \$115 million write-down on "Monster Trucks" months before the film even hit theaters.

Ben Affleck didn't have much to celebrate. The Oscar-winner was left licking his wounds after audiences rejected "Live by Night," his expensive passion project. The \$65 million drama was left inert after expanding from four theaters to 2,822 locations and only managing to make \$6.1 million in the process. Affleck directed, wrote, produced, and starred in the film about a Florida rum runner, with Warner Bros. picking up the check. What audience there was for "Live by Night" was older — 69 per cent of opening weekend ticket buyers

clocked in over the age of 35.

Open Road's "Sleepless" didn't generate much enthusiasm from audiences. The action-thriller stars Jamie Foxx as a morally compromised cop. It made a lackluster \$9.9 million, but the studio says it was able to cover its production costs entirely by selling distribution rights to foreign territories. It says "Sleepless" will be profitable.

In this box office pileup, STX's "The Bye Bye Man" was somehow able to withstand the carnage. The low-budget horror film about a group of college students fending off a supernatural force rounded out the top five, earning a healthy \$15.3 million, well above projections that had it opening to \$10 million. It cost less than \$8 million to produce.

Holdovers "Sing" and "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" took second and fourth place, respectively. "Sing," an animated

film about a talent competition for animals, earned \$19.2 million, pushing its North American gross to \$238.4 million. "Rogue One" added \$17.1 million to its \$502.2 million domestic haul. It is now the top-grossing domestic release of 2016.

Heading into the weekend, most analysts expected CBS Films and Lionsgate's "Patriots Day" to make more of an impression. Reviewers have praised the story of the Boston Marathon Bombing for its intensity and for director Peter Berg's attention to detail. It also did well in limited release. However, the film earned a disappointing \$13.6 million after moving from seven theaters to 3,120 locations. That's below estimates that had the film expanding to as much as \$18 million. Audiences gave the film a rare A+ CinemaScore, so that could help it regain its stride in the weeks ahead. Mark Wahlberg, John Goodman, and Kevin Bacon star as the cops and feds trying to figure out who is behind the deadly attack.

Then there's "Silence," a decades-in-the-making religious drama from Martin Scorsese that follows a pair of priests as they search for their mentor in feudal Japan. The film is a highly personal project for Scorsese and another one of his explorations of the limits and power of faith, following in the footsteps of "The Last Temptation of Christ" and "Kundun." This one appears to be too esoteric for mainstream audiences. "Silence" expanded from 51 theaters to 747 locations, earning \$2.4 million for the long weekend. The \$50 million film was financed independently. Paramount is distributing the picture.—Reuters

Actress Jovovich premieres latest 'Resident Evil' film in Taipei



PHOTO: REUTERS

TAIPEI, China — Film writer-director Paul W S Anderson and his actress wife Milla Jovovich premiered the latest installment in the "Resident Evil" action horror series in Taipei on Monday. "Resident Evil: The Final Chapter" is the sixth movie in the video-game-turned-film franchise, with Jovovich reprising her role as the protagonist Alice. The first "Resident Evil" film came out in 2002. On the red carpet, Jovovich posed for pictures with fans and watched a traditional lion dance, performed to live music.—Reuters

Brad Pitt rocks out with Sting at star-studded charity event



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Actor Brad Pitt made a rare public appearance along with singer Sting at a star-studded charity event.

The 53-year-old actor attended the Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Foundation's fourth annual ROCK4EB! charity gala which was held at a private residence in Malibu, California, reported Entertainment Tonight. Pitt took the stage to introduce the British singer-songwriter and his good friend Chris Cornell of the rock band Soundgarden. The Allied star appeared to be in great spirit while seated next to Sting on stage, and the smiles continued when he posed for a photo alongside Cornell and Zach Galifianakis.

Sting and Cornell teamed up for an epic mashup performance at the event, which included "Every Breath You Take" by the Police and Soundgarden's "Black Hole Sun."—PTI



Actress Reese Witherspoon arrives at the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards. PHOTO: REUTERS

Reese Witherspoon 'lucky' to have a daughter

LOS ANGELES — Actress Reese Witherspoon said she is "lucky" to have a daughter like Ava in her life.

The 40-year-old star, who shares Ava, 17, with ex-husband Ryan Phillippe, said it is an "honour" to be her mother, reported Entertainment Tonight.

"I had a premiere for that movie 'Sing!' over Christmas, and the head of the studio went up to Ava and congratulated her on the movie.

"But I just love her. I'm so lucky to be her mom, and I just love having her in my life and getting to go everywhere with her. It's a great honour," Witherspoon said.—PTI

UK's Prince Charles co-authors "Ladybird" guide to climate change

LONDON—Britain's Prince Charles, a vocal environmental campaigner, has co-authored a basic guide to the problems posed by climate change.

Charles, 68, has written "The Ladybird Introduction to Climate Change" with the help of former Friends of the Earth director Tony Juniper and polar scientist Emily Shuckburgh.

The heir to the throne has long been a fierce critic of climate change sceptics and the cover image of the book shows a drawing of the village of Uckfield in southern England, which suffered extensive flood damage in 2000.

Ladybird books were popular children's guides in the 1960s and 70s and publishers Penguin have now launched a new Ladybird Expert series of basic guides of which Charles' book is one of the first.

The book, which goes on sale later this month, has been extensively peer-reviewed by figures within the environmental community, said a Penguin spokesman.

Charles' earlier forays into print include a 1980s children's book, "The Old Man of Lochnagar," which was made into an animated film by the BBC.—Reuters

London's Piccadilly Circus lights go off for longest since World War Two



A man in a Spiderman disguise walks past the advertisement boards at Piccadilly Circus which have been switched off prior to being replaced with more modern screens, in central London, Britain January 16, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — For the first time since World War Two, the giant illuminated billboards that have lit up London's Piccadilly Circus for over 100 years

have been switched off for an extended period, as work starts to replace them.

The current six screens on the walls of

buildings around the central London junction are making way for a huge, single, curved screen.

Due for an autumn unveiling, the new screen will display high definition video streams, show weather, traffic and sports updates and broadcast social media feeds from advertising brands.

In the meantime, a temporary banner will be installed.

The new space at the junction will be shared by six advertisers, including Coca-Cola which has had its name up in lights there for 62 years.

The first illuminated advert, for French mineral water Perrier, appeared in Piccadilly Circus in 1908.

During World War Two from 1939 to 1945, the lights were off as part of a general blackout to stop German bombers identifying targets from the air.

After being constantly on since 1949, barring power cuts and temporary switch-offs for the funerals of Winston Churchill in 1965 and Princess Diana in 1997, this will be the first time the junction will be dark for an extended period.

"This is a huge day for Piccadilly Lights and though it will be a strange feeling to see them go dark, we're incredibly excited about their future," said Vasiliki Arvaniti of Land Securities that owns the site.—Reuters

After Vatican controversy, McDonald's helps feed homeless in Rome



A volunteer distributes cheeseburgers donated by McDonald's to a charity organization which bestowed them to needy people at a walk-in clinic in Rome, Italy January 16, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ROME — McDonald's received a lukewarm reception when it opened a new branch just steps from St. Peter's Square last month, but on Monday the fast food giant accepted a challenge to adopt one of Pope Francis's cherished principles - feeding the hungry.

The new restaurant, whose opening in a Vatican-owned building on Dec. 30 upset some purists, donated dozens of meals on Monday to a charity which distributed them at a walk-in clinic in Rome.

Pope Francis has made defense of the poor and needy a cornerstone of his papacy, setting up shower stalls for the homeless near the Vatican, offering meals and even a VIP-style visit to the Sistine Chapel.

On Monday, homeless and needy people came to claim their double cheeseburger, chopped apple and bottle of water.

Pierfrancesco Spiga, 46, a Rome native who lost his job as a gardener and now sleeps in a residence run by a cooperative, said other companies should take up the initiative.

"It would be good if these multi-national compa-

nies gave food at the end of the day to poor people who don't have any, instead of throwing it away," Spiga said.

Some cardinals disapproved of the Vatican's leasing the building on the cobble-stoned Borgo Pio to the US chain, and one said the space would be better used to shelter the needy.

McDonald's, which did not comment on the initiative, pledged 1,000 meals which will be distributed by the Medicina Solidale charity over the next six months.

The project was born when Medicina Solidale's director wrote to McDonald's after the controversy over the site, charity representative Fotini Iordanoglou said outside the restaurant just steps from St. Peter's Square. "McDonald's responded, giving us this chance to help," Iordanoglou said. "We absolutely won't resolve hunger but we are trying to give a small meal to people who need it." Fifty lunches were served on Monday. A spokesman for the non-profit group said they hope to offer 100 once a week, and will look into whether the project can be made permanent.—Reuters

Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visit family charities in London



Britain's Prince Charles and his wife Camilla lead members of the royal family as they arrive to attend the Christmas Day church service in Sandringham, Britain, on 25 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate joined in on a child bereavement charity on Wednesday, as they helped the service's London support group session at a

year anniversary.

William is royal patron of Child Bereavement UK, which provides support

to families and children facing the loss of a family member. At the center in the eastern neighborhood of Stratford, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge met workers and volunteers as well as families who have turned to the charity for help.

Kate, who is patron of the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families, earlier visited its Early Years Parenting Unit (EYPU), joining in a "theraplay" session, which promotes the attachment relationship between parents and children", Kensington Palace said on Twitter.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(18-1-2017 07:00am ~ 19-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City
07:37	Am	Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: IN-LEAF
07:54	Am	Traditional Snacks
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Travelogue "To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung)" (Part-I)
08:51	Am	Sagaing: Guitars
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Bollywood Actress "Laila Khan"(Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-I)
10:03	Am	News

10:27 Am Coconut Shell Artist

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	To The Land Of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (EP-1)
07:53	Pm	Talented Musicians
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations-The Making Procedure Of Goldsmith
08:43	Pm	Dances of Myanmar "Akha Traditional Dance"
08:48	Pm	Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant

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

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

Rooster inspires new year resolutions in Singapore bird park

SINGAPORE — A rooster at Singapore's Jurong Bird Park inspired visiting Chinese tourists to make a few resolutions on Wednesday, ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday.

The holiday, which ushers in the "Year of the Rooster" in the Chinese zodiac is an important festival in several Asian nations, where Chinese traditions hold sway.

The bird park's two-year-old rooster was fed extra helpings of mealworms as visitors looked on.

"This rooster brings me back to nature," said Chinese tourist Wang Jian. "I hope that our lives will also be able to slow down a bit, to return to a more natural pace." The holiday begins on 28 January and sees millions of Chinese return home or travel abroad.—Reuters

British sailor Thomson sets world record solo mark

PARIS — Britain's Alex Thomson has set a world record for the greatest distance sailed solo in 24 hours, covering 536.8 nautical miles (994.15 km) in the Vendée Globe round-the-world race.

The 42-year-old Welshman covered the distance from Sunday until 0800 GMT on Monday, sailing at an average speed of 22.4 knots (41.36km/h) to close in on the leader, Armel Le Cleac'h, heading into the final stages of the famed not-stop solo race.

The mark will have to be ratified by the World Sailing Speed Record Council but Vend-

ee Globe organizers said it was quicker than the previous best mark of 534.48 nautical miles (989.86km) set by French sailor Francois Gabart in the 2012-13 edition.

Thomson, who was 819 nautical miles off the pace in December, trails France's Cleac'h by 73 nautical miles after 74 days at sea in what is set to be the fastest edition of the event. With approximately 1,000 nautical miles to go to the finish line at Les Sables d'Olonne in France, both sailors look set to finish inside Gabart's record 78-day finish, also set in 2013.—Reuters

You decide if Matip can play, FIFA tells Liverpool



Liverpool's Joel Matip in action during the match against West Ham United at Anfield on 11 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ZURICH — Liverpool have effectively been told by FIFA to make up their own minds over whether Cameroon defender Joel Matip can play for them after declining to represent his country in the African Nations Cup.

Liverpool withdrew Matip from their squad for Sunday's Premier League match at Manchester United, saying they wanted to seek clarity from soccer's governing body over his eligibility.

FIFA confirmed on Monday that it had replied to Liverpool by "directing the club to the applicable provisions" of the regulations on the status and transfer of players, in particular article five.

That states that a player called up by his country for an international tournament is not entitled to play for his club during that period.

Liverpool said Matip was not included in Cameroon's fi-

nal squad for the Nations Cup and had previously said he did not want to be considered for selection.

The English club added that Cameroon's FA had failed to confirm that Matip could play club football while the tournament was taking place in Gabon.

FIFA rules stipulate that associations wishing to call up a player for the final competition of an international tournament must notify the player in writing at least 15 days before the beginning of the relevant release period. "The player's club shall also be informed in writing at the same time," the ruling body's rules state. "Equally, associations are advised to copy the association of the clubs concerned into the summons."

A FIFA spokesperson added that any potential violation of the applicable provisions would need to be investigated by its disciplinary committee.—Reuters

Djokovic makes no mistake against Nadal-slayer Verdasco



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning his Men's singles first round match against Spain's Fernando Verdasco at Australian Open in Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia on 17 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MELBOURNE — Novak Djokovic launched his bid for a record seventh Australian Open title on Tuesday with an impressive 6-1, 7-6(4), 6-2 win over hard-hitting Spaniard Fernando Verdasco.

The defending champion

defended brilliantly at a floodlit Rod Laver Arena to frustrate the man who knocked Rafa Nadal out in the first round last year.

Djokovic was forced to save five match points to beat Verdasco at the recent Qatar

Open and was broken twice during a thrilling second set on the Melbourne Park centre court. But the Serb raised his game as the 33-year-old flagged in the third to set up a second round match against either Ivan Dodig or Denis Istomin.—Reuters

Real coach Zidane stays positive after rare loss

MADRID — Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is confident that a first defeat in nine months which ended the club's record 40-game unbeaten run in all competitions will not have a detrimental impact on their season.

Real, bidding for their first La Liga title since 2012, lost 2-1 to Sevilla on Sunday, conceding two goals in the last five

minutes to leave themselves one point clear of Sevilla at the top of La Liga and two ahead of Barca.

"It won't affect anything," Zidane told his club's website.

"We knew that the run would come to an end at some point. I'm very proud of my players and the 40-game unbeaten run."

Since losing 2-0 to Wolfs-

burg in the Champions League last season, Real had won 30 matches and drawn 10, scoring 115 goals.

Then came Sunday's painful reverse, which started with an own goal from former Sevilla defender Sergio Ramos and was followed by Stevan Jovetic's strike two minutes into stoppage time.

"We're hurting after the defeat," Zidane said. "We need to channel this defeat because nobody likes to lose, especially in this manner."

"But that is football and now we've got to rest up."

Ramos remained upbeat following his blunder, particularly as Real have a game in hand on all their rivals.

"Destiny is still in our own hands, we're still top," he said. "We face the steepest mountain of them all and it's a case of seeing who gets to the top first and who's able to hold on in there."

Real, who have also reached the last 16 of the Champions League which they won last year, host Celta Vigo in a King's Cup quarter-final first leg on Wednesday before playing Malaga in La Liga on Saturday.—Reuters



Real Madrid's coach Zinedine Zidane. PHOTO: REUTERS