THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

■ NATIONAL
Toungoo Education College new annex building inaugurated
▶ PAGE 3

■ NATIONAL
UN rights envoy holds talks with union ministers separately
▶ PAGE 3

■ NATIONAL
National Political Dialogues for Ethnic Groups (Kayin) concludes
▶ PAGE 3

■ NATIONAL
Indonesia to hand over two schools and aids for two communities in Rakhine State
▶ PAGE 2

Vol. III, No. 280, 9th Waning of Pyatho 1378 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Saturday, 21 January 2017

Malaysia's action disregards the genuine efforts being made by the Myanmar Government to address Rakhine issue

Following is the press release issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs on OIC meeting in Malaysia.

IT is regrettable that Malaysia, a fellow ASEAN member, considers it fit to convene an extraordinary session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to take up Myanmar's Rakhine Issue.

Malaysia's concern regarding the situation in Rakhine State is no doubt based on prodigious media reports alleging dire human rights situations as well as deliberate misinterpretation of the situations obtaining on the ground. What is more regrettable is that the sensitive issue has been exploited to promote a certain political agenda.

Malaysia's action disregards the genuine efforts being made by the Myanmar Government to address the issue. There is no attempt to persecute a community on grounds of religion. The Government has been endeavouring to safeguard lives and ensure the security of the people from the violent attacks of new extremists. The Government has instructed security personnel to strictly adhere to the laws and exercise maximum restraint.

It is disturbing to note that the OIC meeting held in Kuala Lumpur on 19 January 2017 failed to acknowledge that the situation was a direct result of the well planned and coordinated attacks on police outposts in the northern Rakhine State on 9 October 2016 by extremist elements both funded and inspired from abroad. It resulted in the loss of lives of 9 police officers and large cache of arms and ammunition.

No one is more concerned about peace and stability of Rakhine State than the Government and the people of Myanmar. The Government is genuinely committed to resolve this issue and ensure that security prevails in Rakhine State. All necessary steps are being taken. The Government is focused on finding practical means to solving the issue and has constituted a number of mechanisms to comprehensively address the issue. They include the establishment of the Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State with four Working Committees focusing on the relevant areas, including the citizenship verification process. In addition, the Rakhine Advisory Committee headed by Dr. Kofi Annan has been set up to buttress Myanmar's efforts and help find a solution to the long standing issue. An investigation commission headed by a Vice President has also been formed to look into the causes of recent incidents and the allegations. With the improvement of the security situation, the areas of humanitarian access have been gradually expanded.

The interest of the two communities in Rakhine State will be best served by focusing on lasting solutions to the issue rather than asserting undue external pressure. Such action would only make a complicated issue worse. It is essential that the international community lends their understanding and extends cooperation to the Myanmar Government in addressing the issue of Rakhine State.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

State Counsellor hosts dinner for British Foreign Secretary

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a dinner for the British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

It was also attended by Union Ministers and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, while the visiting Foreign Secretary was accompanied by the British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Andrew Patrick.

Mr. Boris Johnson arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon and will pay a three-day visit.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanma Railway's special trains plying for the convenience of commuters since advent of YBS

Min Thit (MNA) & Thant Zin Win

STARTING from January 16 when the YBS (Yangon Bus System) was launched, Myanma Railway has made arrangements for its special rails to ply in and out of the city for the convenience of commuters by adding more trains to circular trains plying regularly, according Yangon Region Division 7 of Myanma Railway (lower Myanmar).

On average, there were about 80,000 passengers commuting by circular trains every day. Starting from 16 January 2017 when the new YBS was launched, the number has risnen up by 20,000 to 96,000, Yangon Region Division 7 of Myanmar Railway (Lower Myanmar) said.

U Zaw Lwin, Division 7 manager, said, "Preparation were made since we had heard that YBS would be launched. Now, train passengers increased by nearly 20000 dramatically."

According to Division 7, of Myanma Railway, two more special assignments have been added to regular 23 circular routes assignments. In Insein Railway station, Yangon Central Railway station, more trains have been reserved for the public, it is learnt.

Train fares are K 100 for 15 miles, K 200 for more than 15 miles. During office hours, 12 trains are plying every 10/15 minutes and in the afternoon trains plying every 30/45 minutes.

With effect from 21 January, RBE Insein-Taikkyi trains will also ply to Okkan. It will leave Okkan at 6 am and arrive in Yangon Central Railway Station at 9:35 am. On the return trip, it will leave Yangon at 4:30 and will arrive at Okkan at 8pm, costing only 600 kyats, it is learnt.

Blue Plaque unveils at Bogyoke Aung San Market

BOGYOKE Aung San Market, also know as Scott Market, on Bogyoke Aung San Street on Friday received the Blue Plaque of the Yangon Heritage Trust.

The Blue Plaque is the 16th issued under the YHT's efforts to highlight historical buildings and renowned residents who contributed to the narrative of the city.

Since its opening in 1926, Bogyoke Market has been a place for Yangon residents to shop the latest fashion materials, art supplies, souvenirs and a place to hang out for leisure.

Nowadays, it is not only an important marketplace for the city residents but also an attraction for international tourists.

Bogyoke Aung San Market known as Scott Market seen in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

According to historical records, the first municipal market was established in Botahtaung soon after the British took control of Yangon in 1852. However, compared to private markets such as Suratee Bazaar (later Theingyi Market) established in 1853 and Bogalay Market, the municipal market was not a success. In 1876, another municipal market was opened on the Strand Road, between Shwebontha Street (formerly Moghul Street) and Shwedagon Pagoda Road (China Street).

In 1904, Rangoon Port Commissioners planned to extend their wharfs by linking up the Sule Pagoda wharfs with the new wharf, which was being built at the Latter Street (later Latha Street), but the plan was held up by a dispute with the Municipality about the plot of the market. After lengthy negotiations, an agreement was reached in 1920 that the site should be sold and the market be relocated to Commissioner Road.

The new market was built by well-known contractor A. C. Martin & Co. Until the new market was completed, the municipal continued to occupy the Strand site as tenants. In 1926, the new market, named after Municipal Commissioner Gavin Scott as Scott Market, was opened.

The Founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, Dr Thant Myint-U, reminisced "One of my earliest things I remember about Yangon is shopping at Scott Market for a paso after arriving from New York in 1974. I think for many people who have grown up in Yangon, it's a place of many memories, layered on top of one another."

"As big shopping malls become a bigger part of the landscape, the market will be that much more special, a place of memory and desire, a place where amidst all the change, a living link to the past remains, almost as it always was," he said.

2016 marked 90 years since its opening and as an important heritage building in central area of the city, Bogyoke Aung San Market requires systematic and careful preservation.—*GNLM*

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of services organisations confirmed/appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director Dr Soe Naing of the No. 3 Heavy Industries under the Ministry of Industry from the date on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General Daw Kay Thi Soe, Planning and Administration Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department on probation from the date she assumes charge of her duties.—*Myanmar News Agency*

National Security Adviser, British Foreign Secretary holds talks

U Thaung Tun, National Security Adviser of the Union Government, received the British Foreign Secretary Mr Boris Johnson at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to win-win issues between the two countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Two vehicles to transport Indonesian aids. PHOTO: MNA

Indonesia to hand over two schools and aids for two communities in Rakhine State

A CEREMONY to hand over aids and two schools donated by the Government of Indonesia to two communities in Maungtaw and Buthidaung in Rakhine State will be held in Sittway today.

The two schools, PKPU, an Indonesian NGO, had them built and aids will be handed over to Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye by Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Lestari Priansari Marsudi on behalf of the Indonesian Government.

The Indonesian Government had asked for the permission from the Government of Myanmar to donate the schools and deliver aids. Similarly, Malaysian is also asking for permission to send an aid ship to Myanmar officially and the Union Government has made arrangements for the aids in cooperation with the Malaysian Embassy in Myanmar in accordance with the rules and regulations. —*Myanmar News Agency*

An injured man. PHOTO: MNA

TNLA armed group attacks civilian vehicles with remote-controlled mine, killing one civilian and injuring officers

TNLA armed group attacked two civilian vehicles carrying staff from Palaung Self-Administered Zone Leading Committee on board, with remote-controlled mines, killing one civilian and injuring several police officers, it is learnt. Two civilian vehicles carrying staff from Palaung Self-Administered Zone and police-officers on board which was bound for Lashio from Manton were attacked with 7 remote-controlled mines by the TNLA armed group at 9 am or so yesterday morning near the village of Kyupan. In the attack, one civilian was killed with several hit by the shrapnel.

It is learnt that government troops are making arrangement for giving medical treatment to the injured, launching area clearance operation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

One fire-arm seized nearby Kyugoke/Pansang

GOVERNMENT troops seized an M-21 fire-arm in a bush beside the old path at 5 miles far from east of Kyugoke/Pansang at 3 pm or so on January 19 during the area clearance operation.

It is learnt that the government troops are launching area clearance operation nearby the area.—*MNA*

Indonesian foreign minister arrives in Myanmar

AN Indonesian delegation led by Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia HE Mrs Rento LP Marsudi arrived in Yangon by air yesterday morning.

The delegation was welcomed by U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials, HE Dr Ito Sumardi, Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar, and officials at Yangon International Airport.

The Indonesian ambassador will hand over humanitarian aids donated by the Indonesian Government to Myanmar in Sittway in Rakhine State today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Delegation led by Indonesian Foreign Minister arrives at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

Yaba seized from a boat in Kawthaung

A NAVY patrol boat seized Yaba in the Myanma sea near Kawthaung town, Taninthayi region on Thursday, it is learnt.

The members of Tatmadaw (Navy) found a suspi cious looking boat 15 nautical miles northwest of Kawthaung when the naval boat was on a patrolling round at Myanma Sea. The members of Tatmadaw (Navy) searched the boat and found143 Yaba tablets and 63 opium powders bags from the ship. The troops of Tatmadaw (Navy) handed over the boat and Yaba tablets to the Kawthaung district police force, it is learnt. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Toungoo Education College new annex building inaugurated

TOUNGOO Education College was inaugurated yesterday, with Daw Su Su Lwin, wife of President U Htin Kyaw, and Vice President U Myint Swe in attendance.

The college was formally opened by Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, U Win Thein, Chief Minister of Bago Region Cabinet, H.E Mr Takeshi Higuchi, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, and Daw Nyein Nyein, Principal of the Toungoo Education College in Toungoo, at 9:30 am yesterday.

Then, U Myint Swe, Vice President and those present at the ceremony posed for documentary photos. Afterward, the Vice President unveiled the signboard by switching on the button and sprayed it with scented water.

At the opening ceremony, the Vice-President said, "Under the current Education Sector changes of the present government, arrangements were being made to ensure completion of primary education for all those from primary school-age, better emphasis given to formulate education plans for poor children and those with significantly below-average cognitive ability and children from distant areas, making arrangements for suitable student-teacher ratio, arrangements were made to upgrade the qualification of teachers in teaching methodology and subject matter, arrangement were made so that the education services provided do not become a burden for the parents and the local communities. These priority tasks are being done as part of Education Sector Reform. And, the Union Government has laid special importance on improving the quality of teaching of the teachers and to ensure the continued development teaching capabilities. At the same time, keeping a high value on the languages and literature, culture and historical heritage of all ethnic nationals, cultivation of all-round correct attitudes and development of human resources with good character in accordance with the need of the current situations, implementation of a National Education System aimed at the emergence of a developed and modern country – all these are being carried out. In doing so, in accordance with the goals of the National Education Policy, training students to have the ability to think critically, and to train them to become good citizens who are endowed with the Five Dimensions of Development, to train students so that they become good citizens who know their civic duties and democratic practices and understand the standards of human rights so that they will turn out to be law abiding citizens. Teaching students to love and admire their respective languages, culture, literatures and historical heritages so that they can pass on to the younger generation and development of Union Spirit are required to be carried out emphatically."

"As sufficiency and efficiency of primary assistant teachers is of great importance in implementing compulsory primary education system, DTEd (Diploma in Teacher Education) and PPTT (Pre-Service Primary Teacher Training) are being opened continually. In making effort to modernize the education sector, sufficiency of infrastructure of school buildings plays an important role. It needs to effectively use increased State Budget and international monetary aids so that students and teachers will be able to study in a comfortable environment. We want to express our thanks on behalf of the State for fulfilling the needs of the education sector. We also hope that such kinds of assistance will be forthcoming in the future."

Daw Su Su Lwin accepts commemorative gift presented by Principal of Toungoo Education College Daw Nyein Nyein. PHOTO: MNA

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Su Su Lwin, U Myint Swe, Vice-President, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Regional Cabinet's Chief Minister, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar and the Principal of the college provided items in commemoration of the opening ceremony of the new building. Then, U Myint Swe and members inspected the library, dispensary, Recreation Center, practical room of domestic science, class rooms, computer room and hostels for students, greeting trainees cordially.

The Toungoo Education College was upgraded from the Teacher Training School in 1967, Teacher Training Institute in 1993, and the Educational College in 1998, it is learnt.

Educational Colleges are being opened with the aim of providing training teacher trainees to become teachers equipped with the virtue of dignity compatible with Myanmar culture, training qualified teachers who can face challenges of the present knowledge age, and improving better teaching methods for teachers taking responsibilities in education.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ms Yanghee Lee holds talks with U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney General. PHOTO: MNA

UN rights envoy holds talks with Union ministers separately

Ms Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar met with Union Ministers, Union Attorney General, members of re-scrutiny committee on confiscated land and farm land, yesterday at the respective ministries in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

In meeting with Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, they discussed Printing and Publishing Law, News Media Law, activities concerning Broadcasting Law, situations on news coverage by Hluttaw and journalists, co-operative work for the development of national media, co-operative performances between State Counsellor Office's News and Information Committee, Tatmadaw, the Ministry of Home Affairs and local reporters and safety of Journalists.

In meeting with Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs, co-operative work between United Nations and the Ministry of Home Affairs and process to be carried out further were discussed.

Ms Yanghee Lee discussed with U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney-General matters on development of human rights in the process of filing and suing cases, situations on performance of the Office of the Union Attorney General in the sector of legislation, matters to be carried out for the compatibility between existing laws and further laws to be promulgated so that human rights cannot be harmed.

Situations on solving problems on confiscated land, compensation matters were discussed in meeting with members of the re-scrutiny committee on confiscated land and farmland. Ms Yanghee Lee and party left Nay Pyi Taw for Yangon at 1 pm yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*

National Political Dialogues for Ethnic Groups (Kayin) concludes

NATIONAL Political Dialogues for Ethnic Groups (Kayin) successfully concluded at Hpa-An Thiri Hotel yesterday.

At the dialogue, Naw Susana Hla Hla Soe, chairman of the dialogue, made a speech and Taungalay Sayadaw Dr Ashin Pannasami delivered a sermon.

At the dialogue, summaries of discussions of political sector group, economic sector group, social sector group and land and natural resources sector group were read out and put proposals of Kayin civil society organizartions, Kayin youths, the organizing committee, the regional and Kayin political parties on record.

In the afternoon session, Ashin Candavara, Chairman of the session, sought approval of the summaries, and Saw Kyaw Nyunt of the KNU/KNLA-PC handed them over to KNU Secretary General Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and Naw Kapaw Htoo of the the KNU/KNLA-PC.

At the closing ceremony of the dialogue, Vice Chairman of UPDJC U Thu Wai, Chief Minister of Kayin State Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint and, on behalf of the organizing committee, Saw Kyaw Nyunt spoke words of the thanks before the session concluded with remarks by the chairman.

The National Level Political Dialogues for Ethnic Groups (Kayin) was held in Hpa-An, Kayin State, frp, 18 to 20 January, and fundamental principles reached at the dialogues will be submitted to the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference.

The dialogue was taken part in by about 600 participants of the KNU, the DKBA, the KNU/KNLA-PC, Kayin political parties, religious leaders, representatives from Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and Taninthayi, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawaddy regions, Kayin Civil Society Organizations, representative of national races, officials of the UPDJC, members of the Kayin State Cabinet and diplomats. —*Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)*

Three dead, 20 injured after driver plows car into pedestrians in Australian city Melbourne

MELBOURNE — A man deliberately drove into pedestrians, killing three and injuring at least 20 in the centre of Australia's second largest city Melbourne on Friday, but police said the lunch-time incident was not terror-related.

Video footage from a witness showed a maroon coloured car driving around in circles in an intersection outside Flinders St railway station in the city's central business district, with the driver hanging his arm out the window.

Two people approached the car, apparently trying to stop it.

"He was half hanging outside the car...he was just so reckless...he just didn't care," witness Laura Pollson told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The man then drove up a pedestrian mall, deliberately plowing into people, Victoria state police said. A shop video showed several people diving into a convenience store as the car sped along the footpath.

Members of the public watch as police and emergency services attend to an injured person after a car hit pedestrians in central Melbourne, Australia, on 20 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"A male deliberately drove into pedestrians in the Bourke Street mall, and we currently have three deceased and at least 20 injuries," Victoria Police acting commander Stuart Bateson told reporters.

"We have the offender in custody. There is no further threat to the public at this stage. I can also confirm that this is not a CT (counter-terrorism) related incident."

The incident was believed to be related to an overnight stabbing in the city, Bateson added.

Photographs published by local media showed a stationary, badly damaged car with a nearby man in red underwear pinned to the ground by police.

Witness Maria Kitjapanon told Melbourne's *Age* newspaper that the car was rammed by a police car and that police fired shots into the car before pulling the driver out.

"There were probably 10 police surrounding that guy's car, with guns drawn, and they fired into the car. Then they dragged someone out via the passengers side, then all 10 of them sat on top of him," she said.

Police have locked down the city and suspended tram services.

Melbourne is currently hosting the Australian Open tennis grand slam and is packed with thousands of extra tourists, only a few blocks from where the incident occurred. Police said the tennis tournament continued to operate as normal.

Australia, a staunch US ally, has been on heightened alert for attacks by home-grown radicals since 2014 and authorities have said they have thwarted a number of plots. There have been several "lone wolf" assaults, including a 2014 cafe siege in Sydney that left two hostages and the gunman dead.—*Reuters*

Cambodia reiterates staunch support for one-China policy

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's Senate President Samdech Say Chhum on Friday reiterated the country's staunch support for the one-China policy, saying that China played a more important role in maintaining peace, stability and development in the region and in the world.

"The past, the present and the future are the same, Cambodia adheres to its definite position: supporting the One-China policy of the People's Republic of China," he said in a speech during the inauguration ceremony of a China-funded building for the Senate here.

He said China is the core force for the development in Asia and always lends active support to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in strengthening peace, trade cooperation, security, stability and regional integration. "Cambodia believes that China will play a more important role in maintaining peace, stability and security in the region and in the world," Say Chhum said.—*Xinhua*

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

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

Fruitless search for MH370 could mean bountiful catches for fishermen

SYDNEY— The search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, though fruitless in terms of finding the aircraft, should provide fishermen in the Indian Ocean with detailed sea-floor maps, and help them land huge catches.

Australia, Malaysia and China ended the search for the Boeing 777 airliner on Tuesday, after a $150 million hunt over almost three years failed to find any trace, leaving one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries unanswered.

The suspension of the underwater search has left families of the missing in anguish, but the information gleaned should provide fishermen with unprecedented insight into the habitats of the valuable species they seek.

"It brings an extraordinary new level of detail to our knowledge of the area," said David Carter, chief executive of Austral Fisheries, whose fleet seeks toothfish in the waters near the search area.

Handwritten notes on how a crew member should report the sighting of debris in the southern Indian Ocean is pictured on a window aboard a Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K2 Orion aircraft searching for missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

The plane disappeared in March 2014, en route to Beijing from the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, with 239 people on board. Analysis of radar and satellite contacts suggested someone on board may have switched off its transponder before diverting it thousands of kilometres out over the Indian Ocean.

The search area covered 120,000-sq-km (46,000-sq-mile) of remote southern Indian Ocean, west of Australia.

Charitha Pattiaratchi, professor of Coastal Oceanography at the University of Western Australia, said the details of the deep sea contours were invaluable for fishermen.

"If you know where these mounts are, it means money," said Pattiaratchi.

"They are areas where you can find high-priced fish."

The search for MH370 was led by engineering group Fugro, which built up detailed sonar mapping data in an area that would have normally been too remote and expensive to map in such detail.

"A vast amount of data has been collected throughout the search, it will be published once it has been processed and prepared for public release," the agency that has been coordinating the search, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB), said in a statement.

The ocean is up to 6.5 km (4 miles) deep in the search area with towering underwater mountains, subsea volcanoes and long rift valley.

Currents push nutrients along contours that attract fish which, in turn, attract bigger predator fish. —*Reuters*

Japan PM aims to strengthen US alliance under President Trump

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking in parliament hours before US President-elect Donald Trump takes office, said on Friday he wanted to further strengthen the Japan-US alliance.

Trump sparked worries in Tokyo and the rest of the Asia-Pacific with campaign comments which included a pledge to make allies pay more for the security provided by US forces and opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal.

"The Japan-US alliance has been, is and will be the cornerstone of our country's diplomatic and security policies. This is an immutable principle," Abe said in his policy speech at the start of the regular parliament session.

"I am aiming to visit the United States as soon as possible to further fortify the bond of alliance together with new President Trump."

Abe met with Trump in New York after the election in November and called him a "trustworthy leader".

In his speech to parliament, the prime minister repeated his support for TPP, which will go into deep freeze if the United States drops out.—*Reuters*

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso attend the ordinary session of parliament in Tokyo, Japan, on 20 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

American man arrested in India for online child porn, police probe trafficking links

BHUBANESWAR (India) — A 42-year-old American has been arrested in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad on suspicion of circulating child pornography on the internet, police said on Thursday, adding that they were investigating whether any of the victims had been trafficked.

The man, working for a multinational law firm in Hyderabad since 2012, was arrested on Monday after police were alerted by Interpol to an IP address linked to online images and videos of children being sexually abused.

Ukkalam Rama Mohan, the police superintendent in charge of fighting cyber crime in Telangana state, whose capital is Hyderabad, said the suspect had confessed to publishing and transmitting obscene images electronically.

"We found several thousands of pornographic images and videos on his laptop and iPhone which he had collected since long," Rama Mohan told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone.

Soumya Mishra, Telangana's Inspector General from the Crime Investigation Department, said police were going through the large repository of images and videos seized and would be working with Interpol to check if the children were trafficked.

"We will give the entire data to Interpol to find out who are these children in the videos and trace them. This is a big amount of research," Mishra said.

The man, who is from New Jersey in the United States, could not be contacted. The US Embassy in New Delhi could not confirm the arrest or provide any details.

Indian police said if found guilty, the American national could face up to five years imprisonment, and a fine of up to one million rupees ($14,665).

News of the arrest comes days after the Indian government announced plans to establish a national alliance with charities and police to stem a surge in images of children being sexually abused on the internet.

There is no accurate data on the number of Indian children being exploited in pornographic material — either being forced to show their sexual organs or engage in sexual acts — as many victims do not go to the police due to fear and shame.

There were 96 reports of children in India being sexually exploited in online imagery in 2015 — a rise of 140 per cent from 2014, according to National Crimes Records Bureau data. —*Reuters*

Viet Nam receives 6th Russian-made submarine

HANOI — The heavy lift vessel Rolldock Storm carrying Viet Nam's sixth Russia-made submarine arrived at Cam Ranh Port in the country's southcentral coastal Khanh Hoa Province on Friday, after a voyage of over 40 days from Russia.

After entering Cam Ranh bay, the Rolldock Storm will be docking in the water in the next few days to wait for experts to tow the submarine into Cam Ranh military port, reported the state-run news agency VNA.

Earlier in 2014 and 2015, Russia had delivered four similar Kilo-class submarines for Viet Nam, namely HQ-182 Hanoi, HQ-183 Ho Chi Minh City, HQ-184 Hai Phong and HQ-185 Khanh Hoa.

These submarines have been officially serving under submarine brigade 189 of Viet Nam People's Navy.

In early February 2016, the fifth Russian-made submarine, which is expected to be named HQ-186 Da Nang, arrived in Cam Ranh.

The sixth and also final submarine will be called HQ-187 Ba Ria-Vung Tau. Flag-raising ceremony for the two submarines will be held in the coming time, said VNA.

With a displacement of 3,000-3,950 tons, the nearly 74m-long submarine can operate at an average depth of 240 meters and maximum depth of 300 meters, as well as can work for a range of 6,000-7,500 nautical miles for 45 days with 52 crew members. —*Xinhua*

South Korea, US, Japan hold drills to counter North Korea missile threat

SEOUL — South Korea, the United States and Japan began a three-day naval exercise Friday, aimed at countering North Korea's missile threats, a South Korean military official said, amid signs Pyongyang may be preparing for a new missile test-launch to test incoming US President-elect Donald Trump's administration.

Aegis-equipped destroyers from the three countries took part in the maritime exercise, the third of its kind after the missile warning exercise was held in June and November last year, the official said.

The exercise aims to boosting capabilities to detect and trace incoming missiles, as well as sharing related information among the three countries.

The move comes amid speculation that North Korea may launch an intercontinental ballistic missile to coincide with Trump's inauguration as US president in Washington later on Friday.

Earlier in the day, Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party of Korea, said that "no matter who says what, our intercontinental rocket will be launched any time from any location determined by the top leadership."

Meanwhile, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported that an ICBM may be launched from the Panghyon airfield in the northwestern city of Kusong, from where North Korea test-fired a Musudan ballistic missile in October last year, which was assessed as a failed launch.

Yonhap also said South Korean and US intelligence authorities recently detected signs that North Korea has built two new ICBMs at the Jamjin missile facility in the city of Nampo near the capital Pyongyang, and mounted them onto mobile launchers for test-firing in the near future.

The two missiles are estimated to be no longer than 15 metres in length, making them shorter than North Korea's existing ICBMs — the 19-20 metre-long KN-08 and the 17-18 metre-long KN-14.

During a regular media briefing, South Korea's Unification Ministry spokesman reiterated the country's assessment that Pyongyang could test-fire an ICBM at any time from any location if the top leadership decides to do so, just as a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said earlier this month.

In response to Pyongyang's threat, the United States has said it will shoot down any missiles that threaten its territory or that of its allies.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said in a New Year address that his country has entered the final stage of preparing to test-launch the long-range missile. Kim's regime conducted two nuclear tests and test-launched more than 20 ballistic missiles last year, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions. —*Kyodo News*

US strikes in Libya kill more than 80 Islamic State fighters

WASHINGTON — More than 80 Islamic State militants, some of whom were believed to be plotting attacks in Europe, died in US air strikes on camps outside the group's former North African stronghold of Sirte in Libya, the United States said on Thursday.

"These strikes were directed against some of ISIL's external plotters," US Defence Secretary Ash Carter told a Pentagon briefing, using an acronym for Islamic State, the Syria- and Iraq-based militant group.

"They certainly are people who ... were actively plotting operations in Europe, and may also have been connected with some attacks that have already occurred in Europe," Carter said.

The US attack on Wednesday night was led by two B-2 bombers, which took off from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri to carry out a 30-hour round-trip bombing run. They dropped about 100 precision-guided munitions on the camps.

Smoke rises following an air strike, Libya in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The attack took place 28 miles (45 km) southwest of Sirte, targeting fighters fleeing Libyan forces clearing them from Sirte with support from US air strikes.

Libyan forces finished retaking the city in early December after a nearly seven-month battle in a major blow to Islamic State that left the group without any territory in Libya.

Still, Libyan officials say hundreds of militants may have escaped before the battle or in its early stages, and local Islamic State leaders have spoken of trying to regroup outside the city. A statement from Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli said the strikes were "preemptive steps to foil attempts" by Islamic State to stage new attacks on Sirte as well as other areas of the country.

The strikes appeared to be intended to shore up the GNA and protect recent gains in oil production from possible militant attacks, said Geoff Porter, head of North Africa Risk Consulting.

The GNA has received strong backing from the outgoing US administration but has struggled to win support inside Libya or reverse the chaos that developed after rebels overthrew Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 with help from NATO.

It's unclear whether Donald Trump, who takes office as US president on Friday, might seek to alter US policy in Libya.

The United States carried out nearly 500 air strikes against Islamic State targets in Sirte between August and December. It had previously carried out several isolated strikes against militant targets elsewhere in Libya.

The jihadist group took over Sirte in early 2015, turning it into its most important base outside the Middle East and attracting large numbers of foreign fighters to the city. It imposed its ultra-hardline rule on residents and extended its control along about 155 miles (250 km) of Libya's Mediterranean coastline.—*Reuters*

Syria's Assad hopes for 'reconciliation' deals from Astana talks

BEIRUT — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said he believed peace talks in Kazakhstan would lead to local "reconciliation" deals with rebels, a sign of his confidence in a process launched by his Russian allies after the opposition's defeat in Aleppo.

Assad told a Japanese TV station he hoped the conference would be a platform to discuss "everything" but that it was unclear if there would be political dialogue "because it is not clear who will participate".

Russia set the new diplomatic process in motion after its air force helped the Syrian government and allied, Iran-backed militia defeat rebels in Aleppo city's east last month — the diverse opposition's biggest defeat of the war.

Rebels due to attend the talks say they will discuss only shoring up a ceasefire brokered by Turkey and Russia last month — and which the rebels say has been widely violated by the government and its allies — as well as humanitarian issues. Local reconciliation agreements are the Damascus government's preferred method for pacifying rebellious areas. They amount to the effective surrender of rebels in a particular area, typically after years of government siege and bombardment.

Assad said insurgent groups would give up their weapons and receive a government pardon under such agreements.

"So far, we believe that Astana will be about talks with terrorist groups over a ceasefire" that would facilitate reconciliation deals, Assad said in excerpts from the interview published on Twitter by the presidency.

He said the conference's priority would be "reaching a ceasefire to protect lives, and to permit humanitarian aid to reach different areas of Syria". Moscow has also said the main purpose of the meeting is to consolidate the truce.

Russia, Assad's most powerful ally, has pushed the Astana talks with help from Iran and Turkey, which backs the opposition but has switched its priorities to fighting Kurdish groups and Islamic State militants.

In a statement published by its embassy in Kazakhstan, Iran said it saw the Astana talks as "an opportunity to establish a dialogue between the government and the Syrian opposition that will end the war and humanitarian crisis in the country and help achieve stability and peace in the region".

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Thursday that the United States had been invited to the Astana talks. Iran has said it opposes any US presence.

A number of Turkey-backed rebel groups fighting under the Free Syrian Army banner have agreed to attend.—*Reuters*

Gambia's Jammeh offered last chance for peaceful exit before troops advance

BANJUL — West African leaders were due in Banjul on Friday morning to offer Gambia's veteran leader Yahya Jammeh a last chance to step down peacefully before regional forces, which have already entered the country, oust him.

Troops from regional bloc ECOWAS, spearheaded by Senegal and Nigeria, crossed into Gambia on Thursday at the request of newly elected President Adama Barrow, who had to be sworn in at Gambia's embassy in Dakar as Jammeh clings to office.

The West African armies have given Jammeh, in power since a 1994 coup, until midday on Friday to quit before they continue their advance across the tiny slither of a country to the capital, Banjul.

The city was quiet overnight after hundreds of Gambians celebrated Barrow's swearing in and the subsequent ECOWAS advance into their country — a popular destination for European tourists that Jammeh has ruled with an iron fist.

Gambia's only land border is with Senegal and the regional coalition, which ECOWAS says involves 7,000 troops, has entered from the southeast, southwest and north.

Supporters of president-elect Adama Barrow celebrate his inauguration at Gambia's embassy in Dakar, Senegal, on 19 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Marcel de Souza, head of the ECOWAS commission, said Guinea's President Alpha Conde would travel to Banjul with the leaders of Mauritania and Liberia to try to convince Jammeh to travel to Guinea before choosing a country of exile.

"It's out of the question that he stays in place," de Souza said.

Jammeh initially conceded to Barrow after a December election before he reversed his decision, saying the vote was flawed and he would remain in power until a new election could be held.

Barrow has been recognised as Gambia's new president by world powers and Jammeh is increasingly isolated at home as ministers abandoned his camp.

On Thursday night, army chief General Ousman Badjie, who had publicly stood by Jammeh, was seen smiling on the streets, wading through a mass of jubilant Banjul residents shouting and dancing.

Barrow asked for foreign help to assume office immediately after he was sworn in on Thursday, a plan that was backed by the UN Security Council in New York.—*Reuters*

Asian stocks, dollar drop as Trump caution outweighs China GDP

SINGAPORE — Caution prevailed in financial markets on Friday ahead of US President-elect Donald Trump's inauguration, even as China's economic growth beat expectations and Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen toned down her earlier hawkish policy stance.

European markets were headed for a subdued start amid trepidation over Trump's first speech as president. Financial spreadbetter CMC Markets expected Britain's FTSE 100 .FTSE to open 0.1 per cent higher, and Germany's DAX .GDAXI and France's CAC 40 .FCHI to start the day little changed.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS retreated 0.2 per cent, and looked set to end the week flat.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 reversed earlier losses to close 0.3 per cent higher, posting a 1.1 per cent weekly loss.

China's fourth-quarter gross domestic product growth came in at 6.8 per cent, versus forecasts of 6.7 per cent, supported by higher government spending and record bank lending.

The economy expanded 6.7 per cent in 2016, in line with forecasts.

The data helped lift China's CSI 300 index .CSI300 0.8 per cent, setting it on course for a 1 per cent weekly gain.

Despite the headline growth, concerns are growing about whether Beijing can contain the financial risks from an explosive expansion in debt fueled by years of government stimulus spending.

A cooling housing market and painful structural reforms, as well as pressure on exports if Trump fulfils his protectionist promises, are also risks for China in 2017.

"On the domestic front, China needs to find a balance between chasing growth and deflating asset bubbles," said Zhou Hao, emerging markets economist at Commerzbank in Singapore.

"It makes sense for China to tolerate a growth moderation in the coming year, while leaving more flexibility to structural reforms," he said, adding he expects China to lower its growth target to around 6.5 per cent.

The dollar inched down after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said that gradual monetary adjustments were prudent, although she warned against letting the economy run hot.

Her statement was seen as slightly less aggressive than a Wednesday speech in which she cautioned that waiting too long to raise rates could lead to "too much inflation, financial instability, or both," amid comments by other Fed officials that also favoured faster hikes.

A woman walks past electronic boards showing stock prices outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, on 20 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The dollar index .DXY, which tracks it against a basket of six major global peers, pulled back 0.2 per cent to 100.97 on Friday. On Thursday, it initially surged on upbeat US data pointing to brightening economic prospects, before closing 0.2 per cent higher as concern about Trump's policies returned.

The greenback slipped 0.2 per cent to 114.64 yen JPY=D4.

US homebuilding rebounded sharply in December amid stronger demand for rental housing, and the number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits fell to near the 43-year low touched in mid-November.

"The dollar could fall if Trump pushes forward his protectionist rhetoric in his inauguration speech," said Minori Uchida, chief FX analyst at Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ. "Some investors also expect more details on his policies, so the dollar could also slip if Trump does not mention any specifics."

The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield US10YT=RR fell 0.4 per cent to 2.4613, after spiking to a 2 1/2 week high of 2.496 on Thursday.

US stocks were also restrained overnight, with the major indexes posting losses of as much as 0.4 per cent, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI down for its fourth straight session.

The euro rose on Friday, extending gains following initial losses after European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi played down a recent rise in euro zone inflation, as investors parsed his statement and noted no changes to policy.

The common currency advanced 0.2 per cent on Friday to $1.068 EUR=EBS.

In commodities, oil rose on expectations of tighter supply and reports of record Chinese demand, but the gains were tempered by concerns about swelling US inventories.

US crude CLc1 added 0.3 per cent to $51.53 per barrel, pulling further away from Wednesday's one-week low. But it remains down 1.6 per cent for the week. Global benchmark Brent LCOc1 advanced 0.3 per cent to $54.32, shrinking its weekly loss to 2 per cent.—*Reuters*

An aerial view shows Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp's Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) taking off for a test flight at Nagoya Airfield in Toyoyama town, Aichi Prefecture, central Japan, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mitsubishi to postpone jet delivery for fifth time — sources

TOKYO — Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp will delay delivery of its Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) by about two years from the previously expected mid-2018, in the fifth postponement since announcing plans for the aircraft, two sources told Reuters on Friday.

A further delay in Japan's first commercial passenger plane in half a century could hurt the company's chances of winning fresh orders in the regional jet market, dominated by Canada's Bombardier Inc and Brazil's Embraer SA. The MRJ was originally slated for delivery in 2013.

Mitsubishi Aircraft and its parent company, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd, last month said they were reviewing the MRJ's entire schedule, from testing to delivery.

Mitsubishi Heavy declined to comment, saying it would provide details on the MRJ business at a news conference with Mitsubishi Aircraft on Monday.

Reuters' sources, who have direct knowledge of the matter, declined to be named as the latest plan was not yet public.

The MRJ, which made its maiden test flight in November, represents Japan's long-held ambition to re-establish a commercial aircraft industry that was dismantled by the United States after Japan's defeat in World War II. —*Reuters*

Samsung Electronics says to hold Galaxy Note 7 briefing on 23 January

SEOUL — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd said it will announce on 23 January the results of a probe on what caused some Galaxy Note 7 smartphones to catch fire, as the firm seeks to recover from one of the biggest product safety failures in tech history.

Samsung said its executives and independent experts will disclose their findings in a press conference in Seoul and that the company will unveil new measures that have been implemented to prevent repeat incidents.

The head of it mobile business, Koh Dong-jin, who announced the initial September Note 7 recall, will attend the briefing, Samsung said in a statement on Friday.

A person familiar with the matter told Reuters earlier this week that Samsung's probe had found the battery was the main cause of Note 7 fires.

The world's top smartphone maker needs to reassure consumers that its devices are safe in order for the company to recover from a projected almost $5.20 billion hit to its operating profit from the Note 7's collapse over three quarters.

Investors say Samsung must give a convincing explanation for the fires before the launch of its Galaxy S8 smartphones, expected sometime in the first half. The company initially announced a recall of some 2.5 million Note 7 phones in September and identified the cause of the fire as a manufacturing process problem at one of its suppliers, later identified as affiliate Samsung SDI Co Ltd.—*Reuters*

Shoppers walk near a Galaxy Note 7 advertisement at a Samsung store in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Adjustment, Adjustment, Everywhere!

Dr. Nu Nu Win

IN Psychology, "Adjustment" means change for the better to be in line with the time, place and conditions. That means, when we reach a new place where we have never been before, we cannot adapt ourselves to fit into that place or society as soon as we arrive there. We need time to change ourselves or our environment to adjust ourselves to the new place. The same thing will happen when we have to face a new society, a new condition and so on. So also with the time span.

To do adjustment with our environment, sometimes we need to change ourselves or sometimes, we need to change our environment.

For example, when the room we stay in is very hot in the summer time, we need to do changes to ourselves or to our environment. We can fan ourselves with a handmade paper fan to cool ourselves. That is called changing ourselves. The other way is to change our environment instead of changing ourselves. That is, if we put an air conditioner in the room, we can change our environment to make us cool, without changing ourselves.

In this way, we all need to do adjustments in our lives, according to the time, place, or conditions. We need to do adjustments whenever there is a change in our environment or in our lives.

Here in Yangon, the most popular and interesting situation these days is the changed system in our bus lines. We have a new bus line system named the Yangon Bus Service (YBS), a great change in the bus lines and their systems. All people who need to take buses everyday to and from work, every housewife who needs to go shopping for their households, every driver who drives a taxi and every private car driver who needs to get through the thick traffic-jam, they all need to get to their destinations smoothly in time.

Nowadays, we can hear different opinions from different persons, some complaints because they had to pay more to get to the same place as before, some complaining because they had to change buses to get to their destinations, but some like this new system very much because they can reach their destinations smoothly in time.

Although we have different opinions, one thing for sure is that all persons in authority and responsibility have good will (Cetana) for all the people who have to use buses in their daily lives. Because this is a new system, both the passengers and the YBS (Yangon Bus Service) managers will need to do a whole lot of adjustments till they get used to the system. The passengers need to be patient and disciplined and the YBS managers need to get adequate feedback from the passengers and try to take corrective actions as quickly as possible. We can all agree that we need participation, coordination, cooperation and discipline. That is only one example.

Changing our country into a modern democratic federal union is another long march to a destination which all of us dream about. To make our dreams come true, we need to do a number of adjustments all along the way, changing both ourselves and our environment as well. One simple way is to start from the very small things.

For example, keeping our environment neat and tidy (i.e. what we need to do to build a beautiful and developed country), everybody has the responsibility not to throw trash on the streets, platforms or into the drains. If everyone took care of their duty and responsibility, it would be possible to change Yangon into a green and beautiful city or our country into a modern and developed country. For Yangon city to be clean and beautiful, it is not only the responsibility of the YCDC – Yangon City Development Committee workers but also the responsibility of every citizen living in the Yangon region. Therefore, before changing our environment, we need to change ourselves, especially our mind-sets. These are all adjustments we need to do build a country which is peaceful and beautiful to live in.

Also in Education, we have a Triangle of Education constructed with three sides, which represent Parents, Teachers and Students. If all these three sides took their responsibility seriously and did their duty, the Triangle of Education will turn out beautifully. But, it's a great "But", because if one side does not fulfill its responsibility well, the triangle cannot turn out beautifully. So that is also a field where we need to do a number of adjustments to reach a destination that we all desire.

That is why, the writer here has said, "Adjustment, Adjustment, everywhere" — we need to adjust ourselves as well as our environment.

Donald J. Trump : 45th President of the United States of America

Arakan Sein

PRESIDENT-ELECT Donald John Trump was sworn in on January 20, 2017 as the 45th President of the United States of America after beating his Democrat rival Hillary Clinton in November, 2016 US Presidential Election. Mr. Trump's triumphant smile shook the whole world and surprised almost all prominent world leaders including former secretary of state Henry Kissinger who thought Hillary Clinton would win. Mr. Trump was chosen the person of the year 2016 by TIME magazine and dubbed as the President of the "Divided" States of America because Mrs Clinton's supporters took to the street for demonstrations in several States in the country.

From the first President to the 44th President, a rare coincidence has happened in the US history: Father-son presidency for two times in between. John Adams(1797-1801), the second President and his son, John Quincy Adams(1825-29), the sixth President; George H. Bush, the 41st President (1989-93) and his son George W. Bush, the 43rd President (2001-2009). Again in 2008 , Barack Hussein Obama was elected as the first black President and now Republican Donald Trump was elected as the 45th President even though he has had no experience in either government or the military. Being the ultimate outsider though, Republican Donald Trump won the Electoral College vote by running up his tally of 306 to Democrat experienced Hillary Clinton'232; but he lost the overall vote to Mrs. Clinton by a whopping 2.86 million votes.

For better or worse, we have to accept the reality: the US elected Donald Trump to be the 45 th President and the British people voted the United Kingdom out of the European Union(Brexit). The two prominent events must be regarded as a fait accompli and there is no turning back. We have to get along with US President Trump and British Prime Minister Theresa May and support them in their future undertakings. A timely reminder for both leaders: For President Trump,as the US is the No.1 country in terms of economic and military powers, it is never easy for any incoming President to control domestic and international affairs at the same time; For the British Prime Minister May, it will be very difficult for her to get along with the EU as well as countries from around the world to keep up with the changing world. Theresa May became new Prime Minister on 11 July, 2016 promising that "Brexit means Brexit"—despite the fact that she personally supported the "Remain" side during national referendum.

To the contrary, Donald Trump seems to pursue his campaign promises of temporarily banning Muslims from entering the country, building a wall along the border with Mexico, upending a global deal to fight climate change, repealing Obama's healthcare reform law and expelling 11 million illegal immigrants from the country. Furthermore, he threatened to cut budgets to the US military base in Okinawa and at one time attacked the UN over Israeli settlements in Gaza strip. As a result, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe hurried to the United States to meet with Donald Trump on November 17, 2016 and the newly appointed UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres made a phone call to Mr. Trump because the US has been the biggest contributor to the UN funds.

A case in point for leaders: Diplomacy and power are not discrete activities. They are linked, not in a sense that each time negotiations stall, you resort to force. A conflict with modern weapons might exceed the devastation of the First World War and leave no winners, Henry Kissinger warns. And for the US there's always been a bipartisan consensus concerning the importance of deep American engagement in the world. Japan Prime Minister and Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte agreed on the importance of US contributions to peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. If the US is not willing to handle the issue of the resource-rich South China Sea , the void will be filled by China , John Key, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand predicts.

During the campaign, President-elect Trump rattled Beijing with threats to impose tariffs on Chinese imports and questioned the United States' commitment to one-China policy; Taiwan is going to send a delegation to Trump's inauguration which China urged the US to bar from attending the event. Meanwhile, China' artificial islands became a hot issue when the US nominee for Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, told a Senate hearing that Beijing should be repelled from, and denied access to, the controversial islets. The China Foreign Ministry's spokeswoman responded that China had the right to deploy on the Spratly islands "necessary and appropriate equipment to protect its sovereign territory".

At same time, Chinese President Xi Jinping, while attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, told US Vice President Joe Biden that the world needs China and the United States to have stable and cooperative relationship. If President Trump tries to carry out his campaign threats and focus on nationalism and protectionism, the era of American global leadership will be over, a journalist warns.

Therefore ,the United States and China should be the world's most consequential countries. Four decades ago, Watergate revealed the potential of modern presidency for the use of power on a vast scale. Will the institutions—the Congress, the House of Representatives, The White House and the press—allow the newly-elected President to do something inconsistent with American values and standards? A US president should not be viewed as aggressive and hostile but rather as benevolent and friendly to his own people and to peoples from around the world. During his presidential campaigns, Mr. Trump's powerful rhetorical speeches are assumed by many critics as undiplomatic and unpresidential. The world will be cautiously watching how President Trump will play a role on the world stage.

About 400 houses relocated because of river bank erosion

ABOUT 400 houses from eight villagers in Zalun township, Ayeyawady region have been relocated to safe areas as of Tuesday because of the erosion of the river bank, according to the local residents.

The eight villages from eastern part of Zalun township have been moved to safe areas as of Tuesday, and there have taken places landslides four in January, 2017. Now, the villagers are being worried about losing their villages, it is learnt from the local residents.

"Previously, the whole villages were relocated to safe areas. We have lost the farming land to cultivate too. Also, the high school from our village falls in the danger zone. So we are worried that the children cannot attend the school next year. We want to request the authorities to help us," said U Tin Aye, the village administrator from Thady Chaung.

"The houses were relocated in the cultivated land and the land owned by the irrigation department. But there are no more space now for relocation," he added.

About 122 houses were relocated in January. Currently, the river bank collapse is just 50 feet away from the monastery of Thardu chuang village. "We will go and inspect that area. Also we will take necessary measures to prevent the river bank collapse to protect the villagers," said U Win Htay, Ayeyawady region minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation. The local villagers are difficult to buy the new land because of exorbitant prices of Ks 4 million per acre, it is learnt.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Mandalay Water Festival to be celebrated in traditional style

A meeting to prepare for the celebration of the 2017 Thingyan Festival in Mandalay in a traditional way was held in the hall of Mandalay City Development Committee on 17 January.

"The Thingyan water festival 2016 was celebrated in a modern style, with a lot of stage show performances in Mandalay. So, we will celebrate Myanma traditional style water festival in 2017. If so, the costs of Mandalay Thingyan Festival will be reduced. We will submit the plan to the regional Government," said Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin.

"We will reduce the cost for the water festival this year. We are not going to hire famous vocalists because the costs of entertainment were very high at the Mandalay Mayor's pandal. We should not spend billions for the water festival," the Mayor added. "Last year, revelers who enjoyed throwing water at each other crowded the surrounding of the Mandalay moat during the Mandalay Thingyan Festival. Because of a multitude of pandals, we wasted water. And the roads were flooded. So, we will not allow many booths in the surrounding of Mandalay moat except the pandal of the Mandalay Mayor on 26th street and the Nan Myo Thu pandal in 2017," said a person who attended the meeting.

In 2016, 41 water-throwing and entertainment pandals were permitted in Mandalay City, with 10 pandals in front of the moat on 66th street, 10 on 26th street, eight on 80th street, three on 12th street and 10 at downtown and Kandawgyi Lake.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Katsu Shimmin exhibits his arts works in Yangon

JAPANESE artist Katsu Shimmin has exhibited his works at the Beikthano Gallery on KabaAye Pagoda Road in Yangon from 21st to 26th January.

The first ever solo show of the artist, is opened today at the gallery, with the 66-year old artist in presence. He participated in several group shows in South-East Asian countries along with his contemporary artists from the countries.

Katsu Shimmin held more than 30 solo shows in China, Japan and US.

Mr Katsu is a representative of Committee of China-Japan calligraphy and painting exchanging.

He is also present of Shimmin Art Gallery Co Ltd and Member of Japan Artists Association Inc.— *Moore Zack*

Mr Katsu Shimmin poses for photo before his works created in Myanmar. PHOTO: MON THET

Health department investigating the fish death in Paung Township

HEALTH department is investigating the death of fish in Winkamawt creek at Oaktan village, Paung township, Mon state, it is learnt.

"The fish have been dying in Winkamawt creek since the first week of January. So, the health department is checking the matter as the villager informed the matter to the department. We just knew this on 15 January. Not all the fish died; only those which can come up the water died in the creek," said Dr. Khin Su Su Han, the medical superintendent of Paung township general hospital.

Concerning the death of fish, the health department is testing the water specimen from the creek at the laboratory. Then, the department will let the villagers know the cause of death fish, when the result is known, she added. "The ducks are eating the dead fish, but they do not die. As we closed the creek, the creek was blocked with the rubbish inside," said Dr. Khin Su Su Han.

The water starts to flow from Kyauk Chaw San of Kalama Mountain and flows into Winkamawt creek.

The farmers from the village closed the creek to plant the paddy in summer season, it is learnt.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Yaba and heroin seized in Phakant

A COMBINED team comprising officers and staff from Mohnyin district police searched a house of Arr Pheint and found 100 soap boxes of heroin weighing 1.2 kilo and 11,400 Yaba tablets.

Police have filed a lawsuit against Arr Pheint, 25, under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws. —*Myanmar Police Force*

Stimulants seized in Hpa-an and Lashio

POLICE from Hpa-an District Police Force searched Kalar's house living at Daipya village, Daipya village-tract in Hlaingbwe Township on 18 January, and found 4,730 stimulant tablets from his house.

Interrogation of Kalar has led the police to arrest stimulant tablet dealer Arr Kar on the Htilone Tar Paung road in Hlaingbwe Township.

On the same day, an anti-narcotic suppression squad from Lashio searched a vehicle driven by Tun Kyi near milepost 804 on Mandalay-Muse Union road at the entrance of Nawnghkio. Police seized 4,000 stimulants tablets.

Following the interrogation of suspect Tun Kyi, police also arrested drugs dealer Nyein Min Chan in front of Shwe Paing Paing petrol pump, Nar Taung Kya village in Patheingyi Township on the Mandalay-Pyi Oo Lwin road and another drugs dealer who is the gatekeeper of Myint Thein Thingaha Passenger bus line at Manhsu small vehicle terminal, ward 8 in Lashio Township.

Likewise, an anti-narcotic suppression squad from Taunggyi searched a motorcycle ridden by Maung Htwe at the intersection of Inntein, Khaungtine and Aung Pan in Nyaung Shwe Township on 19 January and found 2,050 stimulant tablets, a gun, 100 lead balls and gunpowder.

Also, an anti-narcotic suppression squad from Lashio searched a motorcycle driven by Eik Ba with Eik Nway on board near Oriental toll gate on the Mandalay-Muse Union road at the entrance to Nawnghkio and arrested the two suspects for being in possession of 1,950 stimulant tablets.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Two more car accidents on Ygn-Mdy Highway

A PROBOX hit the guard rail on the right side of the highway when the driver fell asleep between mileposts 148/5 and 148/6 near Taungoo Township on Yangon-Mandalay Highway at 3:30 am yesterday.

The Probox was en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw driven by Nay Lin Oo alias Wunna with Ma Myo Thanda on board, Both of them were injured but not seriously. The injured victims were taken by Zeepintha highway police station's vehicle to Taungoo Hospital to receive medical treatment.

Similarly, a Toyota Corolla in white colour driven by Tin Maung Htwe en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon overturned when he lost control as the left-front tire burst out between mileposts 40/6 and 40/7 near Bago Township at 8:30 pm on 19 January. No one was injured but the vehicle was a little damaged.

Highway Police have taken action against the reckless drivers.—*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*

Police inspects Probox at the scene on Ygn-Mdy Highway. PHOTO: MPF

Impact of job-stealing robots a growing concern at Davos

DAVOS (Switzerland) — Open markets and global trade have been blamed for job losses over the last decade, but global CEOs say the real culprits are increasingly machines.

And while business leaders gathered at the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos relish the productivity gains technology can bring, they warned this week that the collateral damage to jobs needs to be addressed more seriously.

From taxi drivers to healthcare professionals, technologies such as robotics, driverless cars, artificial intelligence and 3-D printing mean more and more types of jobs are at risk.

Adidas (ADSGn.DE), for example, aims to use 3-D printing in the manufacture of some running shoes. "Jobs will be lost, jobs will evolve and this revolution is going to be ageless, it's going to be classless and it's going to affect everyone," said Meg Whitman, chief executive of Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE.N).

So while some supporters of Donald Trump and Brexit may hope new government policies will bring lost jobs back to America's Rust Belt or Britain's industrial north, economists estimate 86 per cent of US manufacturing job losses are actually down to productivity, according to the WEF's annual risks report.

"Technology is the big issue and we don't acknowledge that," Mark Weinberger, chairman of consultancy EY, said on Thursday, arguing there was a tendency to always blame trading partners.

The political backdrop is prompting CEOs to take more seriously the challenge of long-life training of workforces to keep up with the exponential growth of technological advances.

"I think what we're reaching now is a time when we may have to find alternative careers through our lifetime," Microsoft (MSFT.O) Chief Executive Satya Nadella told Reuters. Over the last decade, more jobs have been lost to technology than any other factor, and John Drzik, head of global risk at insurance broker Marsh, expects more of the same.

"That is going to raise challenges, particularly given the political context," Drzik, who helped compile the WEF report, said. Compared to clamping down on immigration by tightening borders, dealing with the impact of technology destroying jobs is something that is perhaps even less easily controlled.

For while many advanced technologies remain more expensive than low- or medium-skilled labor in the near term, the shift is likely to accelerate as costs come down. WIDENING GAP Technological advancements require governments, businesses and academic institutions to develop more educated and highly skilled workforces, executives in Davos said.

But this shift to skilled workers also widens the income gap and fuels growing inequality.

Jonas Prising, CEO of staffing firm ManpowerGroup (MAN.N), noted that US unemployment is only about 2 to 2.5 per cent among college-educated people but 9 or 10 per cent among those with low or no skills. "The idea that we would ban automation as part of an evolution within the manufacturing industry, is not really part of the discussion," Prising said.

He pointed to policies in countries like Denmark and Italy, where there is a focus on employability of workers.

"If we don't own responsibility (for the problem of displaced workers), it's only going to get bigger," Procter & Gamble (PG.N) Chief Executive David Taylor said.—*Reuters*

An attendee communicate with SARA, a socially aware robot assisstant, during a presentation at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, on 17 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Asia-Pacific to become 2017 global growth engine

BANGKOK — The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2017 Report released on Thursday (January 19) revealed that East and South Asia is set to become 2017's main engine for global growth as the world economy is still recovering from the Great Recession of 2009.

The year 2016 was also the slowest since 2009 as gross product grew by just 2.2 per cent.

However, WESP said global growth is projected to see a moderate improvement to 2.7 per cent in 2017 and 2.9 per cent in 2018, with an emphasis on economic stabilization than a signal of a robust revival of global demand.

Against this backdrop, East and South Asia will continue to grow more rapidly than other regions. Regional GDP is estimated to have expanded by 5.7 per cent in 2016. Supported by robust consumption, a moderate pickup in investment and accommodative macroeconomic policies, annual growth is set to reach 5.9 per cent in 2017-18.

East Asia and South Asia's economy is estimated to have grown by 5.5 per cent in 2016, with a marginal pickup to 5.6 per cent projected for both 2017 and 2018. Private consumption and public investment continue to drive growth. However, the sub region's export growth remained exceptionally weak in 2016.

This has negatively affected consumer sentiment, resulting in weaker household spending in several economies. While overall fiscal balances have recently worsened in some countries, the relatively low public debt levels mean that there is still room for fiscal expansion. There are encouraging signs that the sub region will emerge from the two-year stretch of producer-price deflation. —*Xinhua*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia sees positive signs in Syria peace process — agencies cite Lavrov

MOSCOW — Russia has observed positive signs in the Syria peace process and sees a meeting in the Kazakh capital next week as an important step toward establishing a framework for talks taking place in Geneva, Russian news agencies cited Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying on Friday.

Lavrov was also quoted as saying by RIA news agency that Moscow was ready to do its part to move to a constructive dialogue with the United States.—*Reuters*

Su-34 fighter bombers carry out bombardment exercise in Russia's Far East

VLADIVOSTOK (Russia) — Su-34 fighter bombers of Russia's Eastern Military District have finished a special flying task course by carrying out bomb strikes at the one of the Russian Far East region's training grounds, the district's press-service said on Friday.

"Crews of multipurpose Su-34 fighter-bombers of the air force unit located in Khabarovsk have carried out bomb strikes engaging single ground targets of the simulated enemy. By finishing the course of special flying tasks, pilots have become instructors in piloting of Su-34 bombers," TASS said on Friday, citing the head of the Eastern Military District press service Col. Alexander Gordeyev.

The crew has also practiced flight at low and medium altitudes, landing in bad weather condition and other different tasks. —*Xinhua*

Suspect in $1.6 million New York gold theft captured in Ecuador — police

QUITO — A man wanted for swiping a bucket filled with $1.6 million worth of gold flakes from an armored truck in New York four months ago has been arrested in western Ecuador, police said.

Julio Nivelo, who is from Ecuador, is accused of stealing the five-gallon (19-liter) aluminum pail with about 85 pounds of gold inside in Midtown Manhattan on 29 September.

He was taken into custody north of Guayaquil on Wednesday, Ecuador's Interior Ministry said in a statement. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement helped apprehend Nivelo, New York Police Department said on Twitter on Thursday. New York police said in December they believed Nivelo, 53, had fled to Los Angeles. Nivelo was likely a "professional thief" who planned the burglary, police detective Martin Pastor told the *New York Daily News* newspaper at the time. —*Reuters*

Policemen fire multiple shots at man armed with knife

YOKOHAMA — Two police officers fired multiple shots at a man armed with a knife in a city in Kanagawa near Tokyo on Friday after the man moved toward them with the weapon, police said.

It is rare in Japan for police officers to shoot at suspects. A police conduct law limits use of weapons, particular against people, to situations such as when a suspect violently resists arrest or tries to flee, or in self-defence.

After being shot in the abdomen, Satoshi Hamana, a 34-year-old resident of Miura, Kanagawa Prefecture, was sent to a hospital in an unconscious state, according to firefighters. The policemen, 30-year-old and 21-year-old officers, rushed to the suspect's residence after Hamana allegedly assaulted his 67-year-old father with the weapon in the morning. When the suspect resisted arrest and moved toward them, they fired a total of eight shots after first giving him a warning, the police said.—*Kyodo News*

Viet Nam identifies three areas with most potential uranium reserves

HANOI — Viet Nam has identified three areas in the northern and central highlands regions which are most likely to house uranium ores, local media reported on Friday.

The areas include Pia Oach in northern Cao Bang Province, Tuyen Lam Lake in central highlands Da Lat city, and Dinh Van in central highlands Lam Dong province, daily newspaper *Tien Phong (Pioneer)* quoted the Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as reporting. Uranium reserves in Viet Nam are estimated at the medium level in the world. The Viet Nam Institute of Geosciences and Mineral Resources will explore uranium ores at 15 locations nationwide. Earlier, local media reported that Viet Nam was actively exploring uranium ores to feed its future nuclear power plants. —*Xinhua*

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:50	21:45	Daily
PG-706	6:00	8:15	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:30	17:25	Daily
PG-704	18:20	20:15	Daily
8M-335	7:30	9:15	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	17:45	19:15	Daily
UB-019	8:00	9:30	3,5,7
UB-019	8:55	10:25	1,6

BANGKOK TO YANGON

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-303	8:00	8:45	Daily
TG-301	13:15	14:00	Daily
TG-305	18:05	18:50	Daily
PG-701	8:45	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-336	10:15	11:00	Daily
8M-332	19:20	20:05	Daily
UB-020	10:35	11:10	3,5
UB-018	21:05	21:35	Daily
UB-020	11:30	12:05	1,6

YGN TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:20	Daily
FD-256	12:55	14:40	Daily
FD-254	17:35	19:25	Daily
FD-258	21:40	23:30	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:45	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:55	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:35	Daily
SL-207	19:45	21:45	Daily

DMK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	11:35	12:25	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:05	Daily
FD-257	20:15	21:10	Daily
DD-4234	10:30	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
DD-4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
SL-200	08:45	10:00	Daily
SL-206	17:10	18:35	Daily

YGN TO CAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-713	20;25	01:00+1	1
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ-3056	11:35	15:50	3,6
CZ-3056	17:40	22:20	1,5

CAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-714	2:05	3:40	2
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ-3055	8:40	10:35	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:40	1,5

YGN TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ-997	10:25	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,3,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	16:20	20:50	4,6
MI-533	13:35	20:50	2
3k-584	19:40	00:10	Daily
3K-582	11:35	16:05	Daily
TR-2823	9:25	13:55	1,2,4,5,7
UB-001	7:15	11:45	Daily

SIN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-232	13:45	15:15	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:30	15:30	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,3,5
MI-533	11:30	12:45	2
3K-583	17:30	19:00	Daily
3k-581	09:10	10:40	Daily
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	1,2,4,5,7
UB-002	13:00	14:30	Daily

YGN TO NRT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	22:10	06:45	Daily

NRT TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YGN TO ICN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

ICN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:30	22:30	Daily

YGN TO KUL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:10	23:30	Daily
8M-501	16:10	20:10	2
8M-501	11:45	15:45	1
MH-741	11:15	15:40	Daily
MH-743	16:00	20:15	1,4,6,7

KUL TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-504	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:20	18:30	Daily
8M-502	16:45	17:45	1
8M-502	21:10	22:10	2
MH-742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
MH-740	09:10	10:15	Daily

YGN TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:30	16:00	Daily
MU-2032	15:30	18:50	Daily
MU-2012	12:55	19:55	3

KMG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:50	11:30	Daily
MU-2031	13:50	14:30	Daily
MU-2011	08:20	11:55	3

YGN TO TPE

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:50	16:10	Daily

TPE TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

YGN TO PEK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	1,3,5,7

PEK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5,7

YGN TO HAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	Daily

HAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:40	18:10	Daily

YGN TO SGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	14:55	2,3,4,5,7

SGN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:25	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA -251	1:05	5:25	Daily
UB-8027	09:00	13:30	1,3,5,7

HKG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:50	23:45	1,3,5,7
KA-252	22:20	00:10	2,4,6
UB-8028	14:50	16:20	1,3,5,7

YGN TO DOH

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:05	11:30	1,3,4,6,7

DOH TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:10	5:20	1,3,4,6,7

YGN TO CNX

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG -724	13:40	15:35	Daily

CNX TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	12:00	12:55	Daily

YGN TO DAC

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:45	18:30	1,3,6

DAC TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-060	13:30	16:00	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:55	15:15	Daily

DMK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	11:10	12:25	Daily

MDL TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:45	20:50	2
MI-522	14:15	20:15	4,6

SIN TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-522	11:30	13:20	4,6
MI-533	11:30	14:50	2

MDL TO BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:10	16:35	Daily

BKK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

MDL TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:25	17:15	Daily

KMG TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

NYT to BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	19:50	22:50	1,3,4,5,6,7

BKK TO NYT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-721	17:20	19:20	1,3,4,5,6,7

AIRLINE CODES

8M	= Myanmar Airways International		
BG	= Biman Bangladesh Airlines		
MH	= Malaysia Airlines		
MU	= China Eastern Airlines		
NH	= All Nippon Airways		
SQ	= Singapore Airways		
PG	= Bangkok Airways		
UB	= Myanmar National Airlines		
VN	= Vietnam Airline		
3K	= Jet Star	AK	= Air Asia
AI	= Air India	CA	= Air China
CI	= China Airlines	CZ	= China Southern
DD	= Nok Airline	FD	= Air Asia
KA	= Dragonair	KE	= Korea Airlines
MI	= Silk Air	QR	= Qatar Airways
TG	= Thai Airways	TR	= Tiger Airline

DAY			
1	= Monday	4	= Thursday
2	= Tuesday	5	= Friday
3	= Wednesday	6	= Saturday
		7	= Sunday

Argentine scientists in Antarctica tally toll of climate change

CARLINI BASE, (Antarctica) — On King George Island in Antarctica, the thunderous sound of ice sliding off the Fourcade Glacier and crashing into the icy water bordering Argentina's Carlini research base serves as a daily reminder of a warming climate.

The glacier has retreated 500 metres (1,640 feet) over 25 years, scientists working on this island just north of the Antarctica Peninsula say, affecting an entire ecosystem of algae, sea lions and penguins, as well as raising sea levels.

"This glacial retreat at Potter Cove releases a mass of fresh water that alters salinity levels and unleashes sediment ... changing the abundance and diversity of wildlife," said Rodolfo Sanchez, director of Argentina's Antarctic Institute.

The Antarctic Peninsula suffered the most severe temperature variation in the world, with average temperatures rising 2.5 degrees Celsius in 100 years, according to Sanchez, who accompanied Argentina's Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra and journalists to Carlini.

The European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service said 2016 was the hottest on record by a wide margin.

An iceberg the size of the US state of Delaware is poised to break off from the Larsen C ice shelf, an event that will fundamentally change the peninsula's landscape, Welsh scientists said earlier this month.

Scientists at Carlini, the largest research center of Argentina's 13 Antarctica bases, refer to ice blocks covering the base's beach in white before they melt as "debris" because of their role in transforming the region's fauna.

Blocks of ice are seen on the shore of Argentina's Carlini Base in Antarctica, on 12 January 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Widespread deaths of shrimp-like krill have jeopardized the food supply for mammals and birds at a protected wildlife reserve on King George Island, known in Argentina as May 25 Island.

Javier Negrete, a marine mammal specialist, said the colony of female elephant seals that normally come to the base between September and November to give birth was reduced by some 30 per cent since 1995 to 320 last year.

"It's not clear if the animals are disappearing or relocating," he said.

Meanwhile, habitat for emperor and Adelie penguins is shrinking while King penguins and other species that are common in warmer climates are traveling farther south.

For human visitors, the changes observed over a quarter of a century at the Carlini base have been abrupt.

"I started coming here in 1990. It snowed, but it did not rain... now in the summer it is raining all the time," said Sanchez.—*Reuters*

Mexican drug lord 'El Chapo' to appear in New York court on Friday

NEW YORK — Mexican cartel kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman is expected to appear in a court in New York on Friday, shortly after his surprise extradition from Mexico ended a decades-long career in drug-trafficking, dare-devil jail breaks and murder.

A Justice Department spokesman said El Chapo, or Shorty, once one of the world's most wanted drug lords, was set to appear for an arraignment at the federal court in Brooklyn.

Guzman, 59, arrived in a small jet at Long Island's MacArthur Airport after nightfall Thursday, from a prison in the city of Juarez in the northern state of Chihuahua, where his Sinaloa cartel crushed the rival Juarez gang.

A few hours earlier, he was bundled out of the Mexican cell block with his hands cuffed above his bowed head, Mexican television footage showed.

The drug lord is charged in six separate indictments throughout the United States. He is accused of money laundering and drug trafficking, kidnapping and murder in cities including Chicago, Miami and New York.

Mexico's top drug lord Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman is escorted by soldiers in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, as he is extradited to New York in this handout image made available on 19 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mexico's court authority said he would be tried in California and Texas, raising the prospect he will appear in courts in the border towns of San Diego and El Paso, which have indictments against him.

Robert Capers, US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, will hold a press conference in Brooklyn about the case at 10:00 AM local time.

El Chapo was captured a year ago, six months after he fled a high-security penitentiary in central Mexico through a mile-long tunnel, his second dramatic prison escape.

Leading the Sinaloa cartel, he oversaw perhaps the world's largest transnational cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine smuggling operation, playing a key role in Mexico's decade-long drug war that has killed over 100,000.

The extradition came on the eve of Donald Trump's swearing-in as president, a coincidence that some officials saw as an olive branch to the real estate mogul who said he would kick Guzman's "ass" on taking office.

The Mexican Attorney General's office rejected claims the move was related to Trump's inauguration, noting that El Chapo faces 10 pending cases in Mexico following his US sentence.

Trump's election sent Mexico's peso to record lows. He has threatened to tax Mexican-made products for the US market, build a wall along the border and scrap a free trade agreement with Mexico if he cannot renegotiate it to favor American interests.

One of Guzman's lawyers said he was surprised at the extradition and said four appeals were outstanding against it. —*Reuters*

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (1/2017)
[TENDER NO. MPPE / MOGAS / T / 1 (2016 — 2017]

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy for the supply of Mogas (92-RON) UNL (94,000 ± 10% Barrels)

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 30 - 1 - 2017, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 30 - 1 - 2017, 13:00 Hrs
4. Delivery Time - 27th February 2017 to 2nd March 2017.

5. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during our office hours commencing 19 - 1 - 2017 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyats 100,000.) per set.

6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw
Contact Phone No.
067-411487/411486/411280

Bad weather and broken generator stall bid to rescue Peru miners

LIMA — Heavy rain and equipment failure stalled efforts in Peru on Thursday to rescue seven miners who were trapped in a tunnel hundreds of feet under a landslide three days ago, officials said.

Four of the miners may already be dead, according to a miner who escaped on Tuesday, a day after the small copper deposit mined in the southern region of Arequipa was engulfed.

The breakdown of a generator used to power machinery clearing a path to the entrance of the 200-meter-deep tunnel (660 feet) stoked fears that time was running out to find the men alive.

Sounds coming from one of the miners stopped late on Wednesday, said regional mining official Vladimir Bustinza. "That's not a good sign," Bustinza told local broadcaster RPP.

The miner who escaped said he believed three of his seven colleagues were alive when he got out, according to regional health official Gustavo Rondon.

Rescue efforts at the mine in the Acari district did not begin until early on Wednesday when word of the landslide reached emergency responders.

Attempts to reach the miners were then slowed by debris from landslides that blocked roads and a torrential downpour that delayed a helicopter carrying supplies by several hours.

Brigadiers and underground mining experts sent by Peruvian precious metals miner Buenaventura eventually joined a small rescue team that was initially made up of volunteer firefighters from a nearby province.

Meliton Huaraca, the father of one of the trapped miners, urged President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski to send more help.—*Reuters*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cuba-US ties uncertain under Trump

HAVANA — Under Donald Trump, the future of the ties between Havana and Washington remains uncertain, despite a recent thaw, according to a Cuban expert. Trump will be sworn in as the 45th president of the United States on Friday.

Luis Suarez, a Cuban expert on international relations, believes Trump's administration will maintain some of Barack Obama's policies towards Cuba, but revert others. "They are going to make a case-by-case analysis of which policies are suitable, not only for the bilateral relationship, but for their own interests," Suarez told Xinhua in a recent interview. Certain bilateral agreements on security matters, for example, enjoy bipartisan support in the US Congress and benefit Washington's national security interests. "Cuba is perceived by the designers of US military and security policies as an ally in the fight against drug trafficking, uncontrolled migration and transnational crimes, and Trump shouldn't modify that," said the academic, a professor at Havana's Higher Institute of International Relations.—*Xinhua*

Wikileaks' founder Assange says stands by US extradition offer

LONDON — WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange, who has been holed up at Ecuador's London embassy since 2012, said on Thursday he stood by his offer to be extradited to the United States providing his rights were protected.

Assange said last week he would accept extradition if former military intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning were freed and on Wednesday US President Barack Obama commuted Manning's 35-year sentence, meaning she will be released in May.

"I stand by everything I said including the offer to go to the United States if Chelsea Manning's sentence was commuted," Assange said in a live online audio news conference. "It's not going to be commuted (until) May. We can have many discussions to that point."

Obama said Manning, who was responsible for a 2010 leak of classified materials to Assange's anti-secrecy group, the biggest such breach in US history, had served a tough prison term and that justice had been served.

However, he denied that the commutation was granted because of Assange's offer. Manning, formerly known as US Army Private First Class Bradley Manning, was born male but revealed after being convicted of espionage that she identifies as a woman. The White House said her sentence would end on 17 May this year. Asked by Reuters if he would hand now hand himself over to the authorities, Assange, 45, who fled to the Ecuadorean embassy to avoid extradition to Sweden over allegations of rape, said there was no change in his position. He said US authorities should drop their case against him or unseal their charges against him.

"We look forward to having a conversation with the DoJ (Department of Justice) about what the correct way forward is," he said.—*Reuters*

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange makes a speech from the balcony of the Ecuadorian Embassy, in central London, Britain in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

France says duck cull mostly over as bird flu stabilises

PARIS — France will scale back preventive slaughtering of ducks to counter bird flu after the culling of 800,000 birds this month helped slow the spread of the disease in the southwest, the country's agriculture minister said on Thursday.

France resorted to a mass cull after the highly contagious H5N8 strain of bird flu started spreading among farms in the southwest, the country's main production zone for the duck and goose liver speciality foie gras.

"We have passed the peak in preventive culling," Stephane Le Foll told reporters. "We have zones where the situation has started to stabilise."

The 800,000 birds culled preventively were in addition to about 1 million that died or were slaughtered at farms where the H5N8 virus was detected, he said.

France had confirmed 152 cases of H5N8 bird flu on farms as of Thursday, and is one of a number of European countries to have been affected by the virus since late last year.

The outbreak has exasperated farmers in southwest France who already experienced an epidemic of different bird flu strains a year ago, which led authorities to suspend foie gras production.

Le Foll pledged that remaining compensation due from last year's crisis would be paid in April and that farmers hit again this year would start receiving from March further aid worth "several tens of millions of euros", he said.

Last year's compensation package was estimated at around 130 million euros, co-financed by France and the European Union.

The authorities and the foie gras industry would also study longer-term measures to reduce bird flu risks, including a rethink of the transporting of animals which has been blamed for spreading the disease in southwest France, Le Foll said.—*Reuters*

Rising Kenyan tea, coffee export prices to ease drought impact

A worker picks tea at a plantation in Githunguri near Kenya's capital Nairobi, in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

NAIROBI — Rising prices for Kenyan tea and coffee exports will help offset the impact from a drought that has been hurting the East African nation's agriculture after poor rains late last year, according to officials and traders.

The average price of coffee rose 30 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year from a year earlier, driving up total earnings by 69 per cent in the period. The average tea price has risen 10 per cent this year compared to a year ago.

Farming accounts for more than a quarter of the East African nation's annual economic output of $62 billion. Coffee and tea exports are a major source of foreign exchange earnings.

Richard Lesiyampe, the principal secretary in the Agriculture Ministry, said farmers have been hurt by inadequate rainfall during the usual October to December "short rains".

"Because of the depressed rainfall, definitely we are going to have a challenge on all our crops including the cash crops. The short rains failed us," he told Reuters.

But he said improving coffee and tea prices at the locally held auctions help offset impact.

The Nairobi Coffee Exchange reported a 30 per cent jump in average coffee prices year-on-year to $228.64 per 50 kg bag in the three months to end-December and said the trend continued.

"We have seen an upsurge," said Daniel Mbithi, the chief executive of the exchange, attributing the rise to high quality beans and depressed output from Brazil and other rivals.

The value of coffee sold at the exchange in the last quarter of 2016 rose 69 per cent to $25.70 million from a year before.

International buyers often use Kenya's high quality arabica beans to mix with lower quality produce from other growers.

At the tea auction held in the port of Mombasa, the average price per kg jumped 10 per cent to $2.85 this week, compared with the same period last year, said Edward Mudibo, the managing director of the East Africa Tea Trade Association.

"There has been a little bit of enhanced demand in key consuming countries, Egypt, Pakistan and even the UK," he said.

Tea exports from Kenya, which is the world's biggest exporter of black tea, generated income worth 125.25 billion shillings ($1.21 billion) in 2015.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (161)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (161) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2017 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GIANG HAI 11 VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GIANG HAI 11 VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

Scorsese thanks Taiwan for bringing 'Silence' to life

TAIPEI — Director Martin Scorsese brought his religious film "Silence" back to Taiwan on Thursday, thanking it for providing the filming location for his decades long project.

Although "Silence" is set in Japan and tells the story of 17th century Christian missionaries at a time when Christianity was outlawed, it was filmed entirely in Taiwan.

"It's been a dream of mine that was brought to fruition here in this extraordinary country of Taiwan and it was a great inspiration and I hope it does justice to all of you," Scorsese told reporters ahead of the premiere in Taipei. "It's taken over 25 years to make and by the time we did get to make it, Taiwan was the place and the people that really brought the picture to life," the US director said.

The film stars Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver and Liam Neeson.—*Reuters*

US director Martin Scorsese smiles as he receiving flowers from Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien (R) during the premiere of 'Silence', in Taipei, Taiwan, on 19 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

I want to work with Ryan Gosling: Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone and Ryan Gosling. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — After making her Hollywood debut opposite Vin Diesel, Bollywood star Deepika Padukone wants to work with Ryan Gosling as she loved his performance in La La Land.

The 31-year-old Bollywood star, who made her international debut with xXx: Return of Xander Cage, said Gosling is on her wishlist, reported USA Today.

"There's so much of that movie that works: the acting, the honesty, the songs. It's one of those classic love stories that is told in such an interesting manner visually. "He's absolutely brilliant and he's definitely someone I want to work with," Deepika said. The actress was the only Indian star to have made it to Forbes' annual top-10 list which also included Jennifer Lawrence, Julia Roberts and Jennifer Aniston and during the interview she also addressed the issue of gender pay gap. "Do I fight for it? Yes, of course I fight for it," Deepika said. "But I fight for it silently. I fight for it through my work," she added. "xXx: Return of Xander Cage" released in India last week on 12 January.

Meanwhile, after her adorable appearance on The Ellen DeGeneres Show where she spoke about her father Prakash Padukone, her career and her crush on Vin Diesel, the actor appeared on The Late Late Show With James Corden. And this time, she had xXx: the Return of Xander Cage co-star Vin Diesel in tow. She greeted everyone with a namaste and she dripped star presence. Vin Diesel and Deepika Padukone's lungi dance in India went viral and Corden was all agog what exactly is lungi dance, although he pronounced it 'langi'.—*PTI*

China extends Hollywood push with $1 billion Paramount investment

NEW YORK — Viacom Inc's Paramount Pictures will receive a $1 billion cash investment from two Chinese film companies, Shanghai Film Group (SFG) and Huahua Media, giving the US studio much-needed cash and support as it attempts to grow.

As part of the agreement, SFG and Huahua Media will finance a combined 25 per cent of all of Paramount's films for the next three years, with the option to extend to a fourth year, a source familiar with the situation said.

The deal comes as parent company Viacom focuses on a turnaround plan under new Chief Executive Officer Bob Bakish.

It also follows a spate of tie-ups between China and US producers, with Chinese investors increasingly keen to lend their financial muscle to boost their stake in Hollywood.

US studios such as Warner Bros, Walt Disney Co, Dreamworks, Lionsgate and STX Entertainment have all made tie-ups with Chinese firms to fund productions or help boost their presence in China's fast-growing film market.

Last year, Chinese real estate conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group spent $3.5 billion to buy a controlling stake in US film studio Legendary Entertainment, while Paramount worked with Alibaba Pictures Group Ltd in 2015 to promote "Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation" in China.

The studio could now use the latest partnership as an entry point into China, Paramount CEO Brad Grey told Reuters in an interview, adding that the studio would someday be interested in producing films in the country.

"Certainly Paramount would love to produce films (in China) and we think that should be a win for us," Grey said.

The agreement marks the first major move by Grey since Viacom's former CEO, Philippe Dauman, tried to sell a 49 per cent stake in the movie studio to Dalian Wanda last year.

"This will give Paramount the wherewithal to build the slate and produce, as a major studio should, 15-17 movies a year," Grey said. Over the past few years, under Dauman, Paramount's production fell as low as eight films in a given year.

"You really can't operate a major studio with that," Grey said, referring to the lower figure.

Shanghai Film Group and Huahua Media said in a joint statement with Paramount that they were keen to deepen their cooperation on film projects through the deal. Both firms declined to comment further when contacted by Reuters on Friday.

Huahua has partnered with Paramount on several films, including "Transformers: the Age of Extinction" and "Star Trek Beyond". State-linked Shanghai Film Group was an investor in "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back".

Viacom shares moved higher in Thursday afternoon trading but pared gains to close at $39.80. —*Reuters*

A security guard speaks into a microphone in his sleeve as he stands outside the Viacom Inc. headquarters in New York in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

Andrew Garfield embracing the Oscar hype around 'Hacksaw Ridge'

LONDON — Older and wiser, actor Andrew Garfield said he has learnt to deal with the hoopla around awards season and is revelling in the Oscar buzz surrounding war drama "Hacksaw Ridge".

The 33-year-old actor plays American army medic Desmond Doss in the Mel Gibson-directed "Hacksaw Ridge", which tells the true story of how Doss served on the front lines in Japan during the Second World War without carrying a gun and saved 75 lives.

It is expected to feature on the Oscar nomination list, released on Tuesday, with Garfield happy for the attention after previous struggles following his BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations for "The Social Network" in 2011.

"I'm a bit older so I feel a bit more comfortable in those rooms," the California-born and British-raised "Spider-man" actor told Reuters at a screening of "Hacksaw Ridge" in London on Wednesday.

Actor Andrew Garfield (L) and director Mel Gibson arrive at the 22nd Annual Critics' Choice Awards in Santa Monica, California, US, on 11 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I'm not as panicky because it's an overwhelming thing ... It's very stressful but this time it's been kind of fun and fine and enjoyable and I feel a bit more comfortable."

"Hacksaw Ridge" has grossed $157 million globally since its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival in September and opens in British cinemas on 27 January.—*Reuters*

Weak pound lures American tourists to Britain, but Europeans unmoved

LONDON — North American tourists flocked into Britain to take advantage of the weak pound after last year's Brexit vote, but spending by European tourists — far greater in number — slipped compared with a year earlier.

Taken as a whole, Thursday's official data suggested there was little immediate boost from the weak pound to Britain's tourism industry during the three months after June 23's referendum, typically the busiest period of the year.

Domestic and foreign tourism accounts directly for about 4 per cent of Britain's economy, according to official statistics, though the industry says the broader contribution is larger.

Britain's economy has exceeded most forecasters' expectations since the vote to leave the European Union, which sent the pound to a record low against a basket of currencies.

While this has already produced clear signs of inflation, evidence for a boost to exports — and now tourism — has been mixed so far.

Total spending by overseas tourists, seasonally adjusted, fell to 5.4 billion pounds ($6.7 billion) for July to September from 5.6 billion pounds in the second quarter, the Office for National Statistics said.

Meanwhile, the actual number of visitors increased only marginally to 10.655 million from 10.5 million a year earlier.

But there were big shifts in the composition of visitors from different countries.

The number of North American tourists visiting Britain during the third quarter rose to 1.543 million from 1.397 million a year earlier — a more than 10 per cent increase.

Their spending increased by 202 million pounds to 1.359 billion pounds, a 17 per cent rise that is roughly equivalent to the pound's depreciation against the US dollar between the third quarters of 2015 and 2016.

"(This) does suggest that there was some boost coming from the plunge in the pound against the dollar following the late-June Brexit vote," said Howard Archer, economist at IHS Markit.

"There were reports that retail sales were boosted over the summer by foreign visitors taking advantage of the weak pound to buy expensive items such as jewellery and watches."

However, there was little sign the weaker pound did much to attract European visitors, who usually account for about three-quarters of all tourists in Britain.

Their spending edged down to 3.289 billion pounds from 3.348 billion pounds a year earlier, despite the pound having weakened against the euro by around 14 per cent during that period.

The number of visitors from other European countries was little changed at about 7 million.

Prime Minister Theresa May has described tourism as "vitally important" to Britain and wants to make the country a more attractive destination as it leaves the EU.—*Reuters*

Tourists on a sightseeing bus pass the Houses of Parliament, in London, in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

A technician combs the hair of a waxwork of US President-elect Donald Trump at the Musee Grevin in Paris, France, on 19 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

That was hairy — Paris wax museum plays catchup with Trump dummy

PARIS — A Paris wax museum unveiled a Donald Trump effigy with real human hair on Thursday, having being caught off guard with a half-ready figure of Hillary Clinton when he won the US presidential election in November.

The Grevin museum went into overdrive to produce its wax lookalike of Trump for an appearance on the eve of Friday's White House handover.

Unlike the Trump dummy who has just taken up residence at London's Madame Tussauds, the Parisian version uses human rather than yak hair to reproduce his distinctive coiffure.

"It was hard to get the right color," Grevin spokeswoman Veronique Berecz said. "It had to be put in one by one but it's natural. It allows us to wash his hair."—*Reuters*

Russian Orthodox believers take icy plunge on Epiphany day

MOSCOW — Hundreds of thousands of Russian Orthodox believers took a plunge into sub-zero waters across Europe on Thursday to wash off their sins as part of Epiphany feast day celebrations.

The annual 19 January commemoration of the baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River saw more than 150,000 people dip into several ice holes across Moscow, Tass news agency said.

Temperatures were around minus nine degrees Celsius (16F) in the Russian capital, and one child screamed as he hit the frigid water while other people reached hurriedly for towels after braving the pools.

"I advise everybody to do this. This is cool, feels like you are reborn," Moscow resident Elena said after her plunge.

Similar icy dips took place around the country and in Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus, while swimmers in Serbia and Bosnia marked the feast day by taking part in races in freezing waters. —*Reuters*

A man takes a dip in icy waters of the Dnieper river during Orthodox Epiphany celebrations in the town of Vyshgorod, Ukraine, on 19 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(21-1-2017 07:00am ~ 22-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon-The Architectural Heritage
07:52	Am	Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Pa Khan Traditional Nat Festival In Ku Ni Village (Part-2)
08:52	Am	Tea Leaves
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Welcome To Naga Land
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation (DJ Tyrah T)
10:36	Am	Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Journey for Healthy Future (The 36th Geumsan Insam Festival) Day 2
07:47	Pm	Today Myanmar: Yangon Bus Service
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-2) Student Life & Early Literary Career
08:52	Pm	Egg Shell

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

9th Waning of Pyatho 1378 ME | Saturday, 21 January 2017

Murray avoids Djokovic fate to reach fourth round

MELBOURNE — With Novak Djokovic's reign broken, Andy Murray boosted his claim to the Melbourne Park throne with a comprehensive 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win over American Sam Querrey to reach the fourth round of the Australian Open on Friday.

Top seed Murray, beaten in four of his five finals in Melbourne by Djokovic, has become raging favourite after the Serb's stunning second round exit on Thursday and the Briton lived up to the billing by trouncing Querrey in a tick under two hours at the Hisense Arena.

Murray was among the many surprised by Djokovic's elimination but was neither dancing on the Serb's grave nor talking up his own hopes of a maiden title in Melbourne.

"It doesn't change anything unless I was to potentially reach the final, because I can't play Novak in the fourth round or in the third round," Murray told reporters after setting up a clash with unseeded German Mischa Zverev.

"I don't worry about that, really. Obviously, if you're to get to the final, then it has an effect. A lot of the times when I've been in the final here, I've played against him. Had some tough ones."

Britain's Andy Murray hits a shot during his Men's singles third round match against Sam Querrey of the US, Australian Open, at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia on 20 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Djokovic's departure aside, Murray appeared free of another bugbear, showing no discomfort on the right ankle he twisted in his previous win against Russian teenager Andrey Rublev.

Although he cruised through the first two sets, the ankle was given a good work-out in the third by the desperate Querrey who dumped Djokovic out of Wimbledon at the same stage last year.

Querrey relied on his huge serve to get him out of myriad jams against Djokovic in that upset but his main weapon misfired for much of the Murray match on a cool, breezy afternoon.

More renowned for his outstanding returning game, Murray finished with eight aces to Querrey's five and broke him five times.

The Scot had a pre-game chat with 11-times grand slam champion Rod Laver and placed a number of sumptuous lobs over the rangy American that would have impressed the Australian great.

One of them captured the break at 4-4 in the opening stanza, a marathon game of 14 points, and Murray rode the momentum to a two-set lead in just over an hour.

The last of 14 Americans in the men's draw, Querrey slipped on a fresh shirt for the third set and the wardrobe change seemed to help.

He rallied from 2-0 down, winning three straight games and breaking Murray for the first time to leave the Scot barking his frustration. But Murray captured the decisive break in the ninth game with two points that showcased his speed and appetite for gut-busting running.

Flung back and forth across the court by Querrey, Murray chased down ball after ball and the flustered American netted the simplest of volleys to give up break point.

Murray then smacked a passing shot to take his serve and after blowing a first match point with a double-fault, he made no mistake with a huge serve on the second.

"I thought I moved much better today than I did in the first two matches, which is really positive for me," said Murray.

"Each match I think I've improved a little bit. That's a good sign. Hopefully I keep getting better."—*Reuters*

Barca beat Sociedad away, Atletico cruise in Cup

BARCELONA — King's Cup holders Barcelona beat Real Sociedad 1-0 in their quarter-final first leg to end a nine-and-a-half year barren spell at home of the Basque side while Atletico Madrid crushed Eibar on Thursday.

Brazil forward Neymar won and scored a penalty in the 21st minute after being tripped by Aritz Elustondo to decide the game but spurned two clear chances after the break that would have given Barca a more comfortable lead in the tie.

Sociedad had not lost to Barcelona at their Anoeta home in any competition since 2007 and could have struck an early blow when Willian Jose went down in the box in the first minute after a challenge from Gerard Pique but was denied a penalty.

Spain defender Pique made a vital block later in the first half to prevent Asier Illarramendi levelling from the edge of the box after a lay off from Carlos Vela.

Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Real Sociedad's Yuri Berchiche and Inigo Martinez in action during Spanish King's Cup at Anoeta Stadium, San Sebastian Spain, on 19 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Teenager Mikel Oyarzabal, scorer of the only goal in a Sociedad victory over Barca last April, came closest for the home side, firing just wide of the far post in a sweeping breakaway move midway through the second half.

"We had to work very hard for this result. The win gives us a lot of belief because it's such a difficult stadium for us but seeing how Real Sociedad play we know it's still going to be complicated," Barca coach Luis Enrique told reporters.

"We focused very hard to stop their transitions and limit their high pressing game. This is the first step to the semi finals but 1-0 is still a result which gives the opponent a chance."

The second leg at the Nou Camp takes place next Thursday.

Earlier, Atletico Madrid put one foot in the semi-finals as they eased to a 3-0 win over Eibar, thanks to goals from Antoine Griezmann, Angel Correa and Kevin Gameiro.

Griezmann headed Atletico in front in the 28th minute and Argentine winger Correa doubled their advantage on the hour by sweeping the ball home after a run by Yannick Carrasco, netting Atletico's 500th goal under coach Diego Simeone.—*Reuters*

Pochettino backs Guardiola to be successful at City

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino expects counterpart Pep Guardiola to have a few tricks up his sleeves when Manchester City host the north London side on Saturday.

A run of six successive victories in the Premier League has lifted Tottenham to second in the table and, City, despite their recent struggles, are not far behind as they sit fifth after 21 games.

"Be careful, they're only three points behind us and they're in the Champions League. The judgment is at the end (of the season)," Pochettino told British media when asked if he felt Guardiola was struggling in his first season in England.

City made a flying start under Guardiola, winning their first 10 games in all competitions, but have won just nine times in 22 matches since. They are currently 10 points behind leaders Chelsea.

Pochettino, however, backed his under-fire counterpart to silence the doubters.

"I know Pep Guardiola very well, he's a great manager, one of the best, and you can expect different things," he said. "When you arrive at a new club you need to adapt your values to a new culture, and it's difficult, but I don't change my opinion of him.

"I am not someone who judges other people. The expectation was massive when Guardiola signed. People thought he would win the Premier League after 10 games. That's impossible. But I have no doubt that with time he will be a success."—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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