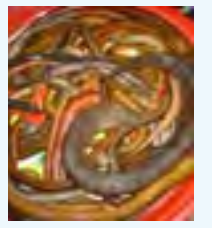
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

■ NATIONAL
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Chairman of JCCI Mr. Akio Mimura
▶ PAGE 3

■ ANALYSIS
Myanmar's Path to Peace Requires Patience
▶ PAGE 8



■ LOCAL BUSINESS
Myanmar, Japanese companies to farm eels for export
▶ PAGE 5

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President attends Children's Literature Festival

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and the First Lady attended the opening ceremony of the Children's Literature Festival and Book Fair in Mandalay, with the President delivering the opening address.

The festival, which was jointly organised by the Ministry of Information and the Mandalay Region Government, was formally opened by President U Htin Kyaw, Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Dr Myint Htwe, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung and students at the Myanma Institute of Information Technology of Chanmya Tharzi Township in Mandalay.

President U Htin Kyaw called for revitalising the development of literature for children, warning that failure to nurture the development of children's literature could destroy not only the future of the children but also that of the country.

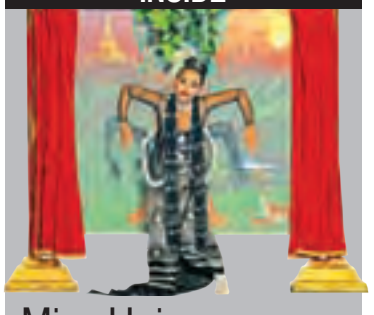
"In the past, children's literature stood tall in the grand hall of Myanmar literature, but its grandeur faded away due to various reasons," he said.

He expressed his delight to see the Children's Literature Festival held in historic Mandalay,

SEE PAGE 3 >>

President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin are welcomed by children as they arrive Children's Literature Festival in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

INSIDE



Miss Universe beauty pageant kicks off in Manila
▶ PAGE 14

HUMANITARIAN AID ARRIVES IN MAUNGTAW

Maung Zaw (MNA)

HUMANITARIAN aid donated by the Republic of Indonesia were provided to villages in Maungtaw yesterday morning in a fair and orderly manner, officials said.

Members of district and township management committees, Hluttaw representatives, clergy, UN organisations, townselders and responsible officials went to the villages to provide the subsidies through seven teams formed at 7am yesterday. "Through seven teams consisting of responsible officials, subsidies — wheat, biscuits, noodles and longyis — were provided to 52 villages of 24 village-tracts in Maungtaw region systematically.

The teams including Hluttaw representatives and townselders of Maungtaw gave subsidies in the presence of local people and religious organisations in the villages," said U Ye Htut, chairman of the district management committee.

SEE PAGE 2 >>

Officials deliver aid to people from Kyetyoepyin Village. PHOTO: PHO ZAW

President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Mr. Akio Mimura, Chairman of JCCI in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

President U Htin Kyaw receives chairman of JCCI

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Chairman Mr Akio Mimura of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Presidential Palace yesterday afternoon.

They discussed investment in Myanmar by Japanese businesses.

Also present were Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Khin Maung Cho, Dr Than Myint and U Kyaw Win and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar traditional cooking competition and festival being held

AN open-to-all Myanmar traditional cooking competition and a festival organised by the Myanmar Restaurant Entrepreneurs Association opened on Wednesday at Maidan on U Wisara Road, Dagon Township in Yangon. The prizes for winners of the cooking competition will be held on Sunday.

The traditional cooking contest is held in Myanmar with the aim of maintenance of Myanmar cuisine, revitalisation of cooking for charities and to encourage chefs to preserve Myanmar cooking style with the use of the traditional huge pots for parties and charities, according to the organising committee.

Eight teams from Group A participated by cooking pork curry, fried vegetables and other side dishes on the first day of the contest. Locals and foreigners feasted on the dishes that evening.

On Thursday, the second day of contest, eight teams from Group B competed and similarly feted visitors.

Ks50 lakh will be awarded to the first prize winner, while Ks30 lakh will be awarded to the first runner-up and Ks20 lakh for the second runner-up. There will also be consolation prizes. At the festival, there will be traditional pillow fight competitions, Myanmar Dopat (drum) competitions, Rakhine traditional 'Kyin' wrestling competitions, magic entertainments of Sakkawma and Myanma traditional boxing competitions. —*Soe Win (MLA)*

Border road being constructed in Pyigyimadaing, Taninthayi

MYEIK special road construction unit 24 has been constructing a border road to Yadarnarbon village, Pyigyimandaing town, Taninthayi region since 17 December, 2016, at a cost of Ks1billion from the Union budget, said engineer U Ko Ko Khine from construction unit 24.

The construction of the road will be completed by the end of March. The road will be 38 miles and 7 furlongs long. The road will be 40 feet wide between the 14th mile and Pyigyimandaing town, and 20 feet wide between the 14th mile and Yandarnarbon village.

Currently, 20 villagers are building the road with one backhoe and three bulldozers.

Upon completion, the road will be useful for the trading of regional products in Myeik and Yangon regions.—*Pyigyimandaing IPRD*

Bayer donates Bayer's Children Book on Climate Change to the Myanmar Ministry of Education

Ms. Siriporn Sae Lim (right), Branch Manager (Myanmar) of Bayer Thai Co., Ltd. donated 5,000 copies of Bayer's children book on climate change to the Ministry of Education, represented by Dr. Khaing Myae (left), Director General of Basic Education, for nationwide distributions to children in Myanmar. This activity was part of Bayer social commitment to support the students in the areas of science education and environment.

Bayer's children book on climate change is called "What's Up with the Earth?" originated with Bayer in China and resulted from the desire to provide fun interesting and helpful reading materials on climate change for kids. You can download this book in English, and Burmese version at the Bayer Thai website www.bayer.co.th.—*GNLM*

Humanitarian aid arrives in Maungtaw

>> FROM PAGE 1

U Nur Husin from Kyetyoepyin village of Maungtaw township said: "All the villagers were very happy to see humanitarian aid supported like this. We will accept further provisions of aid with happiness."

U Tun Tun Win, village administrator of Phawutchaung said: "As an administrator of the village, I would like to express our thanks on behalf of the both communities for supporting aid in person."

Humanitarian aid subsidised in Maungtaw Township

FOLLOWING the violent armed attacks in Maungtaw township, Rakhine State, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Border Affairs, international organisations including the World Food Programme (WFP), the Rakhine State Cabinet and individuals have donated humanitarian subsidies.

From November 4, 2016 to January 26, 2017 and from December 17, 2016 to January 26, 2017, humanitarian aid was sent to the area, according to the news released by the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Officials deliver aids to Pyaungpaik village in Maungtaw. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR OFFICE'S INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Humanitarian Assistance after 9/10 Attacks (October 9 Attacks) in Rakhine State (From 4-11-2016 to 26-1-2017)

Humanitarian Assistance after 9/10 Attacks (October 9 Attacks) in Rakhine State (From 17-12-2016 to 26-1-2017)

PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR OFFICE'S INFORMATION COMMITTEE

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Chairman of JCCI Mr. Akio Mimura

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received a Japanese delegation led by Mr. Akio Mimura, Chairman of The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 hrs yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to the promotion of more foreign direct investment into Myanmar including infrastructure development, regulatory reforms, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and human resources development.

They also exchanged views on the importance of establishing a framework to enable continued dialogue on economic and trade cooperation between Myanmar and Japan.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and other officials concerned also participated in the meeting.

To encourage Japanese companies to increase investment and expand their presence in Myanmar, it will be necessary for the country to improve such infrastructure as power supply and transportation systems, Mimura said during the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar's capital, Japan's Jiji Press reported.

He also sought the establishment of legal systems on investment and customs clearance and their transparent operations.

Mimura became the first leader of a Japanese business organization to meet with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, since her administration was launched in spring last year. Many Japanese companies are highly interested in doing business in Myanmar with high growth potential and the Japanese business circle will continue making contributions to the country's economic development through direct investment and technical assistance, Mimura told Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

He also stressed that it will be important for her country to foster small businesses and develop human resources to build the foundation for growth.

In addition, Mimura called for the creation of a framework for regular talks between the Myanmar government and the Japanese business circle.—*GNLM*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo together with Japanese delegation led by Mr. Akio Mimura, Chairman of The Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI). PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Henry Van Thio welcomes Thailand Ambassador Mr Pisanu Suvanajata in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

U Henry Van Thio receives Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar

U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received the delegation led by H.E. Mr Pisanu Suvanajata, ambassador to Myanmar from Thailand, in the diplomatic guest room in the President's Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In the meeting, the development of Dawei Special Economic Zone was discussed.

Also at the meeting were Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce and U Kyaw Zeya, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint concludes visit to UK

A Myanmar delegation led by U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, arrived back in Yangon yesterday morning after a six-day goodwill visit to Britain.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Linn Naing Myint, representatives of Hluttaw and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw's office.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint was accompanied with Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens' Fundamental Rights Affairs Committee U Saw, member of Bill Committee U Zaw Win, member of Hluttaw Rights Committee U Sai San Thein, member of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Dr. Daw Shwe Pon and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw's office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

President attends Children's . . .

>> FROM PAGE 1

with a view to developing the intellect and minds of children and making them love to read.

The President also thanked respective organizations for their cooperation in holding the Children's Literature Festival in Nay Pyi Taw and the Nobel Myanmar Literature Festival in Yangon.

Myanmar folktales, Myanmar children's poems and children's literature are the ones that will survive for us who were brought up in Myanmar rural areas, he said.

These kinds of literature plant seeds of patriotism in us, uplifting our spirits and encouraging us to serve the country and the people, and it can be said that we came to possess the spirit of courage to overcome any difficulties in our lives, he added.

The President also pointed out that technology spreads every day, and with wider access some kinds of games and content contribute to bad attitudes and behaviours, and the way we speak can deteriorate overnight.

"For these reasons, it will not be easy to organize them to learn to love reading and enjoy living in the environment of reading rooms," he said, " I hereby urge our people to make concerted efforts to make the future of our children brighter."

In conclusion, President U Htin Kyaw said that the development of children and the development of children's literature and libraries can have a great impact upon the country's future. Therefore he wanted to urge all to help in this task. He also wanted various organizations to provide assistance and cooperation so that children will become familiar with literature and find enjoyment in the literary environment.

Afterwards, the President and the First Lady inspected the exhibition room in commemoration of Sayagyi Min Thu Wun, a Burmese poet, writer and scholar who helped launch a new age literary movement called Khit-San Sarpay (New Age Literature) in Myanmar. He is also father of President U Htin Kyaw.

Then, the President, the First Lady and party inspected the exhibition halls on children literature and book-stalls, greeting those present at the ceremony. The Children's Literature Festival, Exhibition and Book-Fair will be held from January 27 to January 29, in which there will be entertainment programs, extempore talks, Origami Competitions—art of paper folding, painting contests, playing games, arts contests, literary talks and workshop on upgrading literature.—*Myanmar News Agency*

FITs most vulnerable to traffic accidents

Free Independent Tourists (FITs) are more vulnerable to traffic accidents than other tourists who visit Dawei, Taninthayi region, said Dawei region tourist safety police.

An FIT is an individual or small group traveling and vacationing with a self-booked itinerary. They are not members of traditional guided tour nor part of a marketed package. These tourists are more likely to rent local transport. Tourists who visit the region under the arrangement of travel and tour companies are not likely to tour on their own, rent local transport or meet with an accident.

"Our police mostly help FITs with loss of passports and traffic accidents, said Tint Naing Win, an official from Dawei region tourist safety police unit.

A traffic accident occurred in January 2017 and in 2016, five cases of accident occurred. All the cases involved FITs.

"We issued letters of instruction to hotels and guest houses to hire the motorbikes only to those holding international and local driving licenses," said an official from Dawei town hotel and tourism department.

The Dawei tourism safety police unit was formed in March 2015. Currently, four policemen patrol daily in the downtown area and twice a week in areas outside the city.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Dawei tourism safety policemen inspect FITs's motorcycles in Dawei. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Crime NEWS

High-rise building under construction in downtown Yangon catches fire

Firemen put out fire at 25-storey building in Pabaden Tsp. PHOTO: SOE WIN

A BUILDING under construction caught fire yesterday afternoon in Pabaden Township in downtown Yangon.

The fire started in the storeroom of Junction City Tower, the 25-storey building still under construction by the Shwe Taung Construction Group at the corner of Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road and Bogyoke Aung San Road, officials said. The fire services department, under the supervision of Director U Kyaw Thura and Yangon Region Fire Services Department Director U Kyi Win, rushed to the site and tried to put out the fire starting at about at 12.40 pm.

The fire services department, which included 24 fire engines, 12 supporting vehicles and five supervising vehicles with a total of 173 firemen, 40 reserved firemen and 70 members of the Red Cross, managed to place the fire under control at about 1:15pm.

About Ks1.2 million worth of cables were destroyed in the fire and its cause is still under investigation, officials said.—*Soe Win*

Vehicle catches fire at downtown Yangon

A VEHICLE caught fire on Anawrawhta Road in downtown Yangon yesterday afternoon.

A vehicle owned by King Service Wisdom Company driven by Ko Phone Thaw caught fire on its way from Pazundaung to Botahtaung in front of BEHS (6) in Botahtaung township.

The fire was caused by overheating wires, according to the police, and the fire brigade was able to put out the fire within ten minutes. The fire destroyed the dashboard, the windshield and the seats of the vehicle and action has been taken against the driver.—*Soe Win*

A fired vehicle is seen in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: MA SHWE

Hospital invites pregnant women with diabetes to join free healthcare plan

PREGNANT women with diabetes may join a free medical care programme provided by Yangon's North Okkalapa General Hospital every Friday, according to the hospital.

Dr Aye Cho, a diabetes specialist from the hospital, said the hospital continues to offer medical examinations and treatment to women who have contracted with diabetes during pregnancy free of charge, urging those patients to come to the hospital's out-patient department every Friday.

Medical professionals are giving suitable instructions and care a plan in order for patients to have a safe and healthy pregnancy, which includes monitoring the health of them and their babies.

Diabetes is a chronic disease in which the body cannot properly control the amount of sugar in the blood as it does not have enough insulin. It is the most common medical complication during pregnancy. Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks and stroke.

Healthy diet, regular physical activity, maintaining a normal body weight and avoiding tobacco use are ways to prevent or delay the onset of diabetes.

According to a study, diabetes has been found in one out of 100 pregnant women.

According to the World Health Organisation, the number of people with diabetes has risen from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014. The prevalence of diabetes has been rising more rapidly in middle-and low-income countries.—*200*

2nd Kids Fair to take place 10-12 February

THE SECOND Kids Fair 2017 will take place next month in Yangon to mark Myanmar Children's Day and the birthday of the country's fallen hero General Aung San, which falls on 13 February, according to an organising body.

Organized by EMG Marketing Group, the new event is scheduled to be held at Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, planning to display a wide variety of products for kids, mothers and pregnant women for sale at over 100 booths.

The fair, free to the public, will begin 10 February and will last until 12 February. Goods including healthy food, medicine, healthcare equipment, clothes, toys and related materials will be on sale.

According to organisers, painting, dancing and singing contests as well as traditional games will be held during the three-day event. The first Kids Fair held last year attracted over 12,000 people each day, the organiser said.—*200*

Myanmar Social Impact Forum in Yangon next month

MYANMAR Social Impact Forum 2017 is planned to take place in Yangon next month with a focus on highlighting local successes and creating potential for positive social impact in the country.

To provide a platform for exchanging ideas and discussing issues related to investment, philanthropy and social enterprise in Myanmar, the one-day forum is planned to be held at Yangon's Chatrium Hotel on the last day of February under the arrangement of the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network (AVPN), a unique funders' network based in Singapore.

A broad spectrum of stakeholders from Myanmar and the Asia Pacific region will be in attendance, including YOMA Strategic Holdings, Parami Energy and GIVO will participate in the discussion.

Social investment in energy initiatives in Myanmar and finding financing, impact investment and philanthropy will be discussed at the forum.

The AVPN plans to host workshops and roundtable discussions in the country in the coming months. Its first engagement in Myanmar was in November 2016, when the AVPN held a symposium on definitions in the social investment space in Yangon as part of the AVPN Asia Policy Dialogue series.

"The AVPN will replicate its regional platform at the country level in Myanmar to enable multi-sector collaboration and knowledge sharing," said Ms. Naina Subberwal Batra, CEO of the AVPN.—*GNLM*

LOCAL Business

FDA warns sellers not to sell chilli, curry masala powder laced with chemical extracts

THE Taninthayi branch of the Food and Drug Administration will start taking action against those who continue to sell bags of low-quality chilli and curry masala powder which is unfit for human consumption beginning next month.

The regional FDA found chilli and masala powder contaminated with toxic levels of chemicals during its inspection of stalls and 10 wholesale centers on 18 January in Dawei, warning them not to break the rules relating to the sale of unsafe foodstuff.

Both sellers and producers will face legal action under the National Foodstuff Law when they break the rules again, said Dr Hein Min Htet Aung, secretary of the regional FDA.

The Food and Drug Administration, under the Ministry of Health and Sports, recently released lists of 58 brands of tainted chilli powders and one brand of curry masala powder on 23 December after laboratory testing.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

International technology show opens in Yangon

INTERNATIONAL Technology & Industry Show-2017 kicked off yesterday at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon, with a formal opening by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials.

With more than 50 booths, the show is exhibiting modern technologies and machinery until 29thJanuary.

Organised by the Ministry of Industry and mainly sponsored by KBZ (Kanbawza) Bank, the show is aimed at contributing to the development of the country's industry sector.

The entrance to the exhibition is free.—*Thura Lwin (Eco)*

The International Technology & Industry Show opened by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)

A man carries chickens to the Chicken & Duck Market in Yangon on 12 January 2017. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Chicken shops to be opened in five ward markets, Yangon

Yangon City Development Committee has planned to open chicken shops which will sell for Ks 4,000 per viss in five ward markets in Yangon in February, in partnership with the Livestock, Breeding and Veterinary Department and the Boiler Chicken Breeding and Production Association, according to the breeder's association.

The chicken shops are being planned to open in Zamyinzwe and ward-2 markets in North Okkalapa township, the Aung San Market in Insein township, the Nagarmouk Market in Shwe Pyi Thar Towship and the Yadana market in Htaukkyant township. The Yangon region government is planning to open other similar chicken shops in 15 additional markets.

Currently, the price of chicken in the market is Ks6,000 per viss. The chicken shops will open with the aim of reducing the price of chickens in the markets and making the price fair for the consumers. The chicken will be sent to the markets using cold storage vehicles. Measures are being taken not to affect the retailers.

"The price of chicken in the breeding farm is Ks2,500 per viss. And the price of the chicken is Ks3,700 per viss for individual consumers and Ks 3,100 per viss for the retailers," said an official from Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.—*200*

Myanmar, Japanese companies to farm eels for export

MYANMAR is set to increase its exports of farmed eels to Japan, the world's biggest consumer of the fish, under a joint venture between companies from the two countries.

Under an agreement between Myanmar's Anawa Devi Fishing & General Trading Co-op Ltd. and Daiichi Koutsu Sangyo Co., a major Japanese taxi operator which has diversified into real estate, finance and other businesses, the firms will farm level-finned eels, which are consumed domestically but have not been cultured commercially yet, said Toe Nandar Tin, chairperson of the Myanmar company.

According to the agreement, Daiichi plans to invest $1 million in the project while Anawa Devi will provide land, research and other basic infrastructure. The project will start on a 1-hectare plot of land at Yangon Pauk Village in Dala Township, a southern part of Myanmar's business hub Yangon.

Last November, the two companies formed a new firm, Anawa Devi Daiichi Joint Venture Co., to manufacture fish fillets and value-added fishery products.

Toe Nandar Tin said the new business is also an attempt to establish eel cultivation in Myanmar, which mainly depends on capture fisheries for eel exports.

"We have lack of technology on eel farming," she said. "The drop in eel exports indicates that there are lesser fish stocks in nature as well and we need to cultivate eel for export rather than depending on capture fisheries," added Toe Nandar Tin, who is also the chair of the Myanmar Eel Entrepreneurs Association.

Myanmar mainly exports mud eels, which are particularly popular in China. The country used to export 12,000 tons at a maximum in the past, but was able to export only 7,000 tons last year and set the same export target figure for this year due to the lessening fish stocks.

Toe Nandar Tin said there is huge potential for level-finned eels in other markets besides China, as they are similar to Japanese eels.

According to a 2015 research report on Myanmar's inland fish farms, the fish farming industry grew rapidly over the past 10 years, posting an estimated 250 percent increase in fish farm output from the Delta region, which accounts for 90 percent of farmed fish in Myanmar.

Anawa Devi started its fishing business in 1977 and later expanded into food processing in 1997. It has pioneered the cultivation of hybrid catfish -- cross-bred between channel and blue catfish— in Myanmar. It also exports fish fillets to Australia.—*Kyodo News*

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

South Korean, US Marines tussle in snow in what North brands 'madcap' drill

PYEONGCHANG, (South Korea) — South Korean and US Marines are conducting military exercises on ski slopes in sub-freezing temperatures, including shirtless hand-to-hand combat in the snow, prompting warnings of retaliation from North Korea over "madcap mid-winter" drills.

More than 300 Marines are taking part, simulating combat on the ski slopes of Pyeongchang, host of the 2018 Winter Olympics, amid speculation North Korea could be planning another missile test in defiance of UN resolutions.

"US Marine Corps and ROK (Republic of Korea) Marine Corps partnered together at every level to build a camaraderie and friendship of the two countries' militaries but also to increase our proficiency in the event where we have to fight a war together," US Captain Marcus Carlstrom told reporters.

The training began on 15 January and ends on 3 February in Pyeongchang, about 180 km (115 miles) east of Seoul.

South Korean and US Marines participate in a winter military drill in Pyeongchang, South Korea. PHOTO: REUTERS

About 28,500 US troops are stationed in South Korea in joint defence against North Korea, which is under UN sanctions over a series of nuclear and missile tests and which regularly threatens to destroy the South and the United States.

Poverty-stricken, reclusive North Korea and the rich, democratic South are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

James Mattis, in his confirmation hearing as US defence secretary, described "the Pacific theatre" as a priority and analysts expect new US military spending under President Donald Trump to strengthen the US presence in Asia.

Topping US concerns in the region are North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programmes and China's military moves in the South China Sea.

North Korean media was dismissive of the exercises, but warned of retaliation.

"The colonial puppet forces, no more than a rabble, are keen on escalating the tension and the moves to ignite a war at a time when even their American master is at a loss how to cope with the DPRK's powerful nuclear deterrent," North Korea's Minju Joson newspaper, quoted by the KCNA news agency, said.

"... If the south Korean warmongers ignite a war against the DPRK, totally counting on the US, the revolutionary forces of the DPRK will wipe out the aggressors to the last man by fully displaying their tremendous might ..."

DPRK stands for Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.

Acting South Korean President Hwang Kyo-ahn said on Monday the deployment of a US anti-missile defence system should not be delayed in the face of the growing North Korean nuclear missile threat.

South Korean Defence Minister Han Min-koo said on Friday North Korea's nuclear weapons and missiles were "a direct and substantive threat" and ordered thorough military readiness, Yonhap News Agency said.—*Reuters*

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Singapore must renew economy to stay relevant to the world: Singapore PM

SINGAPORE — Singapore must renew its economy to stay relevant to the world as well as maintain vibrant and prosperous, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Friday in his Chinese New Year Message 2017.

Lee wishes all Singaporeans a Very Happy Lunar New Year via the message. As New Year is a time for thanksgiving and reflection, he urged Singaporeans to take a longer look back, to remind them how far the nation has come and what contribution the earlier generations have made in the past.

Lee said one important area of renewal for Singapore is the economy. Singapore must continue economic restructuring especially at this moment when there is such uncertainty in the global environment.

Singapore's economic growth was sluggish last year, although it picked up towards the end of 2016. He hopes the pickup will continue through this year, he said.

"In Singapore, we have always grown by renewing ourselves, taking our economy in fresh directions, opening new markets and fields of business. That is how we have stayed relevant to the world, vibrant and prosperous," said Lee.

The prime minister revealed that the Committee for the Future Economy will deliver its report soon, setting out strategies for growth in the next 10 to 15 years.

"Here in Singapore, we tackle our challenges together. Government, businesses and workers all play their part, coming together to plan ahead, support one another and seize new opportunities," Lee said. —*Xinhua*

Thailand jails man for 11 years for royal defamation, cyber crime

BANGKOK — A Thai military court on Friday jailed a man for 11 years and four months on charges of royal defamation and computer crime over his Facebook social media posts last year.

The country's strict lese-majeste law makes it a crime to defame, insult or threaten the king, queen, heir to the throne or regent. Each offence is punishable with a jail term of up to 15 years.

Burin Intin, 28, pleaded guilty to two charges of royal defamation and violating Thailand's Computer Crime Act over posts deemed insulting to the monarchy in a comment on Facebook and online chat, his lawyer, Anon Numpa, said.

He was detained on 27 April last year after taking part in a peaceful protest against the country's ruling junta, and held on remand in Bangkok, the capital, since 30 April.

Anon said he would not appeal against Friday's decision, but would submit a petition for a royal pardon.

Last month, Thailand's new King Maha Vajiralongkorn pardoned or commuted the sentences of up to 150,000 prison inmates, including some jailed under one of the world's toughest laws against royal insult. —*Reuters*

Spate of Australia shark attacks could take a bite out of tourism

SYDNEY — A series of shark attacks off Australia's northeast coast has given the tourism industry the shudders, prompting a controversial deployment of protective nets to save lives and guard the country's reputation as a holiday destination.

Australia ranked behind only the United States in the number of unprovoked shark encounters with humans last year, the International Shark Attack File of the University of Florida shows.

There have been 16 attacks in the last two years, data from the Shark Research Institute shows, including one death, off the coast of New South Wales, a region favoured by tourists for its proximity to the international gateway of Sydney.

"When I surf, I always think about sharks," French tourist Alexandre Monteiro, 22, told Reuters. "Mostly when it's cloudy, or when the water is not clear."

The tourism industry, which supports one in three jobs and brings about A$3.7 billion into the regional economy, hailed the federal government's use of a national interest exemption to permit shark nets on five beaches over the busy summer holidays.

"Whenever there is a life at stake something needs to be done," Cameron Arnold, chairman of tourism body the North Coast Destination Network, told Reuters.

Current environmental laws ban such nets, but a decades-long netting programme in heavily-populated areas such as Sydney and northern Queensland dates from before the laws were adopted.

While closely watched by businesses at holiday sites around the nation, the new shark nets have sparked heated debate over their usefulness and the harm they cause to marine life. "We will see humpback whales, mothers and calves, getting entangled in the nets," said Jeff Hansen, managing director of conservation group Sea Shepherd Australia. "We're going to see an increase in turtles, rays and seals trapped and killed in these nets."

The nets, about 150 metres (164 yards) long and six metres (7 yards) deep, stretch along roughly 200 km (124 miles) of coast between the cities of Newcastle and Wollongong. Only the South African province of KwaZulu-Natal has a netting programme on a similar scale.—*Reuters*

A surfer carries his board into the water next to a sign declaring a shark sighting on Sydney's Manly Beach, Australia, on 24 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Many airports in Japan fail to meet safety norms for runway overruns

TOKYO — Runways at three quarters of the airports in Japan, including the country's busiest gateways Narita and Haneda, do not meet safety standards to prevent severe accidents when planes overrun, according to the transport ministry.

The "runway end safety area" should extend at least 90 meters from the end of a runway strip, but this requirement is not met at 73 out of 97 airports nationwide, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism told Kyodo News on Friday.

Last week, an All Nippon Airways plane skidded off a runway after landing at New Chitose Airport in Hokkaido. No one was injured and the plane avoided serious damage after it plowed into snow in the safety area, indicating it was sufficient to mitigate an accident.

The ministry has set up a review team and is expected to draw up a plan by March to promote installations of required safety areas. If no space beyond runways can be secured, the ministry may consider shortening runways or introducing a system to forcibly decelerate planes.

The government safety standards were established in 2013 but a total of 75 runways at the 73 airports did not fulfill the criteria as of the end of 2016.

They include the shorter of the two runways at Narita, where expansion has faced opposition from local land owners, and one of the four runways at Haneda, which is stretched close to the sea leaving no further space for the safety area. Both hubs serve Tokyo. —*Kyodo News*

22 killed in rain-related accidents in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least 22 people were killed and scores others injured in separate rain-related accidents in Pakistan over the last four days, local Urdu media and officials said Friday.

The country's southwestern Balochistan Province was the worst hit area as 17 people were killed and 18 others injured in separate incidents of rain and snowfall, said the Provincial Disaster Management Authority of Balochistan on Friday.

The authority said that most of the casualties happened due to roof collapse incidents in Sherani, Qalat, Mustang districts and provincial capital of Quetta.

In the country's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, five people were killed and several others injured when their vehicle fall into a ravine due to slippery roads after heavy downpour, local Urdu TV channel Dunya said.

Balochistan province received the heaviest downpour over the last four days where 44mm rainfall was recorded.

Home Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti said that road route of several districts including Ziarat and Kalat to other areas have been blocked due to heavy snowfall, stranding the residents inside their houses at various places. He said that a large number of mud houses collapsed in Khaliqabad area of Kalat district, rendering the residents homeless, adding that the provincial government is distributing relief items among snowfall-affected families and is making all-out efforts to facilitate the victims.

He added that Pakistan Army Aviation also provided two MI-17 helicopters on the request of Balochistan government for carrying out relief operation in snow-hit areas of Kalat division.

Local weather office said that the current spell of rains in the country is almost over and cold and dry weather is expected in most parts of the country from Friday. —*Xinhua*

People warm themselves around fire during the rain in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 27 January 2017. At least 22 people were killed and scores others injured in separate rain-related accidents in Pakistan over the last four days, local Urdu media and officials said on Friday. PHOTO: XINHUA

Indonesia detains former finance official for suspected IS links

JAKARTA — A former Indonesian finance ministry official has been detained on his return home after being deported from Turkey for trying to cross into Syria on suspicion of intending to join Islamic State, Indonesian authorities said on Friday.

Police identified the man as Triyono Utomo and said he was detained along with his wife and three children after they arrived back in the Indonesian island of Bali on Wednesday.

The finance ministry issued a statement to "clarify media reports about an ex-finance ministry official" being detained, but it did not give his name.

"He was a former civil servant at the finance ministry," the ministry said, adding that the man had held a junior position and had resigned in early 2016, saying he wanted to set up an Islamic school on the outskirts of the capital, Jakarta.

"No legal assistance will be provided to him," the ministry said. Utomo and his family were in detention on Friday and not available for comment. It was not clear if he had a lawyer.

National police spokesman Rikwanto said Utomo and his family would be held for questioning for seven days, and it would then be decided whether or not to proceed with the investigation. Media said Utomo had studied for a post-graduate degree in Australia.

Hundreds of people from Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country, have attempted to travel to Syria in the past few years. Some have been on humanitarian missions, some trying to join militant groups including Islamic State.

Indonesia has seen a recent resurgence in militant activity, inspired in part by Islamic State.

Last year, four men linked to the group mounted a gun and numb attack in the heart of the capital and killed four people.

It was the first attack in the region to be claimed by Islamic State.—*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.

Time to Remove the Practice of Glass Ceiling!

Khin Maung Oo

EVERY individual is born with nothing in their hands. But, their original status and inborn opportunity may differ from each other, depending upon the environment into which they are born, without any opportunity to choose. Children born into the wealthy families have favorable situations for survival compared to those born into poor families. Yet, we cannot say that the former ones will be superior to the latter kinds throughout their lives. Qualities and efforts push people to higher places on the totem pole of their status, according to their concerted contribution. As known by all, qualifications and skills are not gifts given by God. In fact, we all are the Creator of our lives. Once in the past, we used to recite two well-known mottos. One is, "Contribute to your ability, Take according to your contribution." Another one is, "Contribute to your ability, Take according to your need." Obviously, the first one will be our favorite and none of us like the second.

We can accumulate abilities, skills, knowledge and mastery through our effort. In this way, some people come to possess the above-said features to the remarkable extent. However, some had not had any opportunities to have exhibited their abilities throughout their lives. Why? The fact is attributed to social, racial and gender discrimination. These practices existed since long before, and they are surviving in the world including in Myanmar, until now. Nepotism & cronyism are burying abilities, skills, qualifications and powers of the qualified ones. In our country, there were outstanding women in educational and literary fields. To put it simply, the whole nation, especially students benefits from their works and efforts. Yet, women seldom held key posts in bodies operating the administrative machinery of the government. Likewise, there used to be many qualified and able men who vanished among the masses without reaching top posts. Generally speaking, they can be said to have lost their opportunities for the progress of their lives. If we think it carefully, the country suffered a great loss. In other word, our country lost its future. A good leader can steer followers under him or her. As per usual, followers tend to emulate their leader. "A leading bull goes straight for pasture-land, fellow cows from the same herd follow it straight," as a Myanmar saying goes. Had good, moral and qualified leaders managed every department in the country, our country would have developed enough for other countries to be amazed. Who will deny the dilapidated conditions of administrative machinery can lead to a breach of rule of law. Our society was ruined by the practice of glass ceiling, which is meant the imaginary barrier that stops women, or other groups, from getting the best jobs in a company, etc. although there are no official rules to prevent them from getting these jobs. Student girls are still subject to—gender discrimination—old blind-fold university selection system, so far.

With changing into a federal democratic modernized and developed Union, our country is starting to pave ways for females to have an access to take part in building the Nation. Now, women are taking parliamentarian seats in the Hluttaws. Presently, most girls came to the front line of initiative works—a part of the nation-building launched by our government to contribute their voluntary labor. They depicted their desire, willingness, courage and firm determination. I dare say women will unveil the practice of glass ceiling in near future.

Myanmar's Path to Peace Requires Patience

U Thaung Tun

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Myanmar's Path to Peace Requires Patience

An independent commision led by Kofi Annan will help us find a solution to the suffering in Rakhine State.

By U THAUNG TUN

MYANMAR has been the focus of international attention in recent weeks as unrest in Rakhine State has made headlines around the world. Observers have been quick to make graphic assertions, with reports claiming widespread atrocities.

The government has been accused of indifference to the plight of the people of Rakhine. Our leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who has fought so hard for democracy, has been accused of standing by in silence.

This could not be further from the truth. The government is fully alive to the situation in Rakhine and has already taken steps to address the issues and restore peace and stability. I have been appointed to the new role of national-security advisor precisely to ensure the safety of everyone in Myanmar, and in response to international concern regarding Rakhine in particular.

I am totally committed to ensuring that the country is safe and secure. I care deeply about all the people of Rakhine, and undertake to protect them.

It is time that we pause to separate truth from fiction, however, before rushing to condemn. The situation in Rakhine State is complex and challenging. Serious mistakes have been made over the years, leading to fear and distrust, compounded by chronic underdevelopment. There is no denial that the Rakhine Muslims have suffered, as have the Buddhist Rakhine, who fear they are becoming a minority in their homeland.

We have a responsibility to provide hope for all the people of Rakhine. But to do this, we must focus on resolving the problems, rather than inflaming them. The situation is not helped when people deny the very real challenges we face.

The International Crisis Group recently acknowledged we are witnessing a new radicalized and armed insurgency in Myanmar, funded and inspired from abroad. This is a worrying and dangerous escalation by forces that do not have the interests of these communities at heart, but use them as pawns in their own game.

It is made worse by propaganda and misinformation. Recently, horrific stories have been carried by media internationally. One showed harrowing footage of a child being tortured, supposedly by Myanmar security forces. But this happened in Cambodia, not Myanmar.

Let me be clear, there is no excuse for excessive force, for murder or rape. Where there is evidence, we will act on it.

For example, we moved swiftly to detain police officers after a video emerged showing security forces committing abuses against Muslim Rakhine. We have also established a national committee to investigate alleged abuses, drawn from the Muslim and Buddhist communities.

A number of sources indicate that we are seeing a sophisticated campaign designed to discredit and destabilize the Myanmar government. To counter this, we must focus on real, lasting solutions to real problems.

That is why we have established an independent commission, headed by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, which will assist our government in finding solutions. Aided by the U.N. and others, we are providing humanitarian assistance to build stability in the region. I believe that this independent approach is the way forward, allowing us to deliver a better future for the people of Rakhine in a united Myanmar.

Finally, what is happening in Rakhine cannot be seen in isolation. It is just over a year since our first democratic elecitons in 50 years. We are working hard to build peace, prosperity and a democratic future.

Our leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, was held under house arrest for 15 years before the election, and we have had to learn the virtue of patience. Democratic change does not happen overnight but is a hard-fought process. While there is much still to do, we must remember how far we have come.

Our greatest national endeavor is to resolve one of the world's longest-running civil wars. We have made the peace process our priority, starting a dialogue open to all armed factions. After years of isolation and underdevelopment, we are rebuilding our economy, providing jobs, schools and hospitals.

The world was supportive over the decades when we struggled for freedom. I ask only that the international community continue to support us as we strive to overcome remaining challenges, not only in Rakhine, but across our fragile new democracy.

(U Thaung Tun is Myanmar's National Security Advisor and a retired career diplomat.)

US-Mexico crisis deepens as Trump aide floats border tax idea

A general view shows a newly built section of the US-Mexico border fence at Sunland Park, US opposite the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, on 26 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA/MEXICO CITY — The White House on Thursday floated the idea of imposing a 20 per cent tax on goods from Mexico to pay for a wall at the southern US border, sending the peso tumbling and deepening a crisis between the two neighbours.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto announced on Twitter around midday on Thursday that he was scrapping a planned trip to meet with US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly demanded that Mexico pay for a wall on the US border.

Later in the day, White House spokesman Sean Spicer sent the Mexican peso falling to its low for the day when he told reporters that Trump wanted a 20 per cent tax on Mexican imports to pay for construction of the wall.

Spicer gave few details, but his comments resembled an existing idea, known as a border adjustment tax, that the Republican-led US House of Representatives is considering as part of a broad tax overhaul.

The White House said later its proposal was in the early stages. Asked if Trump favoured a border adjustment tax, White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said such a tax would be "one way" of paying for the border wall.

"It's a buffet of options," he said.

The plan being weighed by House Republicans would exempt export revenues from taxation but impose a 20 per cent tax on imported goods, a significant change from current US policy.

"If you tax exports from Mexico into the United States, you're going to make things ranging from avocados to appliances to flat-screen tvs, you're going to make them more expensive," Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray told reporters at the Mexican Embassy in Washington on Thursday night.

Countries like Mexico would not pay such taxes directly. Companies would face the tax if they import products made there into the United States, potentially raising prices for American consumers.

The idea is unpopular with retailers and businesses that sell imported goods in the United States. It also has met opposition from some lawmakers worried about the impact on US consumers.

Trump himself appeared to pan the idea in a Wall Street Journal interview last week, saying the House border adjustment provision was "too complicated."

Even after Trump's comments, congressional Republicans have continued to discuss the issue with White House officials in an effort to bring them on board with the idea.—*Reuters*

French presidential candidate Fillon's popularity dips — poll

PARIS — Some 61 per cent of voters have a negative opinion of French presidential election candidate Francois Fillon, according to an opinion poll carried out after the publication of allegations that he paid his wife for a fake job.

The Odoxa poll shows 38 per cent have a good opinion of Fillon. That is a drop of 16 percentage points since a poll carried out early November by another polling agency, Ifop-Fiducial, Odoxa said in a note.

It's a four points popularity drop since an Odoxa poll published on 8 January, the note said.

Satirical weekly Le Canard Enchaine reported on Wednesday that Penelope Fillon had been paid some 600,000 euros ($641,640.00)for many years of employment as a parliamentary assistant to Fillon, then to his replacement as a lawmaker and also for work at a cultural journal.

Fillon denies any wrongdoing and has called the allegations "abject."

The poll was carried out online on Thursday among 1,012 people.—*Reuters*

Francois Fillon, former French prime minister, member of The Republicans political party and 2017 presidential candidate of the French centre-right, is seen prior to a prime-time news broadcast in the studios of TF1 in Boulogne-Billancourt, near Paris, France, on 26 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Merkel expected to speak with Trump about Russia on Saturday — source

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel is likely to speak with US President Donald Trump on Saturday and the conversation is expected to focus on Russia, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Friday.

The source did not say whether Trump might want to speak with Merkel about a lifting of the US sanctions imposed on Russia in response to its intervention in Ukraine, as overnight reports from the United States suggested. But the source made clear that if such a step were taken, then the European Union would not necessarily follow Washington, as its sanctions remain tied to implementation of the Minsk peace deal.—*Reuters*

Ukrainian president to meet Merkel in Berlin on Monday — agency

BERLIN — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko will hold talks in Berlin on Monday with Chancellor Angela Merkel on the separatist conflict in Ukraine, Interfax Ukraine news agency quoted the president's spokesman as saying.

The visit will follow a telephone conversation between the German leader and US President Donald Trump on Saturday which is expected to focus on Russia. It is unclear if Trump will discuss a lifting of the US sanctions imposed on Moscow in response to its intervention in Ukraine. Washington and the EU imposed sanctions in response to Russia's annexation of Crimea and backing for the pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.—*Reuters*

Large oil spill cleaned up in Russia's Vladivostok

VLADIVOSTOK (Russia) — A large oil spill of about 200 square meters has been successfully cleaned up here, the Marine Emergency Rescue Service of the Russian Federal Agency of Maritime and River Transport said Friday.

It was reported that a large oil spill, probably of diesel fuel, was discovered Thursday in Russia's Far East city of Vladivostok, in Golden Horn Bay. The Marine Emergency Rescue Service has arrived on the spot with equipment for oil spill containment. So far, 100 liters of oil-water mixture have been collected in an area of 800 square meters as a result of the clean-up operation. —*Xinhua*

Aust'n PM calls for safety measures in wake of deadly Bourke Street car attack

CANBERRA — Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Friday called for the installation of safety barriers at Melbourne's Bourke Street Mall to help avoid a repeat of the deadly car attack which killed five people last week.

More than 30 pedestrians were injured and five people, including an infant, were killed when a man drove his car down the Bourke Street Mall in Melbourne last Friday.

The street is off-limits to cars, but there are no bollards preventing vehicles from entering the area, and the prime minister said more needed to be done to prevent such unnecessary attacks from happening in the future. "This is a very, very concerning vulnerability," Turnbull told Macquarie Radio on Friday. "We need to be able to ensure — as much as we can — that it is not possible to get a vehicle into that place.—*Xinhua*

Saudi female border guards in Germany for search, confiscation training

RIYADH — German police have launched training for 16 Saudi female border guards on search and confiscation, *Al Sharq Al Awsat* newspaper reported on Friday.

The training is part of a security agreement signed by the interior ministries of both countries. The Saudi General Directorate of Border Guard has highlighted that the participants are learning new security skills, such as arrest, search, transport of detainees and confiscation.

They are among 60 women who are distributed among Saudi borders to deal with female travelers or suspects. The conservative state doesn't allow men to deal with female suspects or arrestees.

The announcement of the training came after news reports published last week confirmed that terrorists have been exploiting the attitudes of Saudi society towards women in carrying out their terrorist acts.—*Xinhua*

Trump's hopes for Syria safe zones may force decision on Assad

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's push to create safe zones in Syria could force him to make some risky decisions about how far to go to protect refugees, including shooting down Syrian or Russian aircraft or committing thousands of US troops, experts said.

Trump said on Wednesday he "will absolutely do safe zones in Syria" for refugees fleeing violence. According to a document seen by Reuters, he is expected in the coming days to order the Pentagon and the State Department to draft a plan to create such zones in Syria and nearby nations.

The document did not spell out what would make a safe zone "safe" and whether it would protect refugees only from threats on the ground — such as jihadist fighters — or whether Trump envisions a no-fly zone policed by America and its allies.

If it is a no-fly zone, without negotiating some agreement with Russia Trump would have to decide whether to give the US military the authority to shoot down Syrian or Russian aircraft if they posed a threat to people in that zone, which his predecessor, former President Barack Obama, refused to do.

"This essentially boils down to a willingness to go to war to protect refugees," said Jim Phillips, a Middle East expert at the Heritage Foundation think-tank in Washington, noting Russia's advanced air defences.

Trump promised during his campaign to target jihadists from Islamic State, and he has sought to avoid being dragged deeper into Syria's conflict — raising the question of whether he might be satisfied by assurances, perhaps from Moscow, that neither Russian nor Syrian jets would target the zone.

An internally displaced Syrian boy plays with a wheel in Jrzinaz camp, in the southern part of Idlib, Syria, on 21 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

In Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Trump did not consult with Russia and warned that the consequences of such a plan "ought to be weighed up."

"It is important that this (the plan) does not exacerbate the situation with refugees," he said.

Phillips and other experts, including former US officials, said many refugees would not be satisfied by assurances from Moscow, while any deal with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who also is backed by Iran, might not go over well with America's Arab allies.

The Pentagon declined comment on Thursday, saying no formal directive to develop such plans had been handed down yet, and some US military officials appeared unaware of the document before seeing it described in the media on Wednesday.

"Our department right now is tasked with one thing in Syria, and that is to degrade and defeat ISIS," said Captain Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman.

Trump's call for a plan for safe zones is part of a larger directive expected to be signed in coming days that includes a temporary ban on most refugees to the United States and a suspension of visas for citizens of Syria and six other Middle Eastern and African countries deemed to pose a terrorism threat.

During and after the presidential campaign, Trump called for no-fly zones to harbour Syrian refugees as an alternative to allowing them into the United States. Trump accused the Obama administration of failing to screen Syrian immigrants entering the United States to ensure they had no militant ties.

Any safe zone in Syria guaranteed by the United States would almost certainly require some degree of US military protection. Securing the ground alone would require thousands of troops, former US officials and experts say.

Anthony Cordesman, a military expert at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank, cautioned that a safe zone inside Syria could become a diplomatic albatross that would force a Trump administration to juggle a host of ethnic and political tensions in Syria indefinitely.

Other experts said jihadists could be attracted to the zone, either to carry out attacks that would embarrass the United States or to use the zone as a safe haven where militants could regroup.

Such a zone also would be expensive, given the need to house, feed, educate and provide medical care to the refugees.

"I think these people really have no idea what it takes to support 25,000 people, which is really a small number, in terms of the (internally displaced) and refugees" in Syria, Cordesman said.

The draft document gave no details on what would constitute a safe zone, where one might be set up and who would defend it. Jordan, Turkey and other neighbouring countries already host millions of Syrian refugees. The Turkish government pressed Obama, without success, to create a no-fly zone on Syria's border with Turkey but now is at odds with Washington over its support for Kurdish fighters in Syria.—*Reuters*

Afghan troops kill two militants during operation

KABUL — Two Taliban militants were killed and four others wounded during an ongoing operation conducted by Afghan security forces in southern province of Uruzgan, the Defense Ministry said on Friday.

"A joint cleanup operation supported by Afghan army's artillery and air force is continuing in Charchino district, Uruzgan province. Two armed militants were killed and four others injured during the ongoing raid on Thursday," the ministry said in a statement.

Afghan army, police and intelligence agency personnel have been involved in the raid which will continue before the district is cleared of the militants, it said.

The province has been the scene of heavy clashes between security forces and Taliban over the past several months.

The Taliban has been on rampage since the beginning of 2015 when the Afghan security forces assumed the full responsibility of security from the US and NATO forces.

The militant group has yet to make comments.—*Xinhua*

Syria's million-tonne Russian wheat deal in jeopardy

ABU DHABI/MOSCOW — A deal struck in October for Syria to buy one million tonnes of wheat from its ally Russia to prevent bread shortages in government-held areas has not been fulfilled and may never be, Syrian and Russian government sources said.

A Syrian government official with knowledge of the deal said a final contract had still not been agreed and blamed bureaucratic delays, but added that there were no shortages.

An official at Russia's agriculture ministry said the core problem was that the little-known firm that won the tender lacked experience and set the price too low.

Syrian state buyer Hoboob set three separate tenders to buy an unprecedented 1.35 million tonnes of wheat last year, after continued fighting from the country's nearly six-year war and poor rainfall halved the nation's harvest to 1.3 million tonnes, the lowest in 27 years.

The last of the three tenders was specifically for wheat from Russia, which supports President Bashar al-Assad's government in the war and from whom Syria often buys its wheat.

Although foodstuffs are not restricted, banking sanctions and asset freezes imposed by Washington and Brussels have made it difficult for some trading houses to do business with Assad's government. Trade with Russia poses fewer problems. The biggest tender of the three, for one million tonnes, was supposed to arrive in batches of 75,000 tonnes every month starting 60 days after the letters of credit were opened, the Syrian government source said.

But "the letters of credit haven't been opened yet," he said. "There is a certain system, routine and approvals that are needed, (so) the contracts have not been finalised."

"We have received nothing from the Russian company," he said.

A source at Russia's agriculture ministry told Reuters on Tuesday he did not think the contract would ever be fulfilled because the company that won it, Zernomir, could not source the wheat at the agreed price, which was too low.

The contract was awarded at 150 euros ($161.37) a tonne, on a cost and freight basis. That compares with the Black Sea price of $185 per tonne on a free-on-board basis (before adding the cost of freight) for Russian wheat with 12.5 percent protein for February supply quoted at the end of last week, according to Russian agricultural consultancy IKAR.

Both government sources asked not to be named because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Attempts by Reuters to reach a Russia-registered firm called Zernomir were not successful.

The Syrian source said there would be other ways to source the wheat if the deal ultimately fell through, and that there was no shortage of bread thanks to Syria's "strategic stock".

"We realise the price is very low, and I'm sceptical too about the deal, but it doesn't matter," he said. "Even if that wheat doesn't come, we have more than one way of fulfilling our needs and there is no shortage."

Flat bread is a subsidised staple for Syrians, who have suffered under a conflict that is estimated to have killed several hundred thousand people and forced millions to flee their homes.

The Russian ministry source said he hoped another Syrian tender could be arranged in the future.

Andrey Sizov, the head of SovEcon agriculture consultancy, said the problems with the deal were unlikely to have long-lasting implications for Russia's relationship with Syria.

"The military and political cooperation is far more important than wheat supplies. Plus, Russia does not say that it would not supply anything, it is just the matter of difficult logistics," Sizov said.

From the first two tenders, 350,000 tonnes have arrived and an additional 50,000 tonnes has been shipped, the Syrian government official told Reuters.

Those numbers could not be corroborated by Russian customs data, however. Russia supplied a total of 48,300 tonnes of wheat to Syria in calendar 2016, a source familiar with Russian export data told Reuters.

Russia also plans to give Syria 100,000 tonnes of wheat in humanitarian aid in four cargoes, the Russian agriculture ministry source said.

The first cargo is expected to be loaded in the first half of February.—*Reuters*

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

Sitting less linked to lower risk of diabetes

LONDON — People who spend time walking or even just standing instead of sitting down may be at lower risk of diabetes, a UK study suggests.

Previous research has linked sedentary time to type 2 diabetes, which is tied to aging and obesity and happens when the body can't properly use insulin to convert blood sugar into energy.

For the current study, researchers asked 435 adults at risk for developing diabetes to wear activity monitors around the clock for one week to see how much time they spent sitting, standing and walking. Then they examined lab tests to see how well their bodies processed sugar and insulin.

Findings from this study "provide further encouraging evidence" that simply substituting standing for sitting throughout the day may improve markers of type 2 diabetes, said study co-author Dr. Joseph Henson, a diabetes researcher at the University of Leicester.

"However, stronger associations were observed for stepping, thus highlighting the continued importance of more intense physical activity," Henson said by email.

Study participants were 67 years old on average. Most of them had excess fat around the midsection and were either overweight or obese, and about one third had a family history of diabetes.

A man uses his phone while riding the subway in New York, US, on 24 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Each day, participants spent an average of 9.4 hours sitting or lying down during their waking hours. This included a total of about 4.2 hours of brief periods of sitting for no more than a half hour, as well as 5.4 hours of prolonged bouts of sitting that lasted at least 30 minutes. In addition, participants typically spent an average of 4.5 hours a day standing and 1.7 hours a day walking.

People who replaced 30 minutes of prolonged sitting time with shorter bouts of sitting had a 4 percent reduction in fasting insulin levels, researchers calculated.

If participants replaced prolonged sitting with standing, however, they had 5 per cent drop in fasting insulin levels, and walking instead was associated with an 11 per cent difference, researchers report in BMJ Open.

The study didn't find an association between blood sugar or insulin levels when people swapped short periods of sitting for standing, however. Stepping instead of sitting for short periods was linked to a 7 per cent drop in fasting insulin. The study wasn't a controlled experiment and can't prove how different activity levels directly influence the risk of diabetes, the authors note. Researchers also used statistical models to estimate how much changes in activity might impact blood sugar and insulin.—*Reuters*

British spaceman Peake to make second journey to International Space Station

LONDON — British spaceman Tim Peake is to made a second flight to the International Space Station, government Business Secretary Greg Clark announced Thursday.

The announcement was made at the opening of an exhibition at the Science Museum in London showcasing Tim Peake's Soyuz Capsule, which took him to and from the International Space Station last year.

The exhibition is part of a push to inspire young people to study science, technology, engineering and maths and pursue careers requiring those skills.

Major Peake was the first British astronaut at European Space Agency, undertaking a 186-day mission to the International Space Agency, landing back on the Earth on 18 June, 2016.

Clark said Peake's new journey into space will advance scientific research and broaden Britain's understanding of the space environment.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, said the mission marks a further boost to Britain's space ambitions and to the profile of a sector of growing economic and educational importance to the country.

"A crucial part of Tim Peake's work is driving interest in science, technology, engineering and maths in schools, and the UK's future technical expertise," said a department spokesman.

Clark also announced that Britain's space businesses are set to benefit from a 152 million pound (192 million U.S.dollars) fund, using British expertise in satellite technology for international projects monitoring and addressing problems such as flooding, drought and deforestation.

He said companies from Edinburgh, Oxfordshire, and Wales are among those who will use technology such as satellite communications and earth observation data to help address significant social and environmental issues including crop loss, illegal fishing and emergency response.—*Xinhua*

Red tape chokes off drilling on Native American reservations

FORT BERTHOLD, (North Dakota) — When the US oil boom hit North Dakota a decade ago, wells sprang up quickly on the edges of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, an expanse of prairie and rolling hills three times larger than Los Angeles.

Tribe members here, facing a 40 per cent unemployment rate and sending their children to 1950s-era school buildings, were eager to tap some of state's most promising reserves. But layers of federal regulation — applying only to tribal lands — slowed them down for years, frightened away investors and cost them millions of dollars.

"The reservation looked like the hole of a donut," said Marcus Levings, who was chairman of Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara (MHA) Nation's reservation at the time. "Everything around us was moving, and there was nothing in the middle."

Fort Berthold has since caught up to become one of the state's most productive regions. But the initial delays undermined the MHA Nation's sense of sovereignty and cost it badly needed revenue - an experience echoed in widespread complaints from other tribes and from energy firms, including some owned by Native Americans.

Now, with US President Donald Trump in office and oil prices rising, their frustration is fueling a renewed push to streamline approvals for drilling and mining on Indian reservations.

Clearing regulatory hurdles for a single project on tribal lands can take as many as 50 steps, compared to a half dozen for oil wells on private property. The process can take three times as long to complete, according to tribal leaders, lawyers specializing in Native American issues, oil company executives and federal regulators.

Officials at the agency overseeing that process — the US Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), a division of the Department of Interior — did not respond to repeated requests for comment. A spokesperson for Trump, who campaigned on a promise to slash energy regulation, declined a request for comment.

The stakes are high. Native American reservations cover just 2 per cent of the nation's surface, but by some estimates contain as much as a fifth of all US oil and gas reserves, along with vast coal stockpiles.

Some tribes, for environmental or cultural reasons, have shunned the idea of developing these reserves, but many others want to tap the vast wealth beneath their homelands. A coalition of Native Americans appointed by Trump's team to guide his Indian policy is researching proposals to make energy development easier on tribal lands — including the controversial idea of transferring them to private ownership.

That coalition met privately in Washington last month with tribal representatives and Trump's team, and the group listed deregulation of energy development on reservations as a high priority, according to a person who attended the meeting.

Representatives of the coalition did not respond to requests for comment.

Congress, now firmly in Republican control after November's election, also appears poised to act. The Indian affairs committees in the House and Senate are planning to re-introduce legislation this year that would streamline Bureau of Indian Affairs approval processes for tribal energy resource agreements, said Senator John Hoeven, a Republican from North Dakota and the new chair of the Senate Indian affairs committee.

US Representative Raul Grijalva, a Democrat from Arizona, has opposed previous efforts to relax energy regulations on tribal lands, including a 2015 proposal he argues would have undermined public input before project approvals. That could weaken the legal arguments of residents impacted by environmental damage, he said in an interview.

"The regulations are there for the public, including tribal members, to know what the intended and unintended consequences of that project are going to be," he said. —*Reuters*

Gambians celebrate new president's arrival after veteran ruler flees

BANJUL — Thousands of people lined the streets of Gambia's capital Banjul on Thursday to welcome home new President Adama Barrow days after authoritarian leader Yahya Jammeh fled into exile under pressure from regional forces.

Barrow, a former real estate agent, won a 1 December election but Jammeh refused to step down, forcing his opponent to be inaugurated at the Gambian Embassy in neighbouring Senegal.

Clad in a long white African tunic, Barrow smiled as he stepped out of a small plane and walked down a red carpet to greet hundreds of diplomats and officials lined up to greet him. Immediately afterwards, fighter jets from the West African ECOWAS regional force passed overhead.

"A new page in Gambian history is being turned," said Mohamed Ibn Chambas, U.N. Special Representative for West Africa and the Sahel, who helped negotiate Jammeh's exit, shortly before accompanying Barrow to Banjul.

Barrow's surprise ballot box victory and the determination of Western and African countries to uphold it is being celebrated as a moment of democratic hope for Africa.

Yet, diplomats say tiny Gambia was an easy target and that regional armies are unlikely to venture into bigger countries to oust authoritarian rulers with more powerful allies than Jammeh.

Regional leaders helped thrash out a deal last Saturday for Jammeh to fly to exile in Equatorial Guinea as thousands of ECOWAS troops closed in after 22 years of increasingly repressive rule in Gambia, marked by alleged torture and killings of opponents.

Jammeh's political demise is a relief to many people in the small, sliver-like West African country and the UN's Chambas promised assistance in investigating human rights abuses.

Swiss police detained longtime former Gambian interior minister Ousman Sonko near the Swiss capital of Berne on Thursday after a complaint filed against him by non-governmental organisation Trial International.

In the weeks following Jammeh's decision to reject the election outcome in early December, Barrow was seen as vulnerable and was protected by unarmed volunteers until he relocated to Dakar.

During his absence, he was unable to return home for his son's funeral after a dog attack.

He has asked the 7,000-strong West African military contingent to remain in Gambia for another six months, Chambas said on Thursday.

An ECOWAS official said they were studying the proposal. Gambia, a tiny riverine nation surrounded by Western ally Senegal on three sides, has a bloated army for its size but so far there have been no signs of resistance to ECOWAS forces.

However, lingering questions remain as to the loyalty of the Republican Guard, thought to number about 400, who in the past protected Jammeh from coup attempts.

The whereabouts of members of alleged assassination squads known in Gambia as the "Junglers" were not known. —*Reuters*

Number of foreign workers in Japan tops 1 million for 1st time

TOKYO — The number of foreign workers in Japan has topped 1 million for the first time, the labor ministry said Friday, underscoring the increasing reliance on foreigners to make up for labor shortages amid Japan's declining population.

A record 1,083,769 foreigners were working in the country at the end of October, up 19.4 per cent from a year earlier, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

The figure was the highest since 2008, when the government began requiring companies to register foreign employees.

By nationality, the number of Chinese workers increased 6.9 per cent from the year before to 344,658, accounting for 31.8 per cent of the total, followed by Vietnamese, up 56.4 per cent at 172,018 and accounting for 15.9 per cent. Filipinos ranked third at 127,518, up 19.7 per cent and making up 11.8 per cent of the total.

The number of foreign workers classified by visas as professors, artists, corporate executives, technical interns and students increased more than 20 per cent, according to the ministry. The ministry attributed the increase to the government's efforts to attract overseas talent and help foreign students land jobs amid labor shortages.

According to the ministry, 30.7 per cent of the foreign workers in the country were in Tokyo, with 10.2 per cent in Aichi Prefecture in central Japan, 5.5 per cent in Kanagawa Prefecture bordering Tokyo, 5.4 per cent in Osaka in western Japan and 4.3 per cent in Shizuoka Prefecture just west of Kanagawa.

Manufacturing was the largest sector hiring foreign workers, employing 31.2 per cent of the total.—*Kyodo News*

Combined photo shows Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attending a joint press conference in Tokyo, on 16 December 2016. PHOTO:KYODO NEWS

Japan, Russia officials to meet Wednesday over joint activities on isles

TOKYO — Japanese and Russian officials will meet next week to discuss joint economic activities on islands subject to a territorial dispute between Tokyo and Moscow, following up a summit between the countries' leaders in December, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said Friday.

At the meeting Wednesday in Moscow, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Takeo Akiba and counterpart Igor Morgulov are also expected to discuss simplifying procedures for visa-free trips by elderly Japanese former residents to the Russian-held islands off Hokkaido which are claimed by Tokyo, Kishida said.

"I hope there will be constructive discussions" on the issues, the Japanese minister told reporters.

Following the summit in Japan between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the leaders instructed their respective foreign ministries to start talks on joint economic activities on the islands, and on streamlining visiting procedures for the former residents, although they remained apart over the territorial row.

The dispute over the islands, which were seized by the Soviet Union after Japan's surrender in August 1945, has prevented the two countries from signing a post-World War II peace treaty.

Kishida also said he is considering taking part in the Group of 20 major economies' foreign ministers meeting on 16-17 February and having talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines if the latter also takes part in the meeting in Bonn. —*Kyodo News*

Beijing smog inspectors on frontlines of war on pollution

BEIJING — Tougher law enforcement has reduced the number of environmental offenders in Beijing in recent years, but more companies need to adapt to the emissions standards in China's capital, its environmental inspection squad says.

Beijing has been on the frontlines of a "war against pollution" declared by Premier Li Keqiang in 2014, as part of a central government promise to reverse damage done by decades of growth, and strengthen powers to shut down and punish polluters.

With more than 500 environmental inspectors working to identify offenders, thousands of companies have been investigated and punished in the past four years.

But beyond simply enforcing standards, the squad faces the critical task of persuading more firms of the value of protecting the environment, said Wang Yankui, the chief of Beijing's central environmental inspection squad.

"The difficulty we face now is how to influence more companies to actively make improvements for the sake of environmental protection," Wang added. "Some companies have this intention, but they don't know how to do it."

Besides dealing with violators, the inspectors also keep tabs on "model" companies that have already adopted city standards.

The squad runs a hotline for city residents to report potential polluters, who could eventually join its network of identified offenders.

"If we don't obey the rules, then we might be penalized, or shut down," said Li Qiang, an official of a car finishing factory on the outskirts of Beijing, which has managed to keep pace with changing environmental standards for several years.

"As a business, survival needs profits, and profits are made under the pre-condition that we abide by the provisions or requirements of the government."

Cars drive along a street in smog during a polluted day in Beijing, China, on 26 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cars, not industries, are Beijing's primary polluters, the national environmental protection bureau said this month, blaming vehicles for more than 31 per cent of harmful emissions.

Authorities have responded by clamping down on the number of vehicles on the road when smog alerts are issued.

But most of the smog originates from polluting industries in surrounding provinces that must be convinced of the need to obey the law, said Greenpeace campaigner Dong Liansai.

"If we only rely on the basic law enforcement authorities and polluting companies to play some sort of cat-and-mouse game, then there may be no way of solving the current pollution problems," he added.

While many of Beijing's polluting industries have moved to other provinces, Wang said local authorities have jurisdiction and enforcement is up to them.

Some Beijing residents fear the government's environmental policies will fail if they ignore polluters in surrounding areas.

"I think (Beijing's) current policies are to treat the symptoms but not the cause," said Zhou Gesun, a technician working in the information technology industry.

There is only minor payoff from efforts such as odd and even license-number curbs on vehicle use, and halting work on construction sites, he added.

"The big factors are the areas surrounding Beijing, for instance, heavy industrial factories in Hebei. I think they should bring these factories under their control."

Besides the squads, Beijing will set up a police force to specifically target environmental offences and polluting activities including open-air barbecues and garbage and biomass burning, the capital's acting mayor, Cai Qi, said this month.—*Reuters*

Migrants stroll between barracks at the camp for refugees in Friedland, Germany in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

German population hits record high of 82.8 million due to migrants

BERLIN — Germany's population grew by some 600,000 last year to reach a record high of 82.8 million people due to the number of migrants who have arrived in the country, the Federal Statistics office said on Friday.

In a preliminary estimate for 2016, the statistics office said the population had eclipsed the previous record high of 82.5 million recorded at the end of 2002, even though the number of deaths in 2016 exceeded the number of births by between 150,000 and 190,000.

Deaths have exceed births in Germany since 1972, with a total of more than 5 million fewer births than deaths.

However, countering that trend, more than a million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and beyond flocked to Germany in 2015 and 2016, drawn by its strong economy, relatively liberal asylum laws and generous system of benefits.

Since the height of the euro zone debt crisis, Germany is also attracting many migrants from other European countries such as Greece and Spain.

The figures used to calculate net migration were based on numbers signing up at registration offices. Asylum seekers are initially housed in reception centres and generally only registered later.—*Reuters*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KORALIA VOY. NO (762)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KORALIA VOY. NO (762) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 MERIDIAN SHIPPING AGENCIES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2017 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 LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Accomplishment of Engagement

It is hereby declared that I, Wai Htoo Kaung, son of (father) U Htin Kyaw + (mother) Daw Cho War residing in No 115, Royal Avenue Keene, New Hampshire, USA and I, Win Thidar Oo, daughter of (father) U Thein Myint + (mother) (Daw Win Kyi) residing in No 16/B-4, Htee Tan 3rd street, Kyi Myine Daing Township, Yangon have accomplished our engagement right before the very eyes of the parents of both sides in "Melia Hotel Yangon" on 19-1-2017.

Wai Htoo Kaung + Win Thidar Oo

Miss Universe beauty pageant kicks off in Manila

Miss Universe candidate from Myanmar Htet Htet Htun competes during a national costume preliminary competetition in Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines, on 26 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — More than 86 women from all over the world gathered in Manila on Thursday to compete in the Miss Universe beauty contest that will culminate in a coronation in the Philippines capital on Monday.

Crowds packed the Mall of Asia Arena as each candidate showcased her swimsuits, evening gowns and national costumes in front of the judges.

The preliminary competition that started on Thursday will whittle down the crowded field to the top 12 candidates for the pageant night, the Miss Universe website said.

"The whole world is being united, and even though we don't know each other, we still enjoy the event," said Apple Natividad, one of the many spectators who attended the show.

Some even dressed like Miss Universe candidates to join the fanfare.

"This is a venue for beauty, but also the beauty of the heart, especially for us Filipinos who are fanatics for pageants," said Rania Ziateh, who wore a Miss Philippines sash.

Over half a million people are expected to tune in to watch the coronation night next week, organizers said. Filipina beauty queen Pia Wurtzbach currently holds the Miss Universe crown from 2015.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

David Bowie appears on British postage stamps, year after his death

LONDON — David Bowie is to appear on a range of British postage stamps as a tribute to the musician who died last year, the postal service has announced.

"This is the first time Royal Mail has dedicated an entire stamp issue to an individual music artist or cultural figure," the company said in a statement. The Beatles and Pink Floyd have previously been honored with a stamp issue, it said.

The 10 stamps featuring album covers as well as Bowie performing live will go on sale from March 14, 50 years since the Londoner released his first album and in the year that he would have turned 70. Six of the stamps bear images of album covers for "Hunky Dory", "Aladdin Sane", "Heroes", "Let's Dance", "Earthling" and "Blackstar", which was released just days before Bowie's death at the age of 69 from cancer in January 2016.—*Reuters*

Iranian actress to shun Oscars in protest of Trump immigrant ban

NEW YORK — The star of Iran's Oscar-nominated movie "The Salesman" said on Thursday she would not attend the Academy Awards ceremony in Hollywood next month because of US President Donald Trump's proposed ban on immigrants from Muslim nations.

Taraneh Alidoosti, 33, a Tehran-born actress, said the move was racist.

"Trump's visa ban for Iranians is racist. Whether this will include a cultural event or not, I won't attend the #AcademyAwards 2017 in protest," Alidoosti said on Twitter.

An executive order expected to be signed by Trump in coming days will block the entry to the United States of Syrian refugees, and suspend the entry of any immigrants from Muslim-majority countries Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Libya and Yemen.

In "The Salesman," Alidoosti plays one half of an Iranian couple whose life becomes strained as they take part in a production of the American stage classic "Death of a Salesman."

The film, by Iranian director Asghar Farhadi, was nominated on Tuesday for a foreign-language Oscar, and has won prizes at film festivals in Cannes, Chicago and Munich.

Alidoosti has also appeared in the popular Iranian TV soap opera "Shahrzad."—*Reuters*

Pay attention 007! Gadget whizz 'Q' is a woman in real life

LONDON — The boffin behind James Bond's lethal array of gadgets like car ejector-seats and exploding toothpaste — known only as "Q" — has always been portrayed in the 007 films as a man.

Actors who have played him include Desmond Llewelyn, Geoffrey Bayldon and John Cleese.

But in real life Q is actually a woman, the chief of Britain's MI6 intelligence service has revealed.

Speaking at the Women in IT Awards in London, Alex Younger invited his audience to consider a job with the service.

"If any of you would like to join us ... the real-life Q is looking forward to meeting you and I'm pleased to report that the real-life Q is a woman," he said.

The agency's chief, who has previously said he wouldn't hire James Bond as a spy, also felt the film stereotype of spies being posh and educated at elite universities was unhelpful.

"That stands in the way of something that I regard as being so important which is that we can reach into every community in Britain and make sure that we get the people that are the best, regardless of their background," Younger said.

MI6 chief Alex Younger speaks at MI6's Vauxhall Cross headquarters in central London, in this still image from video, Britain, on 8 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Q', short for 'Quartermaster' was most recently portrayed by British actor Ben Whishaw in the Skyfall and Spectre films.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Actor Shia LaBeouf arrested in New York anti-Trump protest

NEW YORK — Actor Shia LaBeouf was arrested early on Thursday after a scuffle outside a New York museum where he was chanting "He will not divide us" during a live-streamed protest against President Donald Trump, police said. The "Transformers" and "American Honey" star allegedly pulled a 25-year-old man's scarf, scratched his face and shoved him at about 12:30 am EST outside the Museum of the Moving Image in the borough of Queens, a police spokesman said. The cause of the altercation was unknown. The 30-year-old actor was chanting "He will not divide us" into a live-stream camera mounted on a wall when the incident took place.

LaBeouf and two other artists began the protest on 20 January, the day that Trump, a Republican, was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States. They have invited the public to repeat the words into the camera nonstop for the next four years in a "participatory performance," according to their website.—*Reuters*

South African artist shapes salt into famous faces

PRETORIA — South African artist Percy Maimela stumbled upon his talent by chance, when some salt crystals spilled on the floor of the shop where he worked and as he tried to collect them he realized they formed shapes that he now turns into portraits.

His latest inspiration is former US President Barack Obama.

"You can just take small stones and make something that no one ever thought of," he told Reuters in the capital Pretoria.

"Even salt companies, they wouldn't say salt is just for food anymore," he said, crouching over his portrait of Obama on his dining room floor.

The 31-year-old applies glue to cloth and then sprinkles table salt to sketch the portrait. Some of the famous faces he has drawn include global icon Nelson Mandela. Often, he'll chance his luck with passers by.

"I'll just carry just a black cloth and a bag of salt, then you can just come and give me 300 rand ($23) and then I'll just sketch your face, quick," he said. "And for you it's a memory and you'll never get that anywhere else."

Percy Maimela, a self taught artist, puts finishing touches to a portrait of former US President Barack Obama which he draws using salt, at his home in Pretoria, South Africa. PHOTO: REUTERS

Maimela — who quit his job at a retail store last year to pursue his craft — said he has loved art since he was a child but could never afford professional training.

Getting started on a commissioned piece of work requires a tiny investment of less than 50 US cents for salt and a little extra for glue. He said he can sell a piece for about $30.

Maimela, who also works in pencil, has not been able to get any of his work shown in galleries and relies on the Internet to generate interest in his work.

"Being an artist in total is not easy, because not everyone understand art and then not everyone is willing to buy art. But everyone is willing to buy something that's provoking to their feelings," Maimela said.—*Reuters*

Owners, dogs travel together on special Japan Airlines tour

CHIBA (Japan) —Owners and their pet dogs departed together in the passenger cabin of a Boeing 737 from Narita airport near Tokyo on Friday on a special three-day domestic tour, Japan Airlines Co. said.

While pets usually travel in cargo compartments, the "wan wan jet" service allows owners and their dogs to travel together on a charter flight to Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan.

As part of the package tour, the owners and their dogs will also get to stay together in a hotel and go sightseeing in rented cars. The price of the tour ranges from around 150,000 yen ($1,305) to 280,000 yen, depending on the number of participants, according to JAL.

Dogs are allowed to sit together with their owners in the main passenger cabin on a Japan Airlines flight from Narita airport near Tokyo to Kagoshima Prefecture in southwestern Japan, on 27 January 2017, on a three-day "special tour with dogs." PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

"It was painful for me to check in (my dog) as luggage at airport counters as it always barks," said Toshihiko Kai, a 41-year-old company employee who was travelling with a 4-year-old miniature dachshund.

"Today it feels safe as it is beside me," he added.

"Air travel with pets will lead to the opening of new markets for domestic flights," a JAL official said.

When the company launched the service in December, it was fully booked in around an hour with about 60 people and 30 dogs, the company said. —*Kyodo News*

Young girl who tweeted from Aleppo asks Trump to help Syrian children

LONDON — The seven-year-old Syrian girl who gained a global following last year with her Twitter updates from Aleppo has written an open letter to US President Donald Trump asking him to help other children her war-torn country.

Bana Alabed drew some 363,000 followers after she joined the micro-blogging site in September where she uploaded messages and pictures of daily life in Aleppo on the @AlabedBana handle, an account managed by her mother Fatemah.

Last month, the young girl and her family were evacuated from the rebel-held eastern part of the city following a government offensive. They arrived in Turkey, where they met President Tayyip Erdogan.

Turkey has supported rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

On her own @FatemahAlabed Twitter account, Fatemah posted a picture of the handwritten letter where the young girl introduces herself to Trump as "part of the Syrian children who suffered from the Syrian war".

"...Can you please save the children and people of Syria? You must do something for the children of Syria because they are like your children and deserve peace like you," the letter reads. "If you promise me you will do something for the children of Syria, I am already your new friend." Britain's BBC quoted Fatemah as saying Bana penned the letter before Trump's inauguration last Friday. In the letter, Bana also talks about losing friends in the nearly-six-year conflict and her new life outside Syria. —*Reuters*

Bana Alabed, known as Aleppo's tweeting girl, reacts during an interview with Reuters in Ankara, Turkey, on 22 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(28-1-2017 07:00am ~ 29-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon -The Religious Insignias of pagodas In Myanmar
07:45	Am	Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Winkabar Festival
08:49	Am	Amazing: Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Discovering Tribes " MUUN (Epi- II)"
09:52	Am	Writer
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation "Nyan Lin Htet (Football Player)"
10:38	Am	Mobile House
10:49	Am	The 110th Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden

(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

07:00	Pm	Live: Fundraising Event for Rescue & Resettlement of infectious disease victims in Naga

(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)

MRTV
Programme Schedule (28-1-2017, Saturday)

6:00 Am
- Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 Am
- Breakfast News

7:30 Am
- Hyper Sports

8:30 Am
- Documentary (Election)

9:30 Am
- Business News

10:30 Am
- Poem for Children

11:15 Am
- Health for Vegetable

11:35 Am
- Game for Children

12:35 Pm
- TV Drama Series

1:35 Pm
- Weekly Entertainment News

2:20 Pm
- HUMAN DIGNITY FILM INSTITUDE "My Dear Tharamuu, 528"

3:15 Pm
- Myanmar National League MNL(1) (2017) (Live) (Yangon United Fc Vs Ayeyawady United Fc)

5:30 Pm
- Documentary (ASEAN)

5:45 Pm
- NHK Programme "Studying sound"(Trasmitting Sound)

6:35 Pm
- Tasty Trip

7:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm
- News/International News/ Weather Report

9:00 Pm
- News/ Weather Report
- Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra Concet — 2016 (Mandalay)

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

1st Waxing of Tabodwe 1378 ME | Saturday, 28 January 2017

United edge past spirited Hull to reach League Cup final

LONDON — Manchester United reached the League Cup final but were made to sweat as Hull City won the second leg of their last-four encounter 2-1 on Thursday to come within one goal of forcing extra time.

Hull's Oumar Niasse scored in the 85th minute to reduce the aggregate deficit to 3-2, but there was to be no fairytale comeback for the Premier League relegation strugglers who were spirited in their efforts to overturn their 2-0 first-leg defeat.

Tom Huddlestone had put the hosts ahead after 35 minutes from the penalty spot, but they were unable to turn the screw and allowed a much-improved United to claw their way back into the match after the break when Paul Pogba stabbed in an equaliser.

Niasse steered home a David Meyler cross from close range but Jose Mourinho's side held on to set up a clash against Southampton in the final at Wembley on Feb. 26 after the Saints upset Liverpool on Wednesday at Anfield.

It was Mourinho's 54th birthday, but the Portuguese did not seem in celebratory mood as he cut short his post-match television interview after one question, having seemed visibly annoyed on the touchline with a number of referee Jon Moss's decisions.

Hull City's Oumar Niasse heads at goal during EFL Cup Semi Final Second Leg at The Kingston Communications Stadium on 26 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I just want to say congratulations to my players. It was a difficult road to be in the final and we are in the final," Mourinho told Sky Sports after his side's 17-game unbeaten run came to an end.

"I don't want to say anything else. It is enough, I am calm, I behaved on the bench so no more words," added the Portuguese, who has been given two touchline bans this season.

Hull faced a daunting prospect to drag themselves back into the tie and made seven changes to their starting lineup in a sign that manager Marco Silva had perhaps already decided a Wembley final was beyond them.

The encounter had the feel of a foregone conclusion too as both sets of players seemed to be going through the motions in a dour opening when neither side created a chance before the deadlock was broken after 35 minutes following a penalty decision that caused initial confusion.

Replays showed that United defender Marcos Rojo had barely tugged the shirt of Hull's Harry Maguire, who tumbled to the ground before Huddlestone rifled the spot kick into the bottom corner.

It was not until the second half that United showed true signs of life and they had their own penalty appeal waved away when Chris Smalling tumbled to the ground after contact with Huddlestone, sparking an angry touchline reaction from Mourinho.—*Reuters*

Tiger struggles at Torrey Pines, Rose sets pace

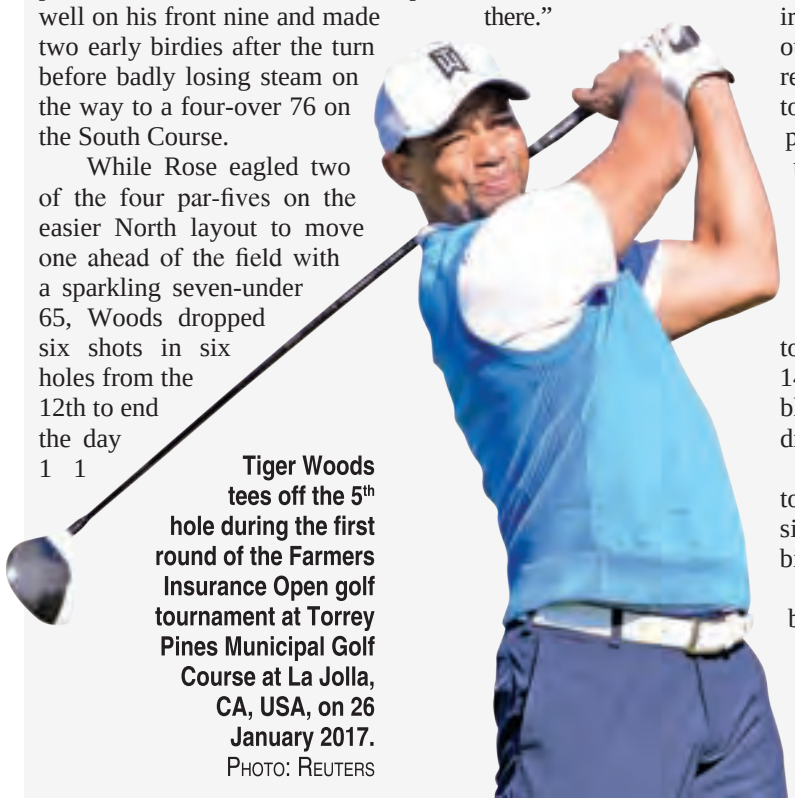
Tiger Woods produced the good, the bad and the ugly in his first PGA Tour start in 17 months on Thursday while Olympic champion Justin Rose set the early pace in the opening round of the Farmers Insurance Open.

Back in the familiar surroundings of Torrey Pines outside San Diego where he has won eight tournaments as a professional, Woods scrambled well on his front nine and made two early birdies after the turn before badly losing steam on the way to a four-over 76 on the South Course.

While Rose eagled two of the four par-fives on the easier North layout to move one ahead of the field with a sparkling seven-under 65, Woods dropped six shots in six holes from the 12th to end the day 1 1 strokes off the pace.

It was the 41-year-old's highest opening round to begin a PGA Tour season since he turned professional in 1996.

"I was one under through 11 and I was in a good spot to really shoot a good round ... but it went the other way," Woods told Golf Channel. "I hit some bad tee shots, made a bad three-putt there on 13 ... just kept compounding problems and mistakes out there."



Tiger Woods tees off the 5th hole during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course at La Jolla, CA, USA, on 26 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Watched by huge galleries, Woods made a faltering start with an opening bogey after setting off in the company of world number one Jason Day and third-ranked Dustin Johnson.

After finding the right rough off the tee at the par-four first, he missed the green to the right with his approach and failed to get up and down in two.

Though he flared several iron shots to the right on the outward nine, Woods used his renowned scrambling abilities to save pars from several unpromising positions to reach the turn in one-over 37.

He gave fans something to celebrate with birdies at the 10th and 11th but his round unravelled over the next four holes. Wayward tee shots led to bogeys at the 12th, 13th and 14th and Woods ran up a double at the 15th after hooking his drive into a hazard.

He missed a five-foot putt to bogey the par-four 17th before signing off with a nine-footer to birdie the last.

Woods, who was sidelined by back pain and a series of surgeries, had not competed in a regular PGA Tour event since August 2015 and is also adjusting to his new TaylorMade clubs.—*Reuters*

Nadal edges Dimitrov to set up dream final against Federer

MELBOURNE — Rafa Nadal fended off Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 5-7, 7-6(5), 6-7(4), 6-4 in a marathon semi-final on Friday to set up a dream Australian Open decider against great rival Roger Federer.

Nadal was under siege from the dogged Bulgarian for much of the nerve-shredding clash at Rod Laver Arena, but the Spaniard crashed through Dimitrov's defences in the final set to book his first grand slam final since his 2014 French Open title.

With tension reaching boiling-point and the terraces roaring, Nadal captured the decisive break in the ninth game and closed out victory on his third match point when Dimitrov hammered a backhand long.

Nadal and Federer will meet in their ninth grand slam final and first at Melbourne Park since the Spaniard won the 2009 title.—*Reuters*

Spain's Rafael Nadal falls onto the court as he celebrates winning his Men's singles semi-final match against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia, early on 28 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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