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State Counsellor: Majority protects rights of minorities

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed the workshop responsible for drafting rules that protect the rights of ethnic minorities, stressing the important role of the majority in protecting rights of the minorities, held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The State Counsellor said that ethnic majorities have a great responsibility to give protection to the languages, culture and customs of ethnic minorities, urging them not to forget the needs of minorities when they work for protecting the rights of minorities.

"You are deeply urged to keep it in your minds that it is incumbent upon great nations to be kind to lesser minorities and take responsibility to protect their rights," she said.

"In protecting the rights of ethnic nationals, you also need to be careful about responsibility. If anyone wants rights, they are required to accept responsibility. "

Officials from the Office of the Attorney General, legal experts and scholars also participated in the workshop to address the legal aspect of the draft rules.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, centre, front row, poses for a photo with participants at the workshop in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

'If anyone wants rights, they are required to accept responsibility'

"Rule of law is meant for defending the whole populace of the country under the protection of laws of great benefit for the citizens, absolutely not for suppressing the people. Therefore, rule of law is of great importance. And the law needs to be just. It will be beneficial for our country only if there are just and fair laws".

The State Counsellor also met with Union Ministers, Ministers of ethnic affairs from Regions and States, and leading members of Self-Administered Regions.

In the discussion that followed officials clarified the initial draft of the regulations on protecting the rights of ethnic nationals with those present discussing in groups.

In its current form, the regulations consist of nine chapters. The discussion will continue tomorrow.

— Myanmar News Agency

Aid delivered to communities in Maungtaw Township

Maung Zaw

THE Muslims For Peace Foundation, a Bangkok, Thailand-based NGO, donated cash and provisions to both communities in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

Mr Waraponkhuntali and Mr Viraponsontardo, members of the Muslims for Peace Foundation, donated Ks2 million to the authorities concerned from the Office of the Rakhine State Cabinet on Monday for the national people in Maungtaw Township and 300 bags of rice to the village elders for Tat Oo Chaung, Ducheradan and Gorduthara village-tracts in Maungtaw Township.

Bags of rice from Muslim for Peace Foundation are delivered to villages yesterday in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MIN MIN

"Our group is a non-governmental organisation. This is the first time we have donated to the Maungtaw Township. We provided aid to both communities, arranging to donate further," Mr Waraponkhuntali said.

U Tin Aung, village administrator of the Gorduthara (South) said: "Provisions will be divided equally according to the members of the family household. We thank you for such a donation. Now our villages will become stable and peaceful."

Aid from Indonesia flows into villages

Meanwhile, humanitarian aid from Indonesian government arrived Sittway, Rakhine State on 21st January for communities in northern Rakhine State were delivered to both communities yesterday.

SEE PAGE 3 >>

NATIONAL

Residents at Myanmar-Bangladesh border want upgraded border fence

▶ PAGE 3

PARLIAMENT

Union government manages to collect more taxes than targeted

▶ PAGE 2

BUSINESS

2,600 million viss of fish, prawns produced this quarter

▶ PAGE 5

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Union government manages to collect more taxes than targeted

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE Union Government managed to collect a larger amount of taxes than the previous year, according to the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.

The Union Government collected more taxes than its targeted Ks2141.759 billion for the first six months of 2016-17 fiscal year, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win of the Ministry of Planning and Finance told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Session yesterday.

He said the Union government was able to collect Ks2548.759 billion during the period and the Union Government was able to collect more taxes than in the same period last year.

"As the Union Government intends to rely on taxes, it is important for the government to collect taxes of the appropriate amount while also levying an amount that is not burdensome to taxpayers, educating the public to willingly pay taxes, to develop an international standard tax regime and to prevent tax evasion with the help of international experts," U Maung Maung Win said.

Later, the Deputy Minister explained the purposes of their budgets to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, which asked for Ks107,639.303 million, and the Ministry of Defence, which asked for Ks1250.865 billion, Ks86.865 billion less than the previous fiscal year.

Responsible officials of the 15 ministries of the government, the Supreme Court of the Union, the office of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the constitutional tribunal, the union election commission, the office of the union attorney-general, the office of the auditor-general of Myanmar and the union civil service board also explained their requested budgets at the session. *—Myanmar News Agency*

Police inspector (investigation) in Ye Township, filed a suit & arrested for taking bribes

CONCERNING the turning over of the Canter vehicle in Ye township, Mon State, the aggrieved party made a complaint to the Anti-Corruption Commission that Police Inspector Kyaw Thet Khaing of the investigative branch in Ye Myoma Police Station had demanded bribe money from the aggrieved by inventing a fake case.

Upon receipt of the complaint, the anti-corruption commission formed an investigative board to try the case. By misappropriating the authority assigned upon, it was found that police inspector Kyaw Thet Khaing opened a criminal case against U Aung Kyaw Myo and arrested him, demanding 3 Lakhs for granting bail from the aggrieved on 23 December and asking for K 5 Lakhs for the case on December 27.

Hence, Police Inspector Kyaw Thet Khaing was filed and arrested under section 56 of the anti-corruption law, 2013 at the high court in Mon State on January 30, according to the source of the Anti-Corruption Commission. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services inspects textile factory, Aircraft Maintenance Base in Meikhtila

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited the Textile Factory of the Defence Services in Meikhtila yesterday.

During the visit, the Senior General inspected the uniforms and other textile produced by the factory.

Afterwards, he went to the Aircraft Build and Maintenance Base in Meikhtila and inspected the works there. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives ambassadors to Myanmar

Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Ambassador of Britain H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick, Ambassador of Denmark H.E. Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen, Ambassador of United States H.E. Mr. Scot Marciel, and charge'd' Affaires a.i. of European Union in Myanmar Dr. Colin Steinbach. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received the Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick, Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen, Ambassador of United States to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Scot Marciel, and charge'd' Affaires a.i. of European Union in Myanmar Dr. Colin Steinbach, yesterday morning at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning the legislation of Hluttaw. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Ti Khun Myat and officials of Pyithu Hluttaw Office. *—Myanmar News Agency*

Thura U Shwe Mann receives ambassadors to Myanmar

Chairman of the Pyidaungzu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues Thura U Shwe Mann received the Ambassador of United States to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Scot Marciel, Ambassador of Britain to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick, Ambassador of Denmark to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen, and charge'd' Affaires a.i. of European Union in Myanmar Dr. Colin Steinbach yesterday at the Hluttaw Building I-1 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed whether the passage of the foreigners' bill and the foreign workers bill will be supportive of foreign investment, suitable to contemporary situations, just and beneficial and contributory to the national economic development or not. Later, the chairman of the commission and members met with civil society organization concerned with the rule of law and justice. The organizations held discussions with the commission, which focused on amendments or enactment of laws related to the rule of law, labour rights, women's rights, anti-corruption and land rights. In response to the discussions, the chairman explained the performance of the main duty assigned to the commission by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the process of drafting and enactment of laws, and coordination with union level organizations, Hluttaw organizations, civil society organizations and interested people and other duties of the commission. *—Myanmar News Agency*

Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Ambassador of Britain H.E. Mr. Andrew Patrick, Ambassador of Denmark H.E. Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen, Ambassador of United States H.E. Mr. Scot Marciel, and charge'd' Affaires a.i. of European Union in Myanmar Dr. Colin Steinbach. PHOTO: MNA

Mrs Sengdeuane Lachanthaboune sees Jade Buddha Statue at the Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: MNA

Minister of Lao People's Democratic Republic pays homage-visit to Shwedagon Pagoda

Mrs Sengdeuane Lachanthaboune, Minister for Education & Sports of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and party currently in Yangon, paid a homage visit to Shwedagon Pagoda at 10 am yesterday morning,

Laotian Minister and party offered flowers, lighting and scented water to the Pagoda and donated cash to the pagoda. In the evening, the Minister and party left Yangon by air for Lao.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Wife of Japanese PM visits Yangon nunneries, monasteries

A visiting delegation led by Mrs Akie Abe, wife of the Prime Minister of Japan under the programme of the Greater Mekong Initiative, arrived in Yangon yesterday from Mandalay.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by U Han Tun, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Breeding, Forestry and Energy of the Yangon Region Government, Daw Kathy Soe, Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other officials.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's wife and party visited the World Buddhist Vipassana Bivman Monastery in Mayangone township, Yangon, Thukha Kari Nun teaching school in Mingalardon township, Zalun Nun teaching school, Pyinnya Theingi nun teaching school, Apamada Nun teaching school and Ponnya Visuddhi Monastic school to observe classes and instruction.

During their visit, the wife of the Prime Minister of Japan and party donated Ks 50 lakhs each and stationery to the schools.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mrs Akie Abe, wife of the Prime Minister of Japan talks to school children at a Monastic Education School. PHOTO: MNA

Aid delivered to communities . . .

>> FROM PAGE 1

Seven teams formed and started to deliver the aid to the peoples in five districts on 27th January and have distributed aid to 99,168 from 10,575 households from 52 villages in 24 village-tracts so far.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Chief Minister of the Rakhine State Government accepted the aid including 9,000 boxes of dried noodles, 3,220 bags of flour, 1,050 boxes of biscuit and 50 bags of clothing on 21st January in Sittway, Rakhine State.

Under the arrangement of the Rakhine State Government, the aid is being delivered to the people in Sittway, Myauk-U, Kyaukpyu and Thandwe districts.

Residents at Myanmar-Bangladesh border want upgraded border fence

Maung Po Zaw (MNA)

SOME local people in the Myanmar-Bangladesh border areas want an upgraded barbed-wire fence at the border of the two countries.

It is learnt that there are big holes on the current fence near border posts 796, 1065 and 1180, allowing anyone to pass through easily.

"The border fence is easily destroyed by those who want to go to the neighbouring country and come back to Myanmar. If possible, we want a higher concrete wall so that the rule of law can be maintained and trans-border crimes can be prevented," said U Maung Oo Tha, a town elder in Maungtaw.

Maungtaw in Rakhine State shares 128.75 miles of land boundary and 39.82 miles of water boundary with Bangladesh.

A border fence of barbed wire 10 feet high and about 38.108 miles long was constructed 150 feet away from the Zero Line at the mouth of Kongchaung Creek in southern Maungtaw to border post BP32 in 2009. Another barbed-wire fence 36.66 miles long from BP 32 to BP 54 was constructed in 2012 and yet another fence from BP 54 to 66 in 2014. But the border line from BP 66 to BP 67 was left unfenced because it is an area covered with deep forests that includes an inhabited area.

"We have reported to the Ministry of Home Affairs about the damaged fences, which will allocate funds for the upgrading of the fence. We will upgrade the border fence in accordance with the budget allocation of the ministry. But everything depends on the budget allocation," said an official who was involved in the erection of the fence at its first stage.

There are big holes on the current fence near border posts 796, 1065 and 1180. PHOTO: MAUNG ZAW

U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw attends 12th Global Appeal, 2017 Opening Ceremony

U AYE THA AUNG, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and Hluttaw representative Dr Daw Than Ngwe attended the opening ceremony of Global Appeal, 2017 held at the Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi, India at 10:30 am on Monday. The Global Appeal was held to end the stigma and discrimination against persons affected by Leprosy.

Afterward, Deputy Speaker met with responsible officials from Nippon Foundation and WHO to discuss. Following that, they met with representatives present at the 12th Global Appeal, 2017 to end the stigma and discrimination against those affected by leprosy, discussing with them for getting aids necessary for ending stigma and discrimination against lepers in Myanmar and arrangements in Hluttaw for eradication of leprosy in Myanmar, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

World Bank provides assistance to Ministry of Health and Sport

DR. MYINT HTWE, Union minister for Health and Sport, arrived at the Myo Chaung Special Station Hospital on Saturday, where he toured the hospital, made sure that instructions given on his previous visit were implemented and provided further assistance.

Yesterday afternoon, Yangon region public health department met with officials of the World Bank to discuss their assistance in nutrition promotion activities, implementing of the national health project, emergency situations and the outbreak of natural disasters and infectious diseases.

They also met with a combined team comprised of members from the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the University of Oslo. They will convert the Myanmar health information system to a computer-based system using District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS-2) software as a National Database Platform. They also discussed upgrading the IT infrastructure of the ministry of health and sport.

Moreover, officials from Stanford University, a prestigious American university, called on the union minister and discussed maternity, child health matters and accommodation of Yangon General Hospital.

The union minister also paid respects to shweparamitawya Sayadaw Rev Sandadika and offered alms, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

National-level policy discussion concerning migration held on 30th Jan

Union Minister for the Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe addresses the national-level policy discussion in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population held a national-level policy discussion on Monday at Hotel Amara in Nay Pyi Taw to include gender affairs into amendments of the law relating to employment and a national project concerning migration.

The change was made in cooperation with UN-Women and announced in an opening speech delivered by the Union Minister for the Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe.

The Union Minister said that this meeting was held with the objective of conducting campaigns to make the public aware of the suggestions concerning migration according to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and highlighting the gender affairs concerning migration in the overseas employment law draft and national project concerning the migration.

The overseas employment supervision committee was reformed to include the ministries concerned in order to encourage migrant workers to work with dignity and to ensure a systematic migration.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is conducting the activities with overseas employment agencies for migrant workers to have access to basic knowledge such as the dos and don'ts, it is learnt.

Incorporation of the requirements, opportunities and the rights of the migrant workers into the amendment of Myanmar migration-related law and consideration of the requirements of the women migrants in formulation of policies and plans are the only correct means for achievement of sustainable social development, officials said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Flyovers to be built at junctions between motor roads and railroads

AUTHORITIES will build nine more overpasses or underpasses at junctions between motor roads and railroads to prevent possible railway-related deaths and injuries caused by high-speed trains, according to the Myanma Railways.

With the assistance of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a high-speed rail system is being implemented according to the railroad improvement project that began earlier this year.

Overpasses are planned for Ywamakyaung Street, Parami, Bayintnaung, Danyingon, Golf Course Road, Khayepin Street, Gandama Street, Thitsa and Yadana roadways. In addition, automatic gears and a modern railway signalling system will also be instaled at busy junctions.

After finishing the current project, the speed of the train will be 36 miles per hour, almost twice as fast as the current speed.

The MR and relevant bodies continue to conduct awareness raising programmes for commuters by distributing pamphlets and putting warning signals at circular trains.—*200*

Water spinach plantations flourish in Mandalay

WATER spinach, which is affordable and has many health benefits, are being planted on a commercial scale in suburban Mandalay.

The number of local residents engaged in water spinach plantations has risen, allowing a worker to earn about Ks5,000 a day.

The growers form Ngwe Taw Kyeegon ward from Pyigyidagun Township supply the water spinach in sufficient quantities to the markets of Mandalay. Water spinach can be cut for many months once cultivated.

A water spinach grower can send over 150 baskets a day to the market. One basket contains 336 bundles of water spinach.

Water spinach, known locally called Taiwan Kasun, can be cut after 45 days of cultivation. The plants grow faster in the summer than in the winter. The growers have to focus on cutting weeds, fertilising and irrigation after planting.

A basket of water spinach sells for about Ks6,000. —*Nway Nadi/ Myit Nge*

Growers are planting water spinach in Mandalay. PHOTO: THE MIRROR

Importers, exporters of fruit, flowers and vegetables meet on 3rd February

FRUIT, flower and vegetable importers and exporters will hold a discussion on 3rd Feb at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP).

This discussion aims to deal with the problems faced in the import, export and production of the perishable commocities and to facilitate the process.

Additionally, they will discuss matters concerning cooperate with each other in the supply chain. Those interested are welcome to attend. The MFVP has already negotiated with the Ministry of Commerce to take part in the priority export sector of the National Export Strategy, it is learnt.—*200*

Ks2 billion for farmers affected by Myanmar-Thailand bridge

COMPENSATION of nearly Ks2 billion were paid by authorities to affected farmers, who lost land, crops and buildings as a result of the Myanmar-Thailand friendship bridge project.

The construction of the friendship bridge No.2 in Myawady, a border town in Kayin State, is nearly finished, said U Thaung Han Soe, director (urban) of the Kayin State Road Department. He continued to say that the project is expected to be completed in March, when state officials from the two countries will attend the opening ceremony.

A total of Ks1.977 billion compensations for land, crops and structures were recently paid to 56 farmers out of 68 affected people.

The authorities will compensat more than 448 million kyats to the rest of the farmers before the last day of the month. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Illegal timbers seized

FOREST department staff and forest security police led by the Director of Yangon Region Forest Department arrested a man and seized eight empty containers, three pie press machines, seven vehicles and six ten-wheeled vehicles carrying illegal timber weighing 395 tonnes in the War War Win company yard at No. 402, Sagar Wah Street, Pale Myothit Ward in Mingalardon Township in Yangon Region on Saturday. Of the 395 tonnes, 375 tonnes were deemed illegal Padauk square timbers and about 20 tonnes of Tamalan square timbers.

Officials measured the seized timbers in detail and police have taken action against the accused under Section 42(b) of Forestry Law at Mingalardon Township Court. Interrogation of the accused has led the police to searching two godowns of Ruby Lion Manufacturing at No. 16/64 and 170 in U Tun Nyo street in Shwe Pyi Thar Industrial Zone in Yangon yesterday morning.

Police seized 280 tonnes of illegal Padauk square timber and 3 tonnes of Tamalan. Police have taken action against the illegal timber owner and other people involved in the case in accordance with the law, according to the forest department.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Illegal timber containers are seen. PHOTO: MNA

LOCAL Business

Merchants check fishes at Sanpya fish market in Yangon, early morning on 7 January, 2017. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

2,600 million viss of fish, prawns produced this quarter

THE private sector was able to produce a total of 2,609 million viss of fish and prawns in the third quarter of this fiscal year.

Meanwhile, the Fisheries Department could produce 552 million fish larvae, with 461 million fish larvae sold and 91 million larvae put into rivers and creeks, it is learnt.

Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, delivered a speech at a 3rd coordination meeting held on 30th January by the Fisheries Department during which he said he wished to boost production to meet demand, provide technical assistance in the safe food production chain and get wider access to more markets so as to effectuate the economic development of the agro industry and enhance the socio-economic status of the rural people.

"All the stakeholders in the supply chain are required to improve agricultural production, in accordance with the policy, in order to keep up with international countries in the highly competitive market. In addition, civil staff are also needed to exert the efforts to become skilled and competent ones," said Dr. Aung Thu.

Afterwards, the director-general of the Fisheries Department explained the activities accomplished during the third quarter of this fiscal year and.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Yangon Bus Public Company to suspend stock trading

YANGON Bus Public Company Limited will suspend its stock trading starting on 3 February, it is learnt.

The company will hold its first anniversary general meeting where the suspension of stock trading will be officially announced, said Dr Maung Aung, the chairperson of Yangon Bus Public Company.

The company sold its shares at a price of Ks100,000 in 2016. Shares worth over Ks3 billion have been traded so far. It will announce its resumption of stock trading at a later date, company officials said. Yangon Bus Public Company Limited was founded with a capitalisation of Ks25 billion, with Ks10 billion from the government and Ks15 billion from the private sector.—*200*

Gov't grants over Ks5 trillion to cooperatives in January

PHOTO: THAN OO (LAYMYETHNA)

THE government grants small loans to the cooperatives every year, with Ks5.15 trillion lent to 31,364 cooperatives this month.

But the cooperatives are allowed to take out loans only after paying off existing loans.

There are a total of 31,364 cooperatives in 290 townships across the nation, with 2,641,350 members.

The central cooperative sells agricultural tools at a cheap price. They will offer a small loan plan and instalment plan to the farmers in a bid to transition to mechanised farming.

Seventy per cent of Myanmar's population lives in rural areas, depending mainly on agriculture for their livelihoods. The farmers are faced with financial problems because traditional cultivation cannot reap many benefits.

Therefore, the government formed agricultural cooperatives in all regions and states with an aim at providing agricultural machines to be utilised in the production chain from farm to mill.—*Than OO (Laymyethna)*

Rohu exports down 30 per cent in 2016

Floods in previous years have had a negative impact on fish farming lakes, causing businessmen to turn to other type of fish for cultivation. As a result, rohu exports in 2016 declined by 30 per cent, according to the Myanmar Fishery Federation.

Myanmar's rohu has already attained a market share not only in Asia but also in Middle East countries.

Rohu accounted for 80 per cent of Myanmar's fish cultivation. Additionally, the rohu topped the list for the highest volume of fish exported from Myanmar.

But the fish farming businesses did not turn out as expected because previous floods destroyed some fish farming lakes and the price of aquatic feedstuff increased. Over 90,000 tonnes of rohu were exported in 2015, whereas Myanmar exported only about 50,000 tonnes of rohu in 2016. The rohu are cultivated on an enormous scale in neighbouring countries such as India and Bangladesh.

According to statistics of the Ministry of Commerce, 95 tonnes of rohu were exported to Bangladesh from 17th to 23rd December and 65 tonnes of rohu were also exported from 24th to 30th December.—*200*

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Philippines' Duterte asks China to patrol piracy-plagued waters

MANILA—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Tuesday said he had asked China to help in the fight against Islamic State-linked militants by sending ships to patrol southern waters plagued by raids on commercial vessels.

Speaking to newly promoted army generals, Duterte said he had sought China's help in dangerous waters in the south to check the activities of Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim rebel group sustained by piracy and kidnap-for-ransom activities.

A surge in piracy off parts of the Philippines is forcing ship-owners to divert vessels through other waters, pushing up costs and shipping times.

Duterte said piracy in the Sulu Sea between eastern Malaysia and the southern Philippines would escalate to levels seen in Somalia, and raise insurance costs for firms and increase prices of consumer goods and services.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We would be glad if they have their presence there ... just to patrol," Duterte said, adding that China could send coast-guard vessels, not necessarily "gray" warships.

"In the Malacca Strait and here in Sulu Sea remains to be a big problem," he said. The Malacca Strait, between Malaysia's west coast and the Indonesian island of Sumatra, has over the years also been plagued by pirates.

He did not say if China had responded.

The Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia had an agreement to patrol and tackle the Abu Sayyaf in the Sulu and Celebes Sea after they kidnapped the crew of Indonesian and Malaysian tug boats and South Korean and Vietnamese merchant ships.

Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana last week said cooperation might be expanded to include Brunei and Singapore. The United States has also expressed concern about the security problem and held exercises with Malaysia and the Philippines last year.

Lorenzana said on Tuesday the military had intensified operations on land with the aim of defeating Abu Sayyaf within six months.—*Reuters*

Malaysian police arrest three suspected Islamic State sympathizers

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian authorities have arrested three men for suspected links with the Islamic State militant group, police said on Tuesday.

Muslim-majority Malaysia has been on high alert since an attack last January by Islamic State-linked militants in Jakarta, the capital of neighbouring Indonesia.

Inspector-general of police Khalid Abu Bakar said the suspects were detained in three separate raids from 27 January to 29 January. Police also confiscated a shotgun and an air rifle.

Khalid did not identify the suspects but said one of them, a 38-year-old Malaysian, had posted a plan to carry out a bomb attack in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, on his Facebook page.

Another of the suspects is an Indonesian with Malaysian residency working as security guard with the national carrier, Malaysian Airlines.

He and the third suspect, another Malaysian, were believed to have been planning to join Islamic State militants in Syria, Khalid said.

The three face charges of suspected involvement in terrorism, he said.

Malaysia has not seen a serious militant attack but authorities say they have disrupted several plots. Seven people were wounded in a grenade blast at a bar near Kuala Lumpur in June, in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

Malaysia has arrested more than 250 people between 2013 and 2016 for suspected militant activity linked to Islamic State.

According to police data, 91 Malaysians had gone to fight in the Middle East as of October last year. Of them, eight had returned to Malaysia and 24 had been killed in fighting there.

Last week, authorities said they had arrested four people with links to an Islamic State cell based in the southern Philippines.—*Reuters*

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Hun Sen warns of seizure of Cambodian opposition party's head office

PHNOM PENH—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen warned on Tuesday that the opposition party's head office in the capital Phnom Penh will be seized and sold should he win a lawsuit against the party's leader.

Hun Sen told a parliament session that apart from the office of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, which is registered to party president, other properties belonging to Sam Rainsy located elsewhere, such as in the southwest coastal province of Sihanoukville, would also be confiscated.

Hun Sen said the money he expects to get from winning the defamation case against Sam Rainsy, some $1 million, will be used to build homes for handicapped people in Cambodia.

The lawsuit was filed after Sam Rainsy allegedly accused the premier of bribing Thy Sovantha, a former opposition activist, with $1 million in exchange for her to work in support of the ruling Cambodian People's Party and attack the CNRP.

Also Tuesday, Son Chhay, a senior member of the CNRP, told reporters the court and the ruling party should exercise separate powers. Son Chhay said any "inappropriate seizures" of their party's properties will not benefit the ruling party and will instead lead to "more votes" for the CNRP in the next general election.

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court summoned Sam Rainsy to appear in court on 14 February for questioning over the defamation charge filed by Hun Sen.

Sam Rainsy, who has been in self-imposed exile abroad since November 2015, faces a series of lawsuits and possibly arrest if he returns to Cambodia. He has been convicted in absentia of defamation.

Thy Sovantha, Heng Samrin, president of the National Assembly, and former Foreign Minister Hor Namhong have also filed lawsuits against Sam Rainsy for defamation and disinformation.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen . PHOTO: REUTERS

The CNRP has accused Hun Sen and his party of engaging in legal attacks on its lawmakers to weaken the opposition party ahead of the elections.—*Kyodo News*

Seven-Eleven illegally fines staff for sick leave without substitute

TOKYO—A Seven-Eleven convenience store in Tokyo illegally docked payment of a 16-year-old part-time worker after she took sick leave without arranging for another employee to cover her shifts, the operator of the chain said on Tuesday.

The store deducted 9,350 yen ($82) from the high school girl's paycheck after she took two sick days for a cold in January, according to Seven & I Holdings Co.

The store had informed its part-time workers that they have to find other workers to fill in their shifts when they take unscheduled days off and that if they do not find a replacement, the store will impose a penalty.

The convenience store operator apologized for the act, it is the employer's responsibility to find a replacement when an employee is unable to work.

The entire amount will be returned to the girl, who had already quit the job.

The pay cut also exceeded the legal upper limit set for a wage penalty, the company said.

"We will make efforts to make all franchisees thoroughly adhere to laws," the company said.

The girl took two days off last month after informing the store that she had caught a cold. She was scheduled to work for a total of 10 hours over the two days, according to the Tokyo-based retail giant.—*Kyodo News*

Tech companies to meet on legal challenge to Trump immigration order

SAN FRANCISCO — A group of technology companies plans to meet on Tuesday to discuss filing an amicus brief in support of a lawsuit challenging US President Donald Trump's order restricting immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries, said a spokesperson for a company organizing the gathering.

The meeting is being called together by GitHub, which makes software development tools.

Amicus, or friend of the court, briefs are filed by parties who are not litigants in a case but want to offer arguments or information to the judge.

Alphabet Inc's (GOOGL.O) Google, Airbnb Inc and Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) are among the companies invited, a separate person familiar with the situation said.

Representatives for Google and Netflix could not immediately be reached for comment. An Airbnb spokesman declined to comment.

A man walks past a logo of Airbnb after a news conference in Tokyo, Japan, on 26 November, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The technology sector has become the clearest corporate opponent to the ban announced last week. The industry depends on talent from around the world, and companies have been considering the best way to muster their resources, with efforts so far including statements condemning the move and financial support for organizations backing immigrants, such as the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Trump administration says the rules will increase national safety and are well within its powers.

Michal Rosenn, general counsel for fundraising company Kickstarter, which will be involved in a filing, said the effort began on Monday.

"We're all very shaken. We're shaken to see our neighbors and our families and our friends targeted in this way," Rosenn said. "All of us are trying to think about what we can do."

The discussions among the tech companies come after Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) and Expedia Inc (EXPE.O) filed declarations in court on Monday supporting a lawsuit filed by the Washington state attorney general. Amazon and Expedia said Trump's order adversely impacts their business.

A separate lawsuit challenging Trump's order as unconstitutional was filed on Monday by the Council on American-Islamic Relations. If the tech companies decide to file an amicus brief as a group, it is unclear which case they would weigh in on.

Other companies invited to meet include Adobe Systems Inc (ADBE.O), AdRoll, Automattic Inc, Box Inc (BOX.N), Cloudera Inc, Cloudflare Inc, Docusign, Dropbox, Etsy Inc (ETSY.O), Evernote Corp, Glu Mobile Inc, Lithium, Medium, Mozilla, Pinterest, reddit, Salesforce.com Inc (CRM.N), SpaceX, Stripe, Yelp Inc (YELP.N), and Zynga Inc (ZNGA.O), the source said.

A representative for internet communications company Twilio confirmed it will be involved in filing an amicus brief.

Cloudflare Chief Executive Matthew Prince said the internet security company is willing to consider and sign an amicus brief. Denelle Dixon, chief legal and business officer for Mozilla, said the immigration order was "misplaced and damaging, to Mozilla, to the technology industry and to the country."

Spokespeople for Box and AdRoll said they would attend the meeting. An Etsy spokeswoman said the company received Github's invite but could not confirm if it would move forward with the group. Salesforce declined to comment. Representatives for the other companies could not immediately be reached for comment.—*Reuters*

China to boost development of photovoltaic power technology

BEIJING — China will promote the development of photovoltaic power technology in the next five years to upgrade the country's energy structure.

China will accelerate the technological and industrial upgrade of photovoltaic power and speed up elimination of outdated capacity during 2016-2020, according to the National Energy Administration (NEA) solar power development plan for the next five years. China will install over 110 million kilowatts of solar power by 2020, according to the plan and reduce the price of photovoltaic power by at least 50 percent compared with 2015. China had the world's largest installed capacity of photovoltaic power in 2015, with an annual growth rate of over 33 percent from 2011 to 2015. China is aiming to lift the proportion of non-fossil fuels in energy consumption to 20 percent by 2030 from the present 11 per cent.—*Xinhua*

Nintendo upgrades full-year net profit forecast on weak yen

OSAKA — Nintendo Co on Tuesday revised upward its earnings projection for fiscal 2016 through March, helped by the yen's depreciation.

The Kyoto-based company now expects a group net profit of 90 billion yen ($792 million) for the current business year, compared with a profit of 50 billion yen projected in October.

The consumer electronics and game software maker said it booked a foreign exchange-related gain of 1.4 billion yen in the nine-month period as the value of its foreign-denominated assets rose due to a weaker yen. On the other hand, Nintendo cut its operating profit projection to 20 billion yen, against an earlier forecast of 30 billion yen, on projected sales of 470 billion yen, unchanged from its previous estimate.

Nintendo Co President Tatsumi Kimishima.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Nintendo said consolidated net profit more than doubled to 102.97 billion yen in the April-December period from a year earlier, aided by the success of mobile gaming releases including "Super Mario Run," a side-scrolling adventure game featuring Nintendo's iconic and longest-running character.

The company said its profitability was also aided by the popularity of its palm-sized "Nintendo Classic Mini Family Computer," released in Japan in November in a revival of its groundbreaking early game console that was branded Famicom in Japan and Nintendo Entertainment System elsewhere.

Nintendo revised its assumed foreign exchange rates for the current business year, now expecting the US dollar to average 110 yen, rather than 100 yen. It also expects the euro to average 120 yen, rather than 115 yen. —*Kyodo News*

Tokyo stocks tumble on concerns over Trump entry ban

TOKYO — Tokyo stocks tumbled on Tuesday, with the Nikkei index dropping over 300 points, dragged down by concerns over US President Donald Trump's entry ban on nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended down 327.51 points, or 1.69 per cent, from Monday at 19,041.34. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished 22.10 points, or 1.43 per cent, lower at 1,521.67. Decliners were led by iron and steel, marine transportation and bank issues.—*Kyodo News*

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.

The Four Resources and the Five Dimensions of Development

Kyaw Myaing

IN marching forward towards a modern, developed Federal Democratic Union, it is important to have the overall view as well as the long term view.

By overall view we mean a critical appraisal of our Four Resources. The Four Resources may be characterized as: Human Resources, Financial Resources, Institutional Resources and Natural Resources.

By long term view, we mean to say that it is necessary to have a long term vision of how we wish to develop as a country and also at the individual level, how we wish to live our lives and how we prepare for our next life. Since our long term goal is the establishment of a modern, developed Federal Democratic Union, we will need to establish the most important institutions for democracy and to consolidate the institutions we already have. We all know that a democratic system of government is based on a government chosen and elected by the people. Therefore one of the tasks of the current government will be to further strengthen the main pillars of the democratic system, namely: the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch and the Judiciary Branch. In addition to all these, it is heartening to note that the government has recently established the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. The NRPC has the task of monitoring and implementing the peace process. For however much our citizens desire peace and development, it is imperative that we work hard for internal peace because there is no other way. Development cannot precede peace. Development can only happen when we have peace in our Motherland.

Human Resources

Of all the four resources, we believe that Human Resources are the most valuable resources of our country. Even though a country has ample natural resources, if we fail to develop our human resources, our country will lag behind other countries. Under the heading of human resources management we have the functions of recruitment, training, career development, promotion and transfers and taking disciplinary action. In order to make sure that all the civil service personnel in government departments are in good spirits and to see that their morale is high at all times, it is very important to make sure that there is transparency and fairness in managing promotions and transfers. A sure way to break the spirit of civil service personnel is to give way to unfairness, nepotism and cronyism. That is why Human Resource Management personnel need proper training so that they know the theory and practice of sound management. As we move ahead to modernize our country, promotions and transfers should be based on merit, professional qualifications, experience and hard work.

The best way to keep morale high in all government departments is to make sure that a proper career development policy is in place. This type of policy will make sure that staff and officers get opportunities to study abroad and attend meetings and conferences abroad in accordance with their duties and responsibilities. A chance to study abroad can mean an additional degree and better chances to get a promotion. Staff members and officers who are successful in getting post-graduate degrees should be encouraged to get higher degrees in line with the needs of their departments.

Institutional Resources

In every country, the institutional resources are equally important. A country which is endowed with time honored and prestigious institutions find it easier to develop the country compared to a country which has weak institutions. Here we wish to mention some important institutions in our country.

For example, the Tatmadaw is one of the most important institutions of our country, so also is our Sangha. The Tamataw protects our country from external enemies and also has the primary duty to keep internal peace by protecting our citizens from various kinds of ethnic armed forces who are fighting the government. The Tatmataw as an institution protects the state Constitution. As we move forward it needs to upgrade its professional skills and make sure that its armaments are modern and up to date.

Other institutions worth mentioning are the academic institutions and institutes of higher learning. In this area, strong support from the Union Government is needed in terms of a practical and sound policy for the Education Sector. We need to continue doing research into our past but the same time also collaborate with other institutions of higher learning from other countries to make sure that we are up to date in all areas of scientific enquiry.

In Myanmar, the Sangha constitute a very valuable institutional resource. It is due to the efforts of the Sangha that we have the teachings of the Lord Buddha preserved and propagated to all parts of our country and beyond. The teachings of the Buddha which stresses loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy and equanimity are still relevant today as they were 2500 years ago. At a time when our country is striving very hard for reconciliation and peace among all ethnic national races and between members of different religious faiths, the Sangha as a time honored institution stands tall in integrity and wisdom.

Financial Resources

For our country to be rich in financial resources, we need to ensure that our fiscal and monetary policies are sound, and in line with what is happening in the rest of the world. Our government and our banks should encourage all Myanmar citizens to save. Another important area is the collection of all kinds of taxes. We cannot have a strong government without strong financial resources. That is why the habit of saving and being thrifty is so important for our citizens.

Natural Resources

Many foreigners and friends say that Myanmar is well endowed with natural resources. However, we need to ensure that our natural resources are utilized in a proper manner so that we get the maximum benefit for the people in terms of taxes collected from the export of our natural resources. In the area of mining and the generation of hydropower, proper care should be taken to protect our country from environmental degradation.

Five Dimensions of Development

We in Myanmar can be considered to be lucky because we have what our parents used to teach us, the concept of Pyinsa Bala development. In modern parlance we may call it "the Five Dimensions of Development". Pyinsa is a Myanmar word which means five and Bala means strength in Myanmar. In the Myanmar language, the term Pyinsa Bala means thus: Kaya Bala, Nyana Bala, Bawga Bala, Meitta Bala and Sareita Bala (Health, Knowledge, Wealth, Friends, Character). We think this concept can be used in our country for developing our human resources. In this development model, all the five dimensions are inter-related. If we do not have wealth, we cannot have the means to survive and get a good education. If we do not have good health, we will not be healthy enough to study, pass our exams and get a good job. If we do not have a good network of friends, it will be very difficult to get a good job because we will be lacking in critical information. Sometimes, the best leads come from friends, colleagues and relatives. Even if we have money, health, wealth and friends, all these will not matter much if we do not have a good character. That is why this model of development should be taught in our schools beginning from the primary level.

Conclusion

Another thing to bear in mind is the importance of having a guiding philosophy which can stand the test of time and which can stand rigorous scientific scrutiny. In Myanmar, the majority of our citizens are Buddhists. Therefore, we may say that our guiding philosophy is Buddhism. To put it another way, we may say that the majority of Myanmar citizens follow the teachings of Lord Buddha.

As Buddhists, we were taught to keep the Five Precepts. Actually keeping these five precepts simply mean that we make a solemn promise in front of a Buddhist monk or in front of the Buddha image at home or at a shrine or famous pagoda like the Shwedagon pagoda. The reason for bringing up this point about the Five Precepts is because this constitutes a very important aspect of self-discipline. When we make this simple promise to keep the Five Precepts, we are actually making the promise to ourselves. If we falter and fail to keep any one of the precepts, we will be the first person to know.

All that we are is founded on our thoughts. It is based on our thoughts. So we should all strive to do good deeds and keep a positive frame of mind.

A historic "Vision" ..... after a generation

San Shwe Aung

A generation is "all of the people born and living at about the same time, regarded collectively." It can also be described as, "the average period, generally considered to be about thirty years, during which children are born and grow up, become adults, and begin to have children of their own. A familial generation is a group of living beings constituting a single step in the line of descent from an ancestor. In developed nations the average familial generation length is 20 years and has even reached 25 or even 30 years in some nations. State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said at the IE Singapore's Global Conversations business dialogue in Singapore during her official visit in November 30th 2016 that "In 20 years' time, Myanmar will have overtaken Singapore and you will help us to do that because success in one part of the region means success throughout the region and we have never found it difficult to engage with Singapore economically." The State Counselor has laid down a very important historic "Vision" for Myanmar citizens. We all people of Myanmar are now bound and need to commit ourselves to realize that historic "Vision".

In relevant connection with above mentioned episode, there was a world famous "Vision" laid down by the then 35th President of Unites States of America John F Kennedy on 25th May 1961 at the US Congress. He declared that "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth." Following that renowned guideline by the President Kennedy, the people of United States of America had worked very hard to realize that "Vision" and eventually National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of USA sent space craft Apollo 11 to the moon in July 1969, just before of the end of that decade. On 20th July 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong had become the first human to have put his feet and walked on the surface of the moon. We can draw an excellent lesson from President Kennedy's vision that a great leader can truly inspire the whole nation to make seemingly impossible mission possible.

See page 9 >>

Lahu National Development Party presents its policy, philosophy and programs

U Shee Mon of Lahu National Development Party.

U SHEE MON, Secretary for Social Affairs of the Lahu National Development Party presented the policy, philosophy and programs of their party on Radio and TV on 31 January 2017.

The text of his presentation is given below:

Respected People and Voters watching television and giving us support!

First of all, I would like to express my thanks to the Union Election Commission for making arrangements for us to broadcast on television our party's policy, philosophy and programs as part of our election campaign.

I am U Shee Mon, Secretary for Social affairs of the Lahu National Development Party.

LNDP represents all the Lahu nationals. Our aim to ensure that Lahu nationals get what they need and the opportunities they deserve, in accord with the law. In the by-election to be held on April 1, 2017, "LNDP" will contest for 2 parliamentary seats—one for the State Parliamentary Seat in constituency 2 of Kengtung township, eastern Shan State and another for the State Parliamentary Seat in constituency 2 of Kyaythee township, southern Shan State.

The policies of our Lahu National Development Party are as follows:

We believe that success will be achieved in building up a modern and developed Union only if all the nationals living in the Union of Myanmar can build the Federal Union by exercising a genuine multi-party democratic system. The Lahu National Development Party was formed to campaign and organize all the ethnic nationals residing in the region where Lahu nationals live with the aim of getting their united strength in building up a federal democratic Union.

Our party is named in Lahu language as—"Lahuchawkyuoularmulatu" party and it means in English LNDP (Lahu National Development Party.)

Aims and objectives of LNDP are:

1. To ensure that the sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar spreads all across the nation as far as the borders of our country; to ensure the perpetuation of national unity and to exert our efforts for the eternal survival of Myanmar's Independence, by observing democratic practices.

2 .To cultivate the development of literature, culture, traditions and arts of Lahu nationals,

3. To ensure equal opportunities for all citizens and rule of law, to establish a well-defined area; to freely launch political, economic, social and organizational activities,

4. To upgrade the living standards of the region where Lahu nationals reside, which had lagged behind in development during the successive regimes,

5. For the development of the Union and the region, to use the experiences, technological skills and practices of developed countries as working guides.

Party Logo.

Future programs of the LNDP:

1. Our party will organize and train Lahu nationals living in the area and across the Union of Myanmar to develop an enlightened and active organizational outlook in the economic, political, and social fields and to improve the prestige of our party.

2. Our party will organize and work to gain the rights of ethnic nationals and delimitation of a well-defined region; to abandon terrorism which has caused sufferings to everyone and to find the right solutions under the law in accord with just, fair, and peaceful democratic practices.

3. Our party will occasionally combine, align and help each other by making friends with any political party with common aims, conception and vision, without discrimination on a basis of equality.

4. Our party will organize our ethnic nationals to give up their hereditary ways of livelihood of producing narcotic drugs and opium, to substitute crop agriculture and livestock breeding and to explore minerals as a means of livelihood. As needed, technicians, professionals and investment will be found out for successful implementation.

5. Our party will exercise an independent and active political policy and peaceful co-existence with other countries.

6. Our party will cultivate the revival of literature, culture, traditions and arts of Lahu nationals and development of social affairs and activities.

7. Our party will carry out programs for easy transportation and communication from one area to another, availability of free health care and free education regardless of status.

Here, I conclude my presentation on LNDP's policies and programs by giving assurances that our party will place strong emphasis for the affairs of children and the participation of women.

A historic "Vision" ..... after a generation

>> from page 8

A great leader also can enhance the capacity & morality of the people of a nation. Now in Myanmar, our leader has already laid down a very clear "Vision" for coming 20 years or for the next generation to persevere to achieve the mission. We therefore have to make a lot of things happen in 20 years. The "Vision" laid down by the State Counselor has to be altered to a feasible, implementable and workable "Mission" followed by long, medium & short term policies, strategies, master plans, tactical plans, programmes & projects by responsible agencies and bodies transparently and in inclusive ways.

Perhaps we consider 10 years old kids, who are mainly primary school children, as the youngest generation and they will become young educated adults in 30s, in coming 20 years. 16 to 20 years old youngsters today are studying in upper high school classes or already in colleges & universities. The latter generation will be in late 30s and early 40s in coming 20 years. The government and senior citizens need to plan for the excellence of education, technical skills, scientific innovation, top class competence in management, businesses, industrial & engineering, defense & security, law, health care, social science and political arenas. Many people in Myanmar now are fully convinced that world class education is key to the development, success and nation building areas. The young generations have been, no doubt, having burning desire to improve and speed up progress of the country to shoulder or even overtake other neighboring countries.

Education, generally enhances the knowledge and morality of the people. Being graduate from a university does not make one a rounded person. Knowledge will have to be accompanied with morality. We can build our country and compete with other neighboring progressing successful countries once our people have education, world class knowledge in all sectors and most importantly morality. What has been happening in our country though is that people, who might have high competence in technical skills but little morality, are making head line news in daily newspapers and other social media. Bad behavior of public bus drivers and attendants who insult the travelers on their buses, verbally abuse other car-drivers and even attack with knifes to the people after quarreling with them etc., are in the news almost every day, lately. These are very shameful acts of the otherwise technical competent people who obviously lack morality. These incidents are also damaging and degrading the image of our country. In this IT era, the whole world already knows about the despising deed of those people. It is highly important that those rude people must be punished heavily and immediately, according to law. Littering is another problem in our country.

Most people enjoy throwing away garbage into the drains, spit their betel liquid on the pavement, household kitchen waste are even thrown into the backyard blocking the drain and increasing rodents infestation. YCDC has been working very hard to collect garbage from all parts of Yangon with increased number of garbage trucks and manpower. They still face daunting challenges since many of Yangon residents fail to dispose their daily garbage into the bid green & orange containers which are put almost every corner of the roads & streets. Smoking rampantly in all public places is another health nuisance which disturb non-smokers particularly young children. All above problems will have to be solved in coming years, if we want to catch up or overtake Singapore in a generation. More awareness & education as well as fine (cash), punishment and strong actions are needed to the offenders. New young generations need to be effectively educated (include in their curriculum) & trained not to follow suit the bad habits of older generations. It might take more than 20 years, perhaps. In addition parliament and government agencies will have to positively address the following country social and economic problems being faced by our people in the country.

- Eradication of corruption in all areas
- Decent and sufficient official earning, salaries or income of public and private sector workers
- All government departments have to fully apply e-Government in reasonable period, so that paperless system will eradicate the corruption in serving the interest of the public
- All competent people must have opportunity for arts & science higher education and technical vocational training
- All citizen must have employment opportunities at all time
- All adults have access to own a decent accommodation (either a home or an apartment). It is closely connected to limiting by law, the ownership of property to one house or apartment per one adult only.
- Rule of law in cities, towns, villages and in rural areas

There may be other issues to be addressed in addition to the points mentioned above. If we cannot tackle and solve successfully the key above mentioned problems, we might remain one of the poorest & least developed countries for long time in ASEAN. However, once we overcome the problems we will surely be overtaking Singapore in 20 years time.

US envoy says no American weapons buildup in Philippines

MANILA — The United States ambassador to the Philippines on Tuesday rebuffed accusations by President Rodrigo Duterte that American troops were building arms depots in five Philippine bases, in breach of a security deal.

Duterte on Sunday said the United States had stockpiled weapons, including tanks, in three locations in the Philippines, which could provoke China and put his country in harm's way.

Duterte then threatened to scrap a defence treaty between the two allies that is crucial to US strategic interests in Asia.

"We are not building a weapons depot anywhere in the Philippines," Ambassador Sung Kim told a forum at the influential Makati Business Club, adding facilities due to be built were to store equipment for disaster response.

He said the United States could not build anything on Philippine bases against the consent of the Philippine government, and its facilities are "not related to weapons".

Philippine military officials on Monday contradicted Duterte and said his concern had been looked into, but there was nothing to back it up.

Sung said he had several lengthy discussions with top security officials including the defense minister, and promised to address some concerns. He said the alliance remained robust.

Duterte's spokesman, Ernesto Abella declined to say what the president's source of information was when he said American armories were being built.

"I cannot tell you that but he seems to be privy to some sort of information," Abella told a news briefing.

"He may have come up on other confirmation that may have affected those comments."

Duterte's remarks came after the Pentagon approved upgrades and construction of barracks, runways and storage facilities this year under a 2014 Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) that the outspoken president has scorn for.

The defence agreement covers rotational deployment of US ships, aircraft and troops at five bases, and storage of equipment for humanitarian and maritime security missions.

Duterte has said he hates having American troops on Philippine soil. He has made efforts to improve ties with China, despite a long-running dispute over rival claims in the South China Sea.—*Reuters*

French police raid Fillon parliament office over fake pay affair

PARIS — Financial police searched French presidential candidate Francois Fillon's office in parliament on Tuesday, a parliamentary source said, part of an inquiry into his wife's income that has thrown the election wide open.

Fillon had been favorite to win the presidency for conservative party The Republicans until a week ago when a newspaper reported that his wife Penelope drew hundreds of thousands of euros in pay without doing any work.

Fillon has said she did work for the money, but an official inquiry has been opened, and an opinion poll published on Sunday showed rival independent centrist Emmanuel Macron has caught him up. The scandal has also coincided with the choice of a hard-left presidential candidate by the Socialist party in Benoit Hamon, a move also seen as good for Macron's prospects.

A group of right-leaning Socialist lawmakers wrote in Le Monde newspaper on Tuesday that they could not back Hamon, the clearest sign yet that his appointment could tear the party apart, with some lawmakers tempted to join the Macron camp.

But it was the Fillon fake pay scandal, and his team's attempts to control it, that was center-stage on Tuesday.

The Canard Enchaine's story on fake pay calls into question the squeaky-clean image that won him the party ticket for The Republicans over rivals who had legal issues overhanging their campaigns.

Separately from the search of his office, Fillon's lawyer sought to explain the payments on Tuesday.

Francois Fillon (R) former French prime minister, member of The Republicans political party and 2017 presidential candidate of the French centre-right, reacts as he touches his wife Penelope Fillon they attend at political rally in Paris. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Francois Fillon had no constituency office while he was a member of parliament," his lawyer Antonin Levy told RTL radio.

"That role was filled from their home, and in your view who is at home ... if there is no office? Penelope Fillon of course."

Le Canard Enchaine reported that Penelope Fillon — who had previously said in interviews that she did not get involved in her husband's political affairs — had been paid 500,000 euros ($534,000) from state funds as a parliamentary assistant to Fillon and his successor.

The newspaper said it could find no evidence that she had actually done any work. It also said she was paid a further 100,000 euros for very little work by a literary review, whose owner Marc Ladreit de Lacharriere was a family friend.

The payments involved were made over a period between ranging between 1998 and 2013, the newspaper said.

The Fillons and Ladreit de Lacharriere were all interviewed by the police leading the inquiry on Monday. Fillon has not denied the payments but has said her work was not fake.

He has said he will step down as presidential candidate should he be put under formal investigation.

An opinion poll by Kantor-Sofres on Sunday put Macron and Fillon almost neck-and-neck on 20-21 and 21-22 percent respectively in the first round of the presidential election on 23 April, with Fillon having lost ground compared with a month ago.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

US President Trump poses grave risk to world trade: French Finance Minister

PARIS—US President Donald Trump's administration poses a grave risk to international trade and Europe will have to stand up to him to prevent the collapse of global economic institutions, French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said on Tuesday.

"Our American partner appears to want to take unilaterally protectionist decisions which could destabilise the whole world economy," Sapin said in a speech to an audience of international economists gathered at the French finance ministry.

"Decisions by the new US administration are posing a grave risk to the world trade order," he said. "Neither France nor Europe ... can watch helplessly as our economic institutions risk being dislocated," he added.—*Reuters*

Dacic: We are not interfering in internal matters of others

BELGRADE — Commenting on the US visa ban for citizens of seven Muslim countries, FM Ivica Dacic said Serbia did not want to interfere in internal matters of sovereign countries, while his Qatari counterpart, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Bin Jassim Al Thani, said he believed the US would reassess the decision.

"This is something related to the domestic issues of the US, which we cannot comment on... The Muslim countries cannot be designated as a source of terrorism, and we believe that the American institutions, as they have announced yesterday, are going to look at the decision and develop further assessment for the impact of such a decision on them," Al Thani told reporters after meeting with Dacic in Belgrade.—*Tanjug*

New loans for Greece depend on IMF participation-German FinMin

BERLIN — Further financial assistance for Greece depends on the successful completion of a review of its bailout programme and the participation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a spokesman for the German Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

"Further payments depend on the successful completion of the programme's review and the participation of the IMF," the spokesman said.

On Monday, the head of the euro zone's bailout fund said Greece will only receive more loans from the bloc if the IMF joins its latest aid programme, spelling out a condition thus far disregarded by Athens's creditors.

Greece needs a new tranche of financial aid under its 86 billion euro bailout by the third quarter of the year or it faces the risk of defaulting on its debts.—*Reuters*

Japan, Austria sign treaty to avoid double taxation

TOKYO — Japan and Austria have signed a convention aimed at avoiding double taxation, the Japanese government said on Tuesday.

The convention, signed on Monday, also enables the two countries to exchange information to prevent international tax evasion and avoidance.

The new document updates the existing one that took effect in 1963 and is intended to promote investment and economic exchanges between the two countries, the government said.

It will come into force after Japan and Austria complete domestic procedures.—*Kyodo News*

Czech minister believes foreign state behind ministry hack

PRAGUE — Hackers have breached dozens of email accounts at the Czech Foreign Ministry in an attack that was similar to the hacking of the US Democratic party, Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek said on Tuesday.

Zaoralek said he was told by experts the attacks were likely conducted by a foreign state. He said no confidential material from the ministry was compromised in the attacks.—*Reuters*

Protests expected after Pakistan detains alleged architect of Mumbai attack

LAHORE, (Pakistan) — Pakistani police confined the accused architect of the 2008 Mumbai attacks to house arrest on Tuesday, manning barricades outside his home in the city of Lahore as supporters vowed protests.

The detention of Islamist leader Hafiz Saeed follows action by the US administration of President Donald Trump aimed at countries deemed linked to terrorism, and one Pakistani official said the fear of US action against Pakistan had been a factor in the decision to hold Saeed.

India has been demanding action against him since the attack on Mumbai by 10 gunmen from Pakistan, who infiltrated the city by boat and killed 166 people in a rampage that included attacks on two luxury hotels, a Jewish centre and a train station. The attack brought nuclear-armed Pakistan and India to the brink of war. India had yet to respond to Saeed's confinement to his home in the eastern city of Lahore.

Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, chief of the banned Islamic charity Jamat-ud-Dawa, is escorted to his home where he will be under house arrest in Lahore, Pakistan on 30 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Police detained Saeed, founder of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant group that India blames for the bloodshed, at the headquarters of his charity, the Jamaat-ud-Dawa (JuD), late on Monday.

Shortly before dawn on Tuesday, police took him to his house, where a Reuters cameraman saw police setting up a perimeter. They later banned media from the scene as about 100 Saeed supporters chanted slogans.

Saeed and his supporters accused Pakistan of acquiescing to the wishes of the United States, which has a $10 million reward for information leading to Saeed's arrest, and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"This is taking place because of Modi's insistence, Trump's pressure and Pakistan's helplessness," Saeed told media late on Monday as he was being led away.

Saeed has denied ordering the Mumbai attacks and has distanced himself from the LeT, while leading his charity.

A JuD spokesman, Farooq Azam, announced protests in the southern city of Karachi.

'HARD DECISIONS'

The United States has listed both the LeT and the charity as "foreign terrorist" organisations. Western officials regard the charity as a front for the LeT.

The Pakistani government has not commented on why it acted now.

A senior defence ministry official said the government had not been contacted by the new US administration but had been feeling US pressure on the issue.

"Trump is taking hard decisions against Muslim countries, there is open talk of actions against Pakistan also. So yes, this was a consideration," said the official, who declined to be identified. In recent months, Saeed has been holding regular news conferences to denounce a security crackdown in the Indian-controlled part of the divided Kashmir region.—*Reuters*

Iran won't use ballistic missiles to attack any country: foreign minister

TEHRAN — Iran said on Tuesday it would never use its ballistic missiles to attack another country but that its missile tests are neither part of a nuclear accord with world powers nor a UN Security Council resolution endorsing the deal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif spelled out Tehran's stance after a US official said Iran on Sunday test-launched a medium-range ballistic missile that exploded after 630 miles (1,010 km).

Visiting French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault told reporters France had voiced its concerns over the Iranian test, adding that it harmed the international community's confidence in Tehran and contravened UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

That resolution ratified a July 2015 accord between Iran and six world powers under which it scaled back its nuclear activity to defuse concerns it could be put to making atomic bombs; in return, Iran won relief from crippling economic sanctions.

Zarif neither confirmed nor denied the US report that it tested a ballistic missile on Sunday but added: "The missiles aren't part of the nuclear accords. Iran will never use missiles produced in Iran to attack any other country."

"No Iranian missiles have been produced to carry nuclear warheads," said Zarif, speaking at a joint news conference held with Ayrault in Tehran. The Security Council resolution called on Iran not to carry out activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, condemned Iran on Monday and said he would work with other lawmakers and the Trump administration to hold Iran accountable.

Ayrault said at the start of his two-day trip to Tehran on Monday that France would act as a defender of the nuclear deal that new US President Donald Trump has threatened to tear up.

But Ayrault added it was imperative the Islamic Republic abide strictly by the conditions of the accord. Ayrault said it was in the "common interest" that all sides heeded the deal.

The United States, Russia, China, Britain, Germany and France were parties to the deal. Paris took one of the hardest lines against Tehran in the negotiations, but has been quick to restore trade relations since then.—*Reuters*

Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. PHOTO: REUTERS

Afghan troops battle Taliban offensive in Helmand province

LASHKAR GAH (Afghanistan) — Afghan forces said they were holding off a Taliban offensive in Helmand province on Tuesday, as reinforcements and air support arrived.

Both sides reported heavy fighting as Taliban militants attacked government positions in Sangin district, an area where insurgents have made major gains in the past two years.

"There is heavy fighting still ongoing between the Taliban and our forces but those places that were captured by the Taliban yesterday have been taken back," said Omar Zwak, a spokesman for the governor of the southern province. Among the reinforcements sent to the embattled district were new commando units, he said.

A regional Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, said fighters had captured at least 25 government checkpoints and killed more than 100 soldiers and police.

The Taliban used tunnels dug from houses to attack the government's front-line checkpoints, General Wali Mohammad Ahmadzai, commander of the 215th Army Corps, said on Monday.

Army officials said they had killed at least 19 Taliban and wounded 25.

British, American and other international forces battled the Taliban in Helmand for years after the ouster of the militant group from power in late 2001. Sangin and other districts saw sustained heavy fighting.

The Taliban have made gains in several parts of the country since most foreign combat troops withdrew from Afghanistan at the end of 2014.

The US-led coalition has redeployed hundreds of troops to Helmand, however, to train and advise Afghan forces, as well as provide occasional air support.—*Reuters*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TYGRA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TYGRA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV X PRESS YAMUNA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV X PRESS YAMUNA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (162)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (162) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

Some leading French Socialists threaten to desert hard-left Hamon

PARIS — Two French Socialists said they would not back their party's hard-left presidential candidate Benoit Hamon, deepening splits in the party and handing a possible boost to independent centrist rival Emmanuel Macron.

Other senior party members, including Finance Minister Michel Sapin, took to the airwaves on Tuesday urging Hamon to pull back to the centre ground, signaling they might also desert him if he persisted.

Hamon secured the Socialist ticket after a run-off vote on Sunday on a raft of divisive policies including legalizing cannabis, cancelling debts between EU states and bringing in a "universal income" for all citizens.

Socialist politicians Christophe Caresche and Gilles Savary, from the right wing of the Socialist party, wrote an article in Tuesday's Le Monde newspaper saying they could not support him.

Former French education minister Benoit Hamon reacts after partial results in the second round of the French left's presidential primary election in Paris. PHOTO: REUTERS

"How could we back a program that is the total opposite of the (current presidential) mandate that we support and which produced progress in our view," they said.

Sapin and Health Minister Marisol Touraine, staunch allies of unpopular Socialist President Francois Hollande, said Hamon should concentrate on winning over the rest of the party, and not expect fellow-Socialists to fall into line behind him.

Sapin said Hamon had two or three weeks to clarify the situation, without going into further details.

The Socialists, weakened and divided after Hollande's presidency, are given next to no chance of getting beyond the first round of the election in April. But a defection of centrist Socialists could be a significant boost for Macron.

A poll published on 29 January for French newspaper Le Figaro showed far-right leader Marine Le Pen would come first in the election's first round in April with 25 per cent of the votes, while conservative candidate Francois Fillon would garner 21-22 per cent and Macron 20-21 per cent. In the runoff on 7 May, both Fillon and Macron were seen winning if either was pitted against Le Pen, while Macron would beat Fillon in the knockout, the poll added.—*Reuters*

Germany sends tanks to Lithuania for NATO mission

GRAFENWOEHR, (Germany) — Germany began sending tanks and other equipment to Lithuania on Tuesday as part of a NATO mission to beef up the defence of eastern Europe and send a signal of resolve to Russia, which has denounced the build-up as an act of aggression.

The German army command said it was sending about 200 vehicles, including 30 tanks, by train to Lithuania along with 450 troops, the first of whom arrived last week. The transports would continue until late February.

Seven decades after the end of World War Two, the movement of German troops to eastern Europe, even on a NATO mission, remains a sensitive issue both in Germany and the region. On Monday the US military deployed thousands of soldiers and heavy weaponry to Poland, the Baltic states and southeastern Europe in its biggest build-up since the Cold War.

The movements are part of a strategy agreed by NATO leaders last July to reassure member states that were once part of the Soviet bloc and have been alarmed by Russia's seizure of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014.

The 28-nation Western alliance decided to move four battalions totalling 3,000 to 4,000 troops into northeastern Europe on a rotating basis to display its readiness to defend eastern members against any Russian aggression.

The deployments focus on Poland and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which fear Moscow could try to destabilise them by cyber attacks, territorial incursions or other means.—*Reuters*

Poland's Walesa collaborated with communist secret police — institute

WARSAW — Poland's government-affiliated history institute said on Tuesday it had new evidence that Lech Walesa, who led protests and strikes that shook communist rule in the 1980s, had been a secret police informant in the 1970s.

A lawyer for Walesa, whose actions leading the Solidarity trade union contributed to the fall of communism throughout eastern Europe, said the evidence could be faulty and asked to question the assessors.

The Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) said a handwriting study showed recently-publicised documents suggesting Walesa, who was awarded the Nobel Peace prize and later became president, had indeed collaborated were genuine.

The IPN said forensic evidence proved he had provided at least 29 reports, signed with the codename "Bolek", long ascribed to Walesa. It did not say what these reports contained.

"There is no doubt," investigator Andrzej Pozorski told a news conference. "A handwritten agreement to collaborate with the Security Police from 21 December, 1970, was written in its entirety by Lech Walesa."

The issue of whether Walesa collaborated has become deeply divisive in Poland. Former electrician Walesa, with his familiar fulsome moustache, being borne aloft by workers occupying the Gdansk shipyards became one of the abiding images of anti-communist movements in the Soviet bloc. He became an object of fierce condemnation by Soviet authorities.

Pozorski said the IPN, a state agency tasked with investigating crimes "against the Polish Nation" from World War Two until the collapse of communism, had reviewed 17 cash receipts and concluded they were written by Walesa.

Walesa has acknowledged once signing a commitment to inform. But he insists he never fulfilled it and a special court exonerated him in 2000.

Walesa's legal representative, Jan Widacki, said the graphological examination did not amount to scientific evidence.

"This is not something that can be measured. We would definitely like to interrogate the assessors who issued this opinion," Widacki told public television TVP Info.

He said if the assessors worked on Walesa's handwriting from recent years, then their opinion could be faulty.

"Walesa's handwriting today is not Walesa's handwriting from the '70s when he was a simple labourer," Widacki said.

The documents surfaced last year at the house of a late communist interior minister. The ruling conservatives, led by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, have leapt at the opportunity to question Walesa's independence from the communist-era police after he became Poland's first democratically elected president between 1990 and 1995. Walesa's critics argue the files put into question not only Walesa's standing as a hero of the effort to end communist rule but also raise doubts about whether the country ever succeeded in fully shaking off the influence of pre-1989 communist officials.

His defenders say that whatever the authenticity of the documents, they do little to undermine his merits in leading efforts to shake off communist rule.—*Reuters*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SENTOSA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2017 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2017 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.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Honda, GM to launch joint venture to produce fuel-cell car systems

DETROIT — Honda Motor Co and General Motors Co of the United States said on Monday they will establish a US subsidiary to jointly produce next-generation systems for hydrogen-powered vehicles in the country.

The two automakers, which have cooperated to develop systems for fuel-cell vehicles since 2013, aim to launch production in the fifty-fifty joint venture around 2020, they said.

American Honda Motor President Toshiaki Mikoshiba told a press conference in Detroit that the companies decided to set up a manufacturing base in Michigan "mainly because America is the world's biggest market for fuel cells."

The automakers aim to gain a competitive edge over their rivals in the race to further develop the environment-friendly vehicles by reducing high production costs through the mass-production tie-up. But the companies did not disclose at the press conference the expected impact of the joint venture on profits.

Honda and GM are seeking to downsize fuel batteries and their peripheral devices, with the aim of using them in fuel-cell vehicles they plan to sell from 2020, they said.

The two automakers will invest $4.25 million each to establish the joint venture at a GM factory in Michigan, which will likely create around 100 new jobs.

They plan to build a new production line to churn out fuel cells at the Michigan factory, which is currently producing batteries for electric vehicles.

In line with the envisioned joint venture with GM, Honda will suspend production of fuel-cell car systems at a factory in Tochigi Prefecture, eastern Japan.

As part of efforts to expand cooperation with companies in other business sectors, Honda is considering teaming up with Google Inc of the United States in developing self-driving technology.

Japanese automakers are struggling to sell fuel-cell vehicles due to their high cost and the slow development of required infrastructure in the country, with Honda launching a hydrogen-powered vehicle called the Clarity Fuel Cell last year to challenge rival Toyota Motor Corp.'s Mirai released in 2014.

Around 100 Clarity Fuel Cell vehicles have been sold, while the Mirai has seen sales of about 2,500 units in Japan, the United States and Europe.—*Kyodo News*

Mark Reuss (L), General Motors Co executive vice president of global product development, and Toshiaki Mikoshiba, chief operating officer of the North American region for Honda Motor Co, join hands during a press conference in Detroit on 30 January, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

South African 'Bull Dog' prosecutor made famous by Pistorius trial resigns

JOHANNESBURG — South African prosecutor Gerrie Nel, who oversaw the conviction of Paralympian Oscar Pistorius, has resigned from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), its spokesman said on Tuesday.

Lead prosecutor Nel is a veteran lawyer known for his ability to take on the powerful and politically connected. His biggest scalp is former police chief and Interpol head Jackie Selebi, who was convicted of corruption in 2010.

During the Pistorius trial, Nel painstakingly crafted a picture of Pistorius as a cold-blooded killer who fired through a door at his cowering girlfriend. For his no-nonsense attitude, Nel earned the nickname 'The Bull Dog' as a prosecutor.

State prosecutor Gerrie Nel arrives for an appeal hearing brought by prosecutors against the six-year jail term handed to Oscar Pistorius for the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in Johannesburg, South Africa on 26 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pistorius says he shot dead Steenkamp by accident after mistaking her for an intruder in his house.

"We confirm that advocate Gerrie Nel tendered his resignation on the 30th of January," said the NPA's spokesman Luvuyo Mfaku.

He said the resignation "is effective today (Tuesday)" and that Nel said he was resigning to pursue other interests. Nel was not available to comment.

Pistorius was sentenced to six years in prison in July after being found guilty of murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on appeal last December. The track star originally received a five-year sentence for a manslaughter conviction, that was upgraded to murder on appeal.

Nel was challenging Pistorius' six year sentence, arguing it was too lenient as it was less than half the 15-years that state prosecutors sought.—*Reuters*

Poisonous gas kills 9 workers inside oil mill in India

NEW DELHI — At least nine people were killed after inhaling poisonous gas at an oil mill in western Indian state of Maharashtra, officials said on Tuesday.

The workers were cleaning a chemical tank of the oil mill at Latur industrial area, about 472 km east of Mumbai, the capital city of Maharashtra.

"Nine workers were killed inside an oil mill here," a police official posted in Latur said. "The incident occurred yesterday evening after which bodies of seven workers were taken out. Early today two more bodies were recovered from the tank."

One worker, who was rescued in an unconscious state, was hospitalized at a nearest medical facility.

"He is undergoing treatment at Vivekanand hospital here," the official said.

Police registered a case and ordered a probe into the mishap. Witnesses told media they came to know about the incident when the workers did not came out for long and fellow workers who went to check on them too got stuck.

"Bodies were found stacked inside the tank," a fire service official said. "Primarily it appears workers have died due to inhaling poisonous gas but exact reason will be known only after the post mortem of bodies is carried out."

Police have arrested four persons including the owner of the mill in connection with the mishap.

Labor union leaders in India often accuse factories and mills of ignoring safety standards vis-a-vis workers.—*Xinhua*

3 injured in Osprey "hard landing" in Yemen: Pentagon

WASHINGTON — A US Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey transport aircraft made a hard landing in Yemen during an antiterrorism operation on Sunday local time, injuring three service members, the Defence Department said on Monday.

The Pentagon did not disclose the cause of the incident, which US media, including Fox News, described as a "crash."

MV-22 aircraft, which can take off and land like helicopters but cruise like planes, have drawn safety concerns, particularly in Japan, due to a series of fatal accidents involving them, including during their development phase.

In December, a US MV-22 deployed in Japan's Okinawa crash-landed in a coastal area of Okinawa's main island, reigniting concern and calls for the aircraft's removal from the island prefecture.

Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis said the Osprey in Yemen did not take any enemy fire. It was later destroyed by the US military in an air strike as it was unable to fly, he said.

The Osprey was involved in an operation targeting the al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula militant group.—*Kyodo News*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAKAO VOY. NO (43)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAKAO VOY. NO (43) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.S.T.L-2 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV BMC CALYPSO VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BMC CALYPSO VOY. NO ( )) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

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Dated: 1 February 2017

Spain's Almodovar to head Cannes Film Festival jury

PARIS — Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar will head the jury at this year's Cannes Film Festival on the French Riviera, its organisers said on Tuesday.

The Oscar winning writer and director, whose works include "Julieta", "Bad Education" and "All About My Mother", has had five of his movies shown in competition at the festival.

Almodovar, 67, said he was "grateful, honoured and a bit overwhelmed". Further jury members for the 70th edition of the festival, which will run from 17 May to 28 May, will be announced in April.

"The Festival de Cannes is delighted to welcome a unique and hugely popular artist. His works have already carved out an eternal niche in the history of film," festival organisers said in a statement.—*Reuters*

Director Pedro Almodovar poses during a photocall for the film "Julieta" in competition at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 17 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Arnett says voicing 'Lego Batman Movie' superhero left him 'spent'

LONDON—Comedian and actor Will Arnett reprises voicing Batman in "The Lego Batman Movie", a role he said took a toll on his vocal chords with long sessions in the booth performing the superhero's well-known deep gravelly voice.

The animated adventure film, showing a world based on the colorful toy building bricks, sees the Batman/Bruce Wayne character from 2014's "The Lego movie" fighting crime in Gotham City before going home to self-imposed solitude.

"Vocally, physically, it would get hard. After four hours of doing it, I'd be pretty spent," Arnett told Reuters in an interview. "Because... it doesn't feel great to constantly be talking like this," he added, while adopting Batman's voice. With a production budget of $60 million, "The Lego Movie" grossed some $469 million at the box office worldwide, according to website Box Office Mojo.

In "The Lego Batman Movie", the character's loneliness is a focus for a lot of the film's humour.

"He is a billionaire and he's handsome and he has got this great house and he's got all these great gadgets — why is he so upset?," Arnett said. "And it really made us laugh, we were thinking: 'What is it about his life that he feels is incomplete, we should get into that'. "The Lego Batman Movie" hits cinemas worldwide from 8 February.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Musician John Mayer performs during the Global Citizen Festival in New York on 28 September, 2013. The festival is an initiative of the Global Poverty Project, which is a movement to end extreme poverty. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Weeknd holds off John Mayer for top Billboard spot

LOS ANGELES — Canadian rapper The Weeknd held off singer-songwriter John Mayer to take the No 1 spot on the Billboard 200 album chart for a fourth straight week, according to figures on Monday from Nielsen SoundScan.

After nine weeks on release, The Weeknd's "Starboy" added another 56,000 units sold for the week, while Mayer's new four-song EP, "The Search for Everything: Wave One," sold 49,000. Mayer on Monday announced a North American and European tour to promote the album that will kick off on 31 March in Albany, New York and end in May in London.

In a week of few new album releases, the soundtrack to Oscar-nominated movie "La La Land" took the No 3 spot.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran again dominated the digital songs chart, which measures online song sales. His single "Shape of You," released three weeks ago, sold 103,000 units for the week.—*Reuters*

Pop group JKT48 appointed as tourism ambassadors for Hokkaido city

HAKODATE (Japan) — The city of Hakodate in Japan's northernmost prefecture Hokkaido on Monday appointed Jakarta-based pop idol group JKT48 as tourism ambassadors in a bid to draw visitors from Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries.

Some members of the overseas sister group of AKB48, one of the most popular Japanese all-girl idol groups, visited Hakodate city hall and accepted the appointment from Mayor Toshiki Kudo.

"I hope (Indonesian people) will experience the cold weather of Hokkaido, as it is hot in Indonesia," Melody Nurramdhani Laksani, the 24-year-old leader of JKT48, told reporters through an interpreter.

"Social networking services are among the ways I'll promote the attractions of Hakodate."

Group members will take part in events to promote Hakodate in Southeast Asian countries.

"I've heard the number of people traveling abroad has been increasing as the Indonesian economy grows. I'd like to pay a visit there, too," the mayor said during his meeting with the JKT48 members.

Hakodate Mayor Toshiki Kudo (back C) poses for photos with members of Jakarta-based all-girl pop group JKT48, a sister unit of Japan's AKB48, at the Hakodate municipal office in Hokkaido on 30 January, 2017. JKT48 was appointed as the city's tourism ambassador and will promote Hakodate in Southeast Asia. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

On Monday the group shot a music video local tourist destinations including the Hakodate Asaichi, a morning market famous for fresh fish, and the 107-meter-tall Goryokaku Tower, which commands a view of the city located in southeastern part of Hokkaido.

The JKT48 members, including Japanese singer Rina Chikano, are expected to stay in Hokkaido through Saturday.—*Kyodo News*

Exhibit shows richness of Japanese food culture

TOKYO — An exhibition is under way in Tokyo to show visitors the richness of Japanese food culture.

Visitors can see how ingredients are cultivated and cooked through digital presentations — for instance a screen shows how kelp is used to make soup stock and how fermented ingredients have contributed to Japan's cuisine.

They can also taste fried tofu stuffed with boiled rice, or "inari-zushi," which is described as "a dish fit for the gods."

The event runs through 21 May in Tokyo's Kayabacho area. —*Kyodo News*

Visitors to a Tokyo exhibition learn about the richness of Japanese food culture through a digital exhibit on 27 January, 2017. The event runs through 21 May in Tokyo's Kayabacho area. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Adult swaddling therapy fad hits Tokyo

TOKYO — Wrapped up from head to toe in a white bag and gently rocking from side to side, five Japanese mothers are hopeful Tokyo's latest health trend can cure their post-pregnancy aches and pains.

According to its exponents, Otonamaki, which translates as "adult wrapping", was devised by a Kyoto midwife who thought replicating how children are swaddled at birth could help mothers overcome post labor shoulder and hip pain.

The five mothers at a recent session in Tokyo lay on their backs with their knees on their chests bundled up in white cloths. Staff then helped them rock over cushions.

"It felt warm and there was this feeling with my body," said one mother who tried the 20 minute session.

"I have never experienced this before so its quite hard to describe properly."

Not everyone is a fan. Chiropractor Shiro Oba was skeptical about its powers of healing and encouraged mothers with back pain to visit a physician.

"There may be cases where people with asthma may find it easier to breath (in that position), but once the cloth is off it's the same thing," said Oba.

"But apart from that, I just can't think of how people can benefit from this even as a form of reflexology or exercise."—*Reuters*

Tourism in Slovenia boosted by Melania factor

LJUBLJANA (Slovenia) — The Slovenian tourism industry has been boosted by the fact that

it is the home country of new United States First Lady Melania Trump, preliminary figures of the national Statistics Office showed on Tuesday. The number of overnight stays in Slovenia by American tourists jumped by 15.4 per cent in December and 10.2 per cent in the whole of 2016. The total number of tourist overnight stays in Slovenia rose by 7.6 per cent to some 11.1 million in 2016 versus a rise of 7.2 per cent in 2015. The overall number of foreign tourist stays was up by 10.3 per cent in the whole year with most visitors coming from Italy, Austria, Croatia, Germany and Serbia.

Slovenia's government expects tourism to help towards a further boost to the country's economy which is seen expanding by 2.9 per cent this year versus some 2.3 per cent in 2016. —*Reuters*

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko talk with local people on 31 January, 2017, in Hayama, near Tokyo, where they are staying at an imperial villa to rest after attending a series of official and festive events during the year-end and New Year period. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Special Condolence

I am overwhelmed with sadness for the bereaved family of U Ko Ni, Advocate, Notary Public, and Writer (Maung Ko Ni-Advocate), who passed away suddenly at 5.10 pm on Sunday.

Union Minister
Ministry of Information

Special Condolence

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Members of Indonesian Delegation

Mud, toil, chills and sweat as English farm hosts last 'Tough Guy' race

PERTON, England — It's been run annually since 1987, over, under and through 250 obstacles, along eight miles (15 km) of mud and freezing water — but it seems all good things must come to an end.

The aptly named "Tough Guy" race attracts some of the biggest names in world obstacle course racing every year to a farm in the village of Perton, in the English West Midlands.

But founder Billy Wilson told the Birmingham Mail that Sunday's race would be the last of this incarnation, and that it was "time to reinvent it".

All of which left the more than 5,500 participants from 42 countries determined to make the most of the occasion, which required them to sign a waiver wrily called "the death warrant", absolving the organisers of responsibility for damage to life or limb.

Most, like Joe Hicks, costumed with crutches and bubble wrap marked 'Fragile', were just aiming to complete the course, even more treacherous this year thanks to heavy rain.

Others, like 27-year-old Jon Albon, from Essex near London, took it all rather more seriously. Twice a world obstacle course champion and winner of "Tough Guy 2015", Albon got out ahead of the mass of muddy runners struggling with hypothermia and exhaustion and charged to victory in one hour, 40 minutes and 47 seconds, almost three minutes ahead of his rivals. "(It was) a little bit cold but I'm fine," he said.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(1-2-2017 07:00am ~ 2-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3)(Part-1)
07:51	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3)(Part-2)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "Rvwang" Their Life and Customs (Part-1)
08:51	Am	Porcelain and Glass
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Chef Life "Oliver E Soe Thet"
09:38	Am	Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw
09:54	Am	Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	The two brilliant Mountaineers (MT. EVEREST)
10:53	Am	Scented Buddha Images

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:27	Pm	A Visit to San-Taw-Shin Kyike-Hti-Yo Pagoda
07:43	Pm	Products Of Myanmar - Seashells Products
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 3) The Sphinx Of Egypt And The Manousiha Of Myanmar
08:41	Pm	Myanmar Leading Lady: Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe
08:51	Pm	Director: Kyi Phyu Shin

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

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

MRTV
Programme Schedule (1-2-2017, Wednesday)

6:00 Am
- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 Am
- Breakfast News

7:30 Am
- Money Talk Myanmar

8:30 Am
- Documentary

9:30 Am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

10:30 Am
- General Knowledge

11:35 Am
- MRTV's Education Programme

12:35 Pm
- **TV Drama Series**

1:00 Pm
- Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

2:30 Pm
- Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

2:50 Pm
- Sunday Talk

3:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

4:35 Pm
- Japan Boxing (Part-5)

5:15 Pm
- 70th Anniversary Union Day Programme

5:35 Pm
- People's Talks

6:15 Pm
- Football Magazine

6:35 Pm
- Real Story Real Movie

7:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

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

8:35 Pm
- Political Parties Compaisn Speeches

9:00 Pm
- News/ Weather Report
- TV Drama Series
- Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Wednesday, 1 February 2017

Leverkusen sign Jamaican teenager Bailey from Genk

BERLIN — Bayer Leverkusen have signed 19-year-old Jamaican winger Leon Bailey from Belgium's Racing Genk on a contract to 2022, the German club said on Tuesday. Bailey, who played for Genk in the Europa League and scored four goals in six matches, is also eligible for the Champions League, the German club said. Leverkusen are through to the round of 16 in Europe's top club competition and face Spain's Atletico Madrid next month. "He is an unusually quick and very cunning player, who gives our attack an added push," Leverkusen sports director Rudi Voeller said in a statement. "We are certain he will prove to be a huge win for us." Bailey, who joined Genk in 2015 and has played once for Jamaica's under-23 team, was reportedly a target for several top European clubs before being signed by Leverkusen.—*Reuters*

KRC Genk's Leon Bailey prepares to shoot during the match of UEFA Europa League group stage between Athletic Bilbao v KRC Genk at San Mames, Bilbao, Spain on 3 November, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Karanka upset by lack of signings at Middlesbrough

LONDON—Middlesbrough manager Aitor Karanka has criticized the club's lack of activity in the January transfer window and said they were being left behind rivals in the battle to avoid the Premier League drop.

Middlesbrough, who are four points and two places above the relegation zone, host West Bromwich Albion later on Tuesday aiming to end a winless run in the league that stretches back to mid-December.

The club signed Rudy Gestede from second-tier Aston Villa and Patrick Bamford from Chelsea this month, but neither forward has played much this season.

"We need to improve the team, and the club knew a month and a half ago the players that I wanted," the Spaniard told British media.

"I always said the aim in the transfer window was to improve the squad. At the moment, we haven't done that. We will be disappointed if nobody else comes in, but I have tried my best. "Teams in our position are signing players for 14 million pounds — we are signing players that didn't play in the Championship."

Karanka said it was unrealistic to expect Bamford, who made six substitute appearances while on loan at Burnley prior to joining the club, to shoulder the scoring burden. "If we are expecting that Patrick was going to arrive and score five goals straight away then we are making a big mistake because he is not ready now," he added.—*Reuters*

Familiarity breeds contentment for Sunderland's Moyes

LONDON — Sunderland manager David Moyes hopes that signing players he has previously worked with will help them settle quicker and boost the club's fight for Premier League survival but has denied his policy is to only target familiar faces.

Moyes has added three players so far in the January transfer window, all of whom worked under him when he was in charge of Everton.

Centre-back Joleon Lescott joined on a free transfer last week, while Costa Rica left back Bryan Oviedo and Ireland midfielder Darron Gibson switched from Everton on Monday.

"The advantage of signing players I've worked with before is that I know what I'm getting. I know what they'll do and their characters more than anything," Moyes told British media.

Sunderland manager David Moyes. PHOTO: REUTERS

"They trust me and they know the way I manage and the way I work. They will know what to expect. Sometimes for them, that makes the move easier. I hope it shows.

"When you sign players you never know if it will make a difference, but I believe in time they will make a difference because of their type and their attitude. I do believe we will be stronger on 1st February than we were on 1st January." After taking over at Sunderland in the close season, Moyes signed Steven Pienaar, another player he worked with at Everton, as well as Adnan Januzaj, Paddy McNair and Donald Love, who were at Manchester United during the Scot's ill-fated spell there.

"I've tried for one or two others, so to say I'm only going for players I know is not true," Moyes added.

"It's actually the players who have been available and have said, 'Yeah, I'll have a go at that'. We tried for the boy at Norwich (Robbie Brady) and he said no. There were others as well, but people have said no."

Sunderland are bottom of the Premier League on 15 points from 22 games, though they are only three points from safety. They host Tottenham Hotspur later on Tuesday.—*Reuters*

Kyrgios hopes team spirit can help overcome Seppi loss

PHOTO: REUTERS

MELBOURNE — Nick Kyrgios struggled to deal with the furore over his shock second round meltdown at the Australian Open but said the return to a team environment with Davis Cup had helped him through it. The local hope was jeered off the court by sections of the crowd after squandering a two-set lead and throwing a tantrum in the 1-6, 6-7(1), 6-4, 6-2, 10-8 loss to Italian Andreas Seppi on 18 January. Former world number one John McEnroe then questioned his commitment to the sport, while local media pilloried him the following day with one headline telling him to "Nick Off" — an Australian slang term meaning to leave.

"I was obviously struggling, mentally it was tough," the world number 15 said on Tuesday, ahead of Australia's Davis Cup tie with the Czech Republic at Kooyong this weekend.

"But I've had a lot of support and obviously Rusty (Australia captain Lleyton Hewitt) has been helping me though it.

"I think this week is crucial for me to bounce back and go out to try to enjoy it again and I feel good."

Several former players have suggested that Kyrgios needed to employ a coach fulltime to help him mentally, something the 21-year-old said he was considering after the Seppi defeat.

He now had some potential candidates in mind but they needed to be the "right person".

"It's finding someone who has my best interest at heart and it's tough to find someone on the team who's willing to care about me as a person first," Kyrgios said. While Kyrgios added that Hewitt had helped him "100 percent" with the fallout from the Seppi loss, the former world number one was not ready to become his coach.—*Reuters*

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