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Myanmar, Thailand sign two MoUs, one Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation

Following talks between State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Somkid Jatusripitak in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) and one agreement were signed by high-ranking officials of the two countries.

An MoU on Development of an Emergency Department at Dawei General Hospital and another MoU on Fisheries Cooperation and Money Transfer Services Agreement for Myanmar migrant workers between the Central Bank of Myanmar and Thailand's Krung Thai Bank were signed by high ranking officials of the ministries concerned in the presence of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Deputy Prime Minister Dr Somkid Jatusripitak.

During the talks, the State Counsellor and the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand discussed issues on promoting bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector, border trade and rural area development between the two countries.

Thai Commerce Minister Apiradi Tantraporn, who is part of a trade mission to Myanmar, said that under their close strategic partnership, Thailand and Myanmar



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Dr Somkid Jatusripitak yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw after talks on bilateral cooperation. PHOTO: MNA

mar would double bilateral trade to US\$13 billion (457 billion Thai baht) by the end of 2021, according to the Bangkok Post.

"Thailand and Myanmar will forge closer ties in many areas to strengthen trade and investment growth, while they will also help increase competitiveness for the private sector, especially SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises], and help Myanmar people to trade online," she said.

The 22 companies on the mission are from a wide range of sectors, such as construction, property development, agro-industry, telecommunications and innovation, infrastructure development, energy, retail, consumer products, finance, services and education.

During the mission, participating companies will sign at least 15 MoUs concerning cooperation between the two sides, covering such fields as energy, medical, media, banking, and the plastics and sugar industries.

Moreover, the Commerce Ministry will join with the Board of Investment of Thailand to set up a Thailand-Myanmar Business Cooperation Council in Yangon, which more than 300 business-people from both nations involved, Apiradi said.— GNLM

Myanmar health department declares war on tuberculosis

THE MYANMAR government plans to raise the budget expenditure to combat tuberculosis by 2.5 per cent within three years, hoping to reduce TB incidence by 40 per cent through new health facilities, laboratories and diagnostic services, according to the Ministry of

Health and Sports.

Myanmar is one of 22 countries that since 1998 has been considered to be TB "high burden" country (HBC), according to 2016 statistics. According to the study, there are approximately 150,000 cases of TB detected

annually in the country.

Transmission of multi drug-resistant TB is also targeted to decrease by five per cent between 2015 and 2020 through collaborative efforts of the government and its partner organisations.

To reduce the burden of tu-

berculosis in the country, new outpatient departments will be opened in Yangon and Mandalay with the support of the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG), one of the largest contributors of external assistance for health in Myanmar.

The new health facility will be fully operational by 2018 and will be able to receive between 100 and 150 patients a day. This will include referrals for complicated and drug-resistant TB cases from across the region.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

MPs discuss motion on preventing dyed food at 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th regular session's 2nd day meeting was held at the Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, focusing on amendment of the Penal Code and the control of chemically dyed food.

Later during the meeting, Dr A Zin Latt of Shwebo constituency put forward a motion urging the State Government to effectively control and ban the sale of unhealthy, chemically dyed food in markets, including school canteens across the country.

The motion drew support from legislators.

"The aims of the National Food Law's section 3 are for the public to have genuine and hygienic food and to protect people from consuming unhygienic and unhealthy food, to systematically supervise the production of controlled food, and to systematically control the production, import and export, storage, distribution and sale of food. This is protec-

tion of people with good intentions. The Department of Food and Drug Administration was formed in 1995 as a branch of the Health Department to control the quality of food, drugs, cosmetics and commodities. In 2013, it was upgraded into a separate department to give more supervision than ever. Yet, it was found that FDA could not manage to protect consumers and cases of arresting those producing and distributing unhealthy foods and importers were not found. As for the consumers, due to the lack of basic hygienic knowledge, they cannot decide which food is safe and which food is dangerous. People from the grass-roots level consume food depending on their income, so safe, nutritious and healthy foods are often out of their reach. Myanmar traditional food such as fish paste/ngapi, arsenic and urea fertilizer are found. Within various kinds of chilli powder are found to be con-

taminated with chemical dyes and fungi, thus it is very dangerous for our country. What is worse, these foods with attractive packaging are being sold at school canteens, which most children rely on as their daily snacks. These foods are of low quality, made in China. If restrictions on these foods cannot be made, children face possible food-poisoning and diseases. It is a danger challenging the lives of the younger generation. For children to be free from eating these dangerous foods, parents, teachers and sellers themselves need to cooperate so that our future will belong to healthy children. For the guarantee of hygienic living and eating of young children, departmental organisations, food producers and sellers of imported food play an important role," said U Ne Myo Tun of the Htantabin constituency.

U Win Myint Oo, also known as U Ne Myo of Nyaungshwe and parliamentarians constituency



Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

supported the motion.

The Union Minister submitted the motion to Hluttaw to approve it, and the Speaker of the Hluttaw announced it was approved.

Yesterday's meeting also included discussion by Dr Myint Htwe, the Union Minister for Health and Sport, who replied to questions raised by U Aung Than Sein, parliamentarian of the Khamti constituency, as to whether there was an arrangement to upgrade the Paro rural health care

centre into the station hospital. U Soe Myint of the Pindaya constituency inquired whether an arrangement was made to upgrade a 50-bed hospital into a 100-bed hospital, and U Win Thein Zaw of the Salingyi constituency asked whether Mataunt Mata village's rural health care unit would be turned into a station hospital. A question about the 1861 Penal Code amendment draft law was raised by Daw Khin Saw Wai of the Yathedaung constituency.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 4th Regular Session Holds its 2nd Day Meeting



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

DURING the 2nd day meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw, action on a law was tabled at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, prompting the Pyithu Hluttaw to make known their disagreement over the withdrawal of the law concerning inland water transport, which had been sent to Pyithu Hluttaw approved by the Amyotha Hluttaw.

In the meeting, U Hla Kyaw, deputy minister for agriculture, livestock breeding and irrigation replied to the questions raised by U Khin Zaw Oo, of constituency 3 of Mon State as to whether there were any arrangements to compensate to the affected farmers due to the river water pumping project in Kyai-

kmayaw township, Mon State, the question raised by U Hwei Tin of constituency 11, Chin State as to whether there were any arrangements to have solar power panels installed at the houses of those living in Ward 3 of Paletwa township who could not afford to have meter box installed.

Likewise, U Hla Kyaw, deputy minister, replied to questions raised by Daw Than Than Aye of constituency 7 of Magwe Region, U Myo Htat of constituency 12, Chin State, U Aung Thein of constituency 12 of Bago Region and Daw Ma Ma Lay of constituency 8 of Shan State.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Nay Pyi Taw Notification 4/2017 6th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1378 ME (2 February, 2017)

Nine Defence Services Personnel representatives from Region and State Hluttaw substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute nine representatives of the Armed forces who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following nine Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 3/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016 with those shown on the right column.

The Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Representatives to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second multi-party general election held on 8 November 2015.

Kayah State Hluttaw

(1) BC 26724

Major Min Thu

BC 22000

Colonel Myint Wai

Sagaing Region Hluttaw

(2) BC 36001

Captain Win Min Aung

BC 46312

Captain Thet Zaw Lin

(3) BC 36010

Captain Khant Hein

BC 50072

Captain Yan Myo Aung

Taninthayi Region Hluttaw

(3) BC 43259

Captain Thet Naing Soe

BC 26934

Colonel Kyaw Zeya

Bago Region Hluttaw

(4) Air 3088

Major Yan Naing San

Air 2855

Major Kyaw Thura

Rakhine State Hluttaw

(5) BC 30860

Lieutenant-Colonel Min Oo

BC 30431

Lieutenant-Colonel Myat Min Htwe

Yangon Region Hluttaw

(6) BC 36258

Major San Tha Nay Aung

BC 36474

Major Ko Ko Latt

Shan State Hluttaw

(7) BC 35699

Captain Aung Kyaw Myint Win

BC 47690

Captain Aung Thet Oo

(8) BC 50477

Captain Myat Min Aung

BC 19315

Colonel Min Min Lwin

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

President receives Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

U Htin Kyaw, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received a delegation led by H.E. Dr. Somkid Jatusripitak, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, yesterday morning at the Credentials Hall of the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed implementation of small-and-medium-sized enterprises in the development of the border areas of the two countries, promoting the investments of the economy and infrastructure.

Also present were Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Pe Zin Tun, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and officials. —Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Dr. Somkid Jatusripitak. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar health department . . .

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The project is a part of the 3MDG Fund's US\$3.1 million investment, which covers the establishment of four TB facilities including two outpatient departments, a biosafety level 3 national TB reference laboratory and single-level caretaker quarters in both Yangon and Mandalay.

The new health structure will be constructed within the compound of the Yangon Regional Tuberculosis Centre (Aung San) in Insein Township, officials said.

The four-storey building will be equipped with a laboratory, medical storage and dispensary, X-ray, counselling, consultation and emergency rooms. In addition, restrooms, entry points and parking areas for people with disabilities will be constructed under the new programme.

The new facility will provide diagnostic and treatment services to patients who do not require hospitalisation free of charge.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is working towards the elimination of TB as a public health problem. —GNLM

State Counsellor presents cash assistance to displaced persons

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a ceremony at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday to present cash assistance from the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office to persons temporarily displaced due to security reasons in Kachin State.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the assistance was intended for people who had to temporarily move to camps due to security reasons before pointing out that it was necessary to provide health-care services for the temporally displaced persons (TDPs) while an emphasis was placed upon day-to-day food supply and education of children at the camps.

She expressed her desire to contribute to the education of the children as well as occupational training for adults.

The State Counsellor said she wanted to send all camp dwellers back to their homes, as life at the camp is not meant to be permanent, before urging the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement to make decisions to help them independently.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also expressed her desire to help provide displaced women with occupational training for skills they could use at home so that they would not feel as if their time in displaced camps was spent in vain.

The State Counsellor went on to say that she hoped the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stresses need to provide health care services to temporally displaced persons. PHOTO: MNA

people of her country would no longer have to live in such camps. To that end, she said, she has been endeavouring for peace, the success of which would eliminate the need for such camps nationwide. She vowed to help people who had to live in such places because peace had not been achieved, before expressing her intention that the cash assistance should be spent with the spirit of national reconciliation.

She recognized that there were many different ethnic groups at such camps, and said she would share with them as a fellow Myanmar citizen, in lean times as well as in times of prosperity. "It would not be easy for the promotion of the national spirit, which would unite the

country, if ethnic national people embraced the concept that only Bamar would benefit in the union," she added before saying that Bamar people would like to live alongside other national races through thick and thin.

Later, the State Counsellor presented Ks3 billion in cash assistance to Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, who in turn presented a certificate of honour to the State Counsellor, and spoke words of thanks.

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Han and officials were also present at the ceremony. — Myanmar News Agency

Employment agencies ask for relief from ten-fold license increase

Ko Moe

THE Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF) will submit a letter to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population to reconsider the plan to increase the deposit paid by agencies to the government from Ks5 million to Ks50 million, as employment agencies have expressed much displeasure for the ten-fold increase.

"The recruitment agencies could not pay the current rate by the government because our business is not so good currently. We have submitted a request to the Union Minister and the President's Office to reconsider the rate," said U Win Htun, Vice president-2 of MOEAF.

The government's current deposit from the recruitment agencies is Ks5 million before issuing a business license. The increase is ten times more than the previous deposit rate.

"We will report to the Union Attorney's Office, which has known legal issues concerning the plan of the increased rate," the federation said.

About 150 agencies have submitted request letters to the government, the federation said.

"The government should take action of withdrawing li-

censes if agencies breach the disciplines while sending out labour overseas. They should solve the problem in different ways without increasing the license rate," said U Kyaw Htin Kyaw, general secretary of MOEAF.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population said the reason for the increased rate is to weed out fake recruitment agencies, to mitigate illegal workers and to reimburse from the collected cash those labourers overseas sent by agencies if they face some extenuating circumstances.

"Our main aim is to protect the workers. Overseas employment business is not a trade. It involves human beings. We want to restrain the agencies from committing labour violations," U Myo Aung, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population told The Myanmar Times.

U Myo Aung also said that there had been too many cases in which agency owners swindled would-be migrant workers and then fled, leaving the government to sort out the mess at the taxpayers' expense.

According to the MOEAF, there are 247 registered agencies in Myanmar, an increasing number as the demand for overseas employment rises.

Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife designated as third Ramsar

DESIGNATION of the Meinmahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary as the third Ramsar site was announced at a ceremony on World Wetlands Day, which was held at the Moeyungyi Inn Wildlife Sanctuary yesterday, organized by the Forestry Department, the Norway Environmental Agency (NEA) and Shwe Pyi Aye Company.

Myanmar wetland areas protect coastal ecosystems including mangroves, mudflats and turtle nesting beaches. It is also important for development of the country and stability of weather conditions. Attempts were made in the past to maintain the wetlands sanctuary, the standard of the sanctuary

declined in part because of inadequacy of environmental safety arrangements.

Mr. Frank Momberg, director of Fauna & Flora International (FFI) Myanmar programme, said the forestry department with the assistance of FFI designated a Ramsar site which covers the mangroves on Meinmahla Island and the surrounding estuary, which provides important feeding and nursing grounds for fisheries and protects coastal communities from storms. The site also includes mudflats of global conservation importance, particularly for threatened shore birds. Despite the severe threats, Meinmahla Kyun hosts the world's largest population of the critically endangered mangrove plant species, threatened migratory bird species and more than 20 species of threatened fauna.

Indawgyi lake is Myanmar's second Ramsar site, which is located in Mohnyin township in the Kachin state in 2015. The country's first Ramsar site was Moeyungyi Wetland in Bago region, designated in 2004. There are now three listed Ramsar sites in Myanmar, accomplished with the assistance of Switzerland. Additionally, there are 14 places in Thailand, four places in Cambodia, eight places in Viet Nam and two places in Laos.—GNLM



Maps of Meinmahla Kyun. PHOTO: FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)

Farmers growing tomatoes on floating islands receive modern equipment

AN agriculture company recently supported modern farming tools worth Ks5 million to 54 growers, who will develop 50-acre tomato plantations this season along floating islands through Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).

All agricultural equipment provided by the United Nilar Agribusiness Co have been developed through biotechnology. According

to the public private partnerships (3Ps) programme, the company offered the farming gear with the aim of fulfilling the needs of growers in the Inlay area to be in harmony with the natural environment.

The company pledged to share agricultural techniques to the local farmers, planning to extend the market for their organic products.—Than Oo (Laymyathnar)



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu delivers an opening speech at the MoALI meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Agriculture sector to be improved under five-year development plan

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will improve the country's agriculture industry under its five-year development plan, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu said in his opening remarks at the recent meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

To reach the ministry's goal to enhance the farming industry, the ministry will implement the agriculture development strategy (ADS) in collaboration with its development partners.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Asian Development Bank and the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund will make investment in the sector with technical supports to help produce high-quality nourishing food under safety rules and standard of the FDA.

During the Monday meeting, Mr Francesco Goletti from the ADB clarified the progress of the ADS and future arrangements, investment plans, contin-

uous assessment of the project and future expectation.

Investment opportunities and future cooperation in farming sector were also be discussed by the delegates from the FAO.

The major aim of the project is to improve socio-economic status of rural community by promoting involvement of farmers operating small-and-medium-scaled agribusiness and landless growers.—Myanmar News Agency

Mobile shops for northern Rakhine launches

MOBILE shops came as a pleasant surprise to villagers in northern Rakhine State, as they can buy food easily for perhaps the first time in their lives.

Maungdaw District Management Committee sent mobile shops selling foodstuff and clothing to northern areas of Rakhine State as part of its plans for assisting the people in areas which can be easily accessible by road.

The committee set Kyeingyaung, Ngakhuya, Khamaung-



Villagers checks blanckes sold by a mobile shop. PHOTO: NAY WIN TUN

seik, Tamanthar and Taungpyolatwae as the five destinations for the mobile shops. The mobile shops leave Maungdaw and go to Kyeingyaung on Monday, to Ng-

akhuya on Tuesday, Khamaungseik on Wednesday, Tamanthar on Thursday and Taungpyolatwae on Friday. —Maung Zaw and Nay Win Tun

Crime NEWS

Illegal chemical fertilizer seized



Seized bags of Crown Brand chemical fertilizer. PHOTO: MPF

MOHNYIN Township Police inspected a 12-wheeled vehicle driven by Wai Zin Latt, 27, with Min Min, 24, on board and another 12-wheel vehicle driven by Moe Kyaw, 43, with Htike Ko Ko Aung, 32, on board at Inn-gyngone intersection on Tuesday afternoon. Police seized from the two trucks 600 bags of Crown Brand chemical fertilizer, which are made in Thailand but banned in Myanmar.

Police have taken action against Wai Zin Latt of Ward 9 in Pinbaw Township, Min Min of Sabaigone Village in Pyawbwe Township, Moe Kyaw of Ward 5 in Pinbaw Township and Htike Ko Ko Aung of Ward 8 under the Imports and Exports Law.—Myanmar Police Force

Fire kills one, destroys 50 houses



A fire broke out in Mayangon Township at 9.40pm yesterday, destroying about 50 houses and killing one man.

The fire occurred in Zeyakhaymar Road in the township and it was under control by the firemen one hour after

it started.

"We are taking investigation into the fire to know the cause of the fire. A paralyzed man aged over 80 died in the fire," said an official of the Fire Services Department.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)

LOCAL Business

350 units of Yadana Hninsi Housing complex already sold

About 350 units of Yadana Hninsi Housing complex from the Ayeyawun and Yandana high-rise housing project located in Dagon Seikkan Township, Yangon Region, have been sold out, especially those condominium apartments worth Ks60million, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Condominium units worth from Ks60 to Ks120million are being sold. The Yadana Hninsi Housing complex, the government's first public housing development project in Yangon, started on June 1. It is a model project for future housing complexes in Dagon Seikkan Township.

The initial buyers have mostly purchased the apartments without taking out loans and have to pay 20 per cent of total costs first, with

the remaining 80 per cent payable monthly for period of twelve months. Buyers will receive keys to the apartment only after finishing payments of the installment plan. The Yadana Hninsi Housing units can be purchased through the link with the Construction and Housing Development Bank.

The Yadana Hninsi Housing complex was officially opened by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 24 December.

The housing complex was designed by Surbana Jurong and the project includes 49 eighteen-storeyed buildings, according to the Urban and Housing Development Department. Private businessmen have been invited to take part in this housing development project, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*



Ayeyawun and Yadana housing projects is under construction at Dagon Seikkan, Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM

Stock trading at YSX reached over Ks73billion as of end of January



Visitors look at the electronic board showing the stock informations on 11 November 2016. Photo: PHOE KHWAH

Stock trading at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) reached over Ks73billion by the end of January with 300,107 shares worth Ks 2,824,520,800 traded last month, according to the statistics of YSX.

The value of share trading last month raised its head again when compared to the December trade value of Ks 1,685,847,500, with First Private Bank entering YSX.

There are currently four listed companies trading on YSX: First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB).

The monthly stock trading values by FMI at YSX were Ks 24,714,431,000 in March and Ks5,867,897,500 in April. With MTSH entering YSX on 20th May, stock trading values

of FMI and MTSH amounted to Ks 16,216,528,500 in May and Ks 6,895,863,000 in June and Ks 3,732,548,500 in July respectively. After MCB listed on YSX, the monthly stock trading values were Ks2,907,600,800 in August, Ks 2,482,949,200 in September, Ks 4,027,821,700 in October, Ks 2,213,328,400 in November and Ks 1,685,847,500 in December, it is learnt from monthly report of YSX.

FPB reached the lowest share rate of Ks30,000 on 2nd February after its debut on 20th January. A total of 9,441 shares were traded on 2nd February, with 1,034 shares of FMI, 5,597 of MTSH, 10 of MCB and 2,800 of FPB. The share prices were Ks13,500 for FMI, Ks4,100 for MTSH, Ks9,100 for MCB and Ks30,000 for FPB at closing time.—*Ko Khant*

Over 140,000 tonnes of diesel and petrol imported through normal trade

A total of 143,621.813 tonnes of fuel oil were imported through normal trade from the 15th to the 21st of January, with 118,743.845 tonnes of diesel worth US\$64,369,877 and 24,877.968 tonnes of petrol worth US\$20,994,270, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The import volume of the fuel was up by over 78,800 tonnes of diesel and over 13,300 tonnes

of petrol compared to that in the previous week. In the similar period, 36,036 tonnes of diesel worth US\$19,600 were imported through Tachilek border trade camp whereas 2,251 tonnes of diesel worth US\$1,151,720 were imported via Myeik and 21 tonnes of petrol worth US\$12,870 and 7 tonnes of diesel worth US\$3,198 were flowed into the country via Myawady.

The sale of petrol and diesel is steady in the Yangon market. The prices of diesel and Octane 95 are stable, whereas the price of Octane 92 is up a bit in private petrol stations. Fuel oil prices per liter are Ks700 for diesel, Ks710 for Octane 92 and Ks750 for Octane 95 in petrol stations. Retail prices per gallon were Ks3,000 for diesel and Ks2,800 for petrol in the outside market, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*

MCEA requested Planning and Finance Ministry to grant tax exemption on low-cost housing apartments

Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA) has requested a tax exemption on low-cost housing apartments, according to statement by the association.

The MCEA has submitted the request to the ministries concerned to grant tax a break on the

affordable housing for low-income residents. According to the Union Tax and Revenue Law concerning real estate purchases, a 15 per cent tax must be imposed upon real property worth Ks1 to Ks30 million, a 20 per cent tax on property worth between Ks30 million to Ks100 million and a 30 per

cent tax on property above Ks100 million. In addition, a seven per cent stamp duty is also levied on real estate contracts in Yangon and 5 per cent in other townships outside Yangon, it is learnt.

The price of an apartment in a low-cost housing complex is about Ks12million.—*200*

Trade value expected to hit Ks12,000 billion in next FY

TRADE value of about Ks12,000 billion is likely to be reached during the next fiscal year 2017-2018, a figure that would be an increase of nearly 7 per cent compared to the current fiscal year, according to a first draft of the National Planning Law. Trade value of over Ks10,985billion is expected next year, according to the incum-

bent government. Trade value this year was expected to reach over Ks10,961billion, which was 6.7 per cent higher than the previous year in the previous government. Trade is also expected to account for 18.4 per cent of the country's economy next year, according to the draft document.

Trade value next year will

likely increase with the lifting of sanctions against Myanmar by the European Union and the U.S.

Trade in Myanmar is expected to thrive in part because of its favourable geographic location next to high-population countries such as China, India and Bangladesh, according to trade experts.—*Mon Mon*

Indonesia's Yogyakarta airport closed after Garuda jet skids off runway

YOGYAKARTA, (Indonesia) — Indonesian authorities said Yogyakarta's Adisutjipto International Airport will remain closed until Thursday afternoon after a Garuda aircraft with 130 people on board skidded off the runway while landing late on Wednesday.

According to a statement on the website of flag carrier Garuda Indonesia, the Boeing 737-800NG en route from Jakarta "went off the runway, as a result of heavy rain that made the runway slippery".

Yogyakarta is the gateway to the cultural centre of Indonesia's main island of Java. Garuda spokesman Benny Butarbutar said there were no injuries and all 123 passengers and seven crew members had been evacuated safely. The statement made no mention of an investigation. Indonesia's Transport Ministry said in a statement the airport would

remain closed until 3 pm (0800 GMT) on Thursday.

Airport authorities were working to remove the aircraft from the runway area, an airport spokesman said, but needed to bring in salvage equipment from Jakarta and Surabaya through the nearby city of Solo.

"We'll use whichever comes fastest to help with the evacuation process," the spokesman said.

PT Angkasa Pura 1, the company that manages Adisutjipto International Airport, proposed temporarily rerouting all Yogyakarta-bound flights through Solo. Indonesia has a patchy air safety record, with 12 accidents in 2016 in which 30 people killed, according to the Aviation Safety Network website. In 2007, a Garuda Boeing 737 jet bounced and skidded off the runway at Yogyakarta airport before bursting into flames, killing 21 people.—Reuters

Philippine leader to use troops in drug war, says willing to 'kill more'

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Thursday he would issue an executive order for military support in his fight against illicit drugs, which he said was a national security threat and he would "kill more" people if he had to.

The mercurial leader ruled out declaring martial law and said he did not need extra powers, but wanted to bring the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) into his drugs war because he could no longer trust law enforcement agencies.

All police operations in the drug crackdown were suspended on Monday due to deep-rooted corruption. Duterte has placed an anti-drugs agency in charge of the campaign and has said he wants the armed forces to play a supportive role.

"I still have to write the, whether it is a proclamation or an executive order, but I've taken in the AFP and raised the issue of drugs as a national se-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while speaking during a late night news conference at the presidential palace in Manila, Philippines, on 30 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

curity threat, so that I can call on the armed forces to assist," he said in a speech in Davao.

"I have limited warm bodies but so many wars to fight," he said.

The former city mayor said the police and the justice ministry-run National Bureau of Investigation could not be relied upon and promised "a cleansing, a purge".

Duterte did not say what the remit of the military would be in the drugs

campaign, or give any indication of the number of troops that would be involved, but said they were necessary.

Some 7,600 people have been killed since Duterte launched his war on drugs seven months ago, more than 2,500 in what police say were shootouts during raids and sting operations. The cause of the remainder of deaths remains disputed, with police blaming turf wars and vigilantism, and activists alleging

widespread summary executions and police collusion with hit men.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said on Thursday involving the military was the wrong move because the armed forces had a track record of extrajudicial killings, particularly where Communist rebels were concerned.

"Using military personnel for civilian policing anywhere heightens the risk of unnecessary or excessive force and inappropriate military tactics," the rights group said. "But there is also a deeply rooted culture of impunity for military abuses in the Philippines." Duterte said he cared little for drug dealers and addicts and had underestimated the scale of the problem when he made his initial target of six months to win his war.

"You bleed for those son of a bitch. How many? 3,000? I will kill more if only to get rid of drugs and this campaign," he said. "I thought that would finish it in six months."—Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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World Bank approves 300 million USD to empower Bangladesh local governments

DHAKA — The World Bank has approved 300 million US dollars to empower Bangladesh's local governments with discretionary funds that would enable them to decide and implement development priorities.

Built on the success of two predecessor projects, the Local Government Support Project-3 (LGSP-3) will cover all the 4,550 Union Parishads, the lowest tier of the local government, and benefit over 115 million

residents, said the Washington-based lender in a statement received here Wednesday.

It said the project will establish national budget transfers as a norm to the Union Parishads.

The project will also expand to the urban local government, and pilot a fiscal transfer system in 16 Pourashavas (municipalities) in all eight Divisions of the country, it added.

For the first time, the eligible municipalities

will receive block grants with discretionary power to select sub-projects aiming to improve service delivery, said the statement.

"The World Bank has been a long-standing partner in supporting the government's vision of advancing decentralization and empowering the local governments," said Rajashree Paralkar, World Bank Acting Country Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

"A predictable and transparent financial re-

source transfer system will help the Union Parishads and the participating Pourashavas to further improve planning, participatory budgeting, public finance management, and accountability." To institutionalize the fiscal transfer system, starting from the fourth year of the project, the government will fully finance the Union Parishad block grants out of the national budgetary allocations, with all the principal features, said the bank.—Xinhua

2-meter hole found on grating beneath Fukushima Daiichi reactor

TOKYO — A hole measuring 2 meters in diameter has been found on a metal grating beneath the No. 2 reactor's pressure vessel at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, an image analysis by the plant operator showed Thursday.

The hole may have been caused by nuclear fuel that penetrated the

reactor vessel as it overheated and melted due to the loss of reactor cooling functions after a powerful earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011, that hit Japan's northeast. The analysis follows Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.'s discovery Monday of a black mass deposited on the same grating directly beneath the reactor vessel,

possibly melted fuel from the reactor, which suffered a meltdown along with two other reactors.

Images captured using a camera attached to a telescopic arm on Monday also showed part of the grating has gone. A further analysis of the images found the 2-meter hole in an area beyond the missing section on the structure.

If the deposits are confirmed as fuel debris, it would be the first time the utility has found it in any of the three units that suffered meltdowns.

The plant operator plans to deploy a robot at the bottom of the reactor's containment vessel, which houses the reactor pressure vessel, to check the conditions there.—Kyodo News

Pentagon chief appeases South Korea with reassurance of defence commitment

SEOUL — Visiting US Defence Secretary James Mattis reaffirmed US commitment here on Thursday to the defence of South Korea, including its

extended deterrence.

The Pentagon chief said the Trump administration will deal with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK)

nuclear threats as top priority among security issues.

Mattis, who arrived here earlier in the day, met with Kim Kwan-jin, senior security advisor to impeached President Park Geun-hye, in the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae.

During the talks, Kim said it was very timely for Mattis to pick South Korea as his first overseas destination given the stern security situations, caused by the DPRK's nuclear and missile threats.

Concerns were deepened recently about the DPRK's test-launch of a long-range ballistic rocket as top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un said in his New Year's Day address that his country had entered a final stage to prepare for such launch.

Mattis and Kim agreed to push for the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD)

deployment in South Korea.

Seoul and Washington abruptly announced the agreement in July last year to install one THAAD battery in South Korean soil by the end of this year. Local media speculated the installation could be completed between May and July.

It sparked strong objections from China and Russia as its X-band radar can peer into territories of the two nations, destabilizing security balance and boosting arms race in the region.

Major presidential contenders in the South Korean opposition bloc have demanded the cancellation or the delay of the decision to the next government, which is forecast to be launched as early as April.

President Park was impeached in December over a corruption scandal, and the constitutional court is expect-

ed to permanently remove Park from office before the middle of March. A presidential election must be held in 60 days after the court's final ruling.

The Pentagon chief and the senior South Korean security official shared views on the need to strengthen the US-South Korea alliance, promising to closely communicate with each other to respond to the DPRK's rising threats.

Mattis was expected to pay a courtesy call to Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn, who is serving as acting South Korean president.

The US defence chief will also hold talks with his South Korean counterpart Han Min-koo on Friday morning in the South Korean defence ministry's headquarters in Seoul, before traveling to Japan for another two-day trip.—Xinhua



Retired US Marine Corps General James Mattis testifies before a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on his nomination to serve as defence secretary in Washington, US, on 12 January 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

On eve of state polls, India's Modi looks to clean up campaign funding

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has moved to clean up political funding with limits on cash donations and new "election bonds", but some politicians and election officials said the measures would have limited impact.

With several state polls about to begin that will help determine his chances of re-election in 2019, Modi's administration sought to tackle widespread perceptions of vote buying by capping cash donations to political parties at 2,000 rupees (£26).

Previously the ceiling was 20,000 rupees.

Announcing his 2017/18 budget, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley also unveiled a scheme under which donors could buy "election bonds" from a designated local bank and give them to political parties to deposit into their account.

Forcing donations through

the banking system would mean the assets were declared and so could be traced.

The government also threatened action against political parties that did not file tax returns. They do not pay income tax, but filing returns could bring transparency to the system.

"This reform will bring about greater transparency and accountability in political funding, while preventing (a) future generation of black money," Jaitley said.

The changes will not directly impact elections getting under way, but the government is likely to see them as a way to burnish Modi's credentials as a graft-fighter after he announced a series of measures to tackle illicit wealth. In another move that may catch the voter's eye in the big battleground state of Uttar Pradesh this month, Jaitley bolstered rural and infrastructure spending.—Reuters

Japan PM Abe to hold two-day summit with Trump — sources

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump are planning to extend their summit meeting scheduled for 10 February by one day, two Japanese government sources with direct knowledge of the matter said on Thursday.

After meeting with Trump in Washington, officials are arranging for Abe to then meet Trump at his Mar-a-Lago private resort in Florida on 11 February, where they may even play golf, the sources said.

Trade and currency policy are likely to be high on the agenda during the summit. Trump has criticised the lack of access to the Japanese auto market for US producers and said Tokyo is using monetary policy to devalue its currency.

Japan is expected to defend its auto sector, which has built many manufacturing plants in the United States. Japan is also ex-



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: REUTERS

pected to emphasise that its monetary policy is intended to spur inflation and not trigger competitive devaluation.

A Japanese government spokesman said the details of Abe's trip haven't been decided yet.—Reuters

Anti-stroke, antibody experts given prestigious Thai medical award

BANGKOK — A Canadian neuroscientist, arguably the world's leading expert on stroke and vascular dementia, and a British biochemist who pioneered antibody engineering and modification technology have both received Thailand's most prestigious medical and health award.

Vladimir Hachinski, based at Western University in Ontario, and Greg Winter, of the University of Cambridge, each received the 2016 Prince Mahidol Award from Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at the Grand Palace in Bangkok on Tuesday evening.

Hachinski, the laureate in the field of public health, was

recognized for his extensive contributions in vascular cognitive impairment, stroke and brain-heart interactions that have saved and improved millions of lives by delaying and preventing cerebrovascular disease and cognitive decline.

He also invented the term "brain attack" which is used globally to create the sense of emergency for stroke and stroke warning symptoms, while the preventive practices he initiated have become the standard of healthcare globally.

Speaking to Kyodo News, Hachinski said he was "surprised" and "delighted" to receive the award, saying it gives him a plat-

form to advocate public awareness of stroke and dementia prevention practices.

As a result of the practices developed by Hachinski and others, who he said also deserve credit, the stroke rate in Ontario has dropped in the past 12 years, while the number of dementia cases has also fallen for the past six years.

"So this is big news that we can prevent strokes and dementia right now," he said.

Currently, Hachinski is engaged in research collaboration with Siriraj hospital, the oldest medical school in Thailand, and institutions in other countries such as Iran, Italy and Argentina

to collect data and determine the cause of stroke in different regions around the world.

Winter, the laureate in the field of medicine, was recognized for his invention of humanized therapeutic antibody technology, namely a technique developed to genetically alter the molecules of antibodies to make them compatible with the human immune system.

The use of humanized antibodies as therapeutic drugs has provided new ways to prevent and treat several diseases such as immune disorders, degenerative diseases and different types of cancers.

Winter told Kyodo News that receiving the award makes him give greater consideration to the need to reduce the high cost of antibody drugs.

The Prince Mahidol award was established by the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej in 1992 to commemorate the birthday centenary of his father, Prince Mahidol of Songkla.

It is given annually to individuals or institutions which have exhibited an outstanding contribution to the development of the world's medical and public health services. Each laureate will receive a medal, a certificate and \$100,000.—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.

Development Plans Are Underway, Subject To Our Conscientious Contribution

Khin Maung Oo

Since we have set out on a journey, our ultimate desire is to reach our destination. On the way we may find many difficulties, sometimes severe and sometimes light ones. Whatever it is, we are to move forward towards our destination. Yet, there are some who wish to go back to their place of origin, yielding to difficulties and hardships encountered on the journey. Perhaps he may say that he is satisfied with arriving back home safely, without any harm. His thought may be right partially. Yet, he seems to neglect the fact that he may have pleasure, benefits and gains from the journey. By his inborn rights, he can decide by himself to do something or not to do it, if he can forgo fruits of the journey, knowing that it will surely bring about good results. Here, let us think about another example. Assuming

that alien aggressive intruders are entering our territory to harm our sovereignty, soldiers must set out to the frontier areas on military operations, knowing that battles are dangerous. He has no alternative but to go to face his enemies. To our great joy and happiness, we have seen our victorious army return home. Numerous soldiers or our closest friends might have been killed or amputated in these battles. But because of them we can live in peace in our country. For a soldier, going to frontier areas is his job.

Now, we have embarked on a difficult but exciting journey to our destination—A Federal Democratic Union. Since the time of gaining Independence, we have not had the chance to savor the taste of Independence yet, to the full. Like other independent countries, we have not yet reached the sta-

tus of a developed country. Our people are still living in poor conditions. Many are still unemployed. Our country needs many FDIs (Foreign Direct Investments) so that we can build many factories for creating jobs for our unemployed. We will yet try to open schools and make school-age children enter classrooms. Failing that, we will be wasting the potential contributions of many of our youths. What it worse, they can go astray if their rehabilitation plans are neglected. Who dare deny they may become precious jewels for the country provided that we pay attention to their needs. Now, our State Leaders are trying to develop children, their characters, their intellect and visions by celebrating Aesthetic Literary Festivals, Children Literary Festivals, etc.,

For our younger generation including children on

roads, work places, and displaced children from conflicted areas, we are all responsible to see that they get the opportunities we failed to get when we were young. Here, we include the government itself, the Tatmadawmen, personnel from government services, working people, teachers and parents, to sum it up, the whole populace from all walks of life. Now, our country is marching towards a modern and developed federal democratic union under the leadership of our chosen government. As known by all, our government has been implementing a lot of development plans for the nation-building transparently, for now and the future. Development plans are under way, subject to our contribution. Don't be reluctant so that we can have our names written as unsung heroes in building our prosperous nation!

TRAINING FOR THE CIVIL SERVICES

BA THAN

(Continued from 2-2-2017)

Aids were granted to establish a new management library in the Public Administration Training Division, with latest published books on management, public administration and economics as an aid to public administration studies. (The library was later transferred to the Central Institute of Public Services (CIPS) in Phaunggyi. The training programmes were actively pursued around 1959 in Chawdwingone Mass Education Camp where the gazetted officers' courses were conducted. Additionally in a 3-week special orientation course for senior officials (Selection graders from civil, police and Defence Services) twenty participants sat together to pool their resources on their varied experiences. Lecturers from Defence Ministry, Home Ministry, Law, administration, and finance, talk on their experiences. They were also required to form syndicates and discuss topics of current interest and present a paper to the forum. Such experiments on advanced training were conducted from 1959 to 1963 with far reaching results, to foster harmony among many senior offi-

cials from various civil, police and Ministry of Defence. The ad hoc courses came to an end on 1963.

Around 1964 the Home Ministry made preparations to open a Central School of Public Service to train newly recruited and in-service gazetted officers, non-gazetted officers and ministerial staff in in-house nature. In 1965 the Central School of Public Services was opened to deliver central training for public services. Later around 1977 it was upgraded into a Central Institute.

Another essential and no less important sector governing the Public Administration and Civil Services is defining the role of the Civil Services and conditions of services regulating various sectors such as appointment, rules and regulation defining their functions, conditions of service, promotion, punishment and final retirement. Such conditions were laid down in 3 main documents viz: Civil Service Regulation (CSR), Fundamental Rules (FR), Supplementary Rules (SR), D and AR (Discipline and Appeal Rules) and "G" Circular 15, Departmental Enquires etc. Some say these Rules are the bible for services to be followed to the letter. However the author has other reasons con-

trary to the above dictum. Rules are essentially meant to be followed. But if certain rules and regulations are contrary to standing conditions it will be amended by proper Rule Administering Authority. By inference Public Administration Department was designated the Rule administering Authority, and as such wielded competent power concerning interpretation of service rules and regulations.

Many reports and presentation papers were published on Public Administration and Civil Service all these years. If I may record what had been lingering in my aging faded memory are: the Interim and Final Report of the Administration Reorganization Committee; The Public Service Enquiry Commission Report etc. A research documentation Book on the Public Service Commission of South East Asian Region is also a valuable reference, which the author had translated into Myanmar during his tenure of office in public service affairs department of PSSSTB. A Report of the high level study tour on public services training to India, Indonesia and Singapore may also prove to be handy. During his study and observation tours to the Training In-

stitutes in India, Indonesia and Singapore, the Delegation had opportunities to visit the IAS (Indian Administrative Service College in Hyderabad; The LAN Administrative Commission in Jakarta, Indonesia; and the Civil Service College in Singapore. During the visits, the curriculum content and subject matter were drawn from contemporary studies in Public Administration, Management, Human Resources, economics, law and service regulations mainly of civil and academic nature. The Central Institute of Public Services however prescribed military training as one of its core subjects which persisted from 1965 to 2016. The author had read from the article by author Oak Hla Nge that the redesigned curriculum content of Civil Service Academy seems to be in line with the contemporary training institutions of the ASEAN the work of which framed during the new government is highly commendable.

The above history of training presented by the author was borne out of personal involvement and study during his active years of government service from 1951 to 1991. It was recalled purely out of memory after years of retirement, awakened by the inauguration of

Civil Services Academy in 2017. There may certainly be lapses, slips, errors and omissions which the author humbly tendered his profound apology. The message to convey here is that recruitment and training of civil servants is an ongoing nature complementing each other, to be continued by succeeding generations, with industry, vigour and vision because these functions are integral to governance in the civil society. The opening of the Civil Service Academy (CSA) with its specialized curriculum design, subject matter content and training methodology stand out at par with peer training colleges and academies of ASEAN and beyond. There will grow opportunities for interchange of qualified trainers from the reserve pool of academicians and practitioners from within the country and abroad. In this way it is hoped that the quality, efficiency, integrity, honesty of the entire spectrum of trained civil servants will complement the civil society of the emerging nation.

(U Ba Than. M.A, of Burma Civil Service is a retired Director General, contributing English articles to GNLM, and other magazines. Also recomposed English classical poems into Myanmar.)

All Mon Regions Democracy Party presents policy and programs



Nai Win Htut (a) Nai Mya Win of All Mon Regions Democracy Party.

NAI Win Htut (a) Nai Mya Win, Central Committee Member of All Mon Regions Democracy Party presented the policy, outlook and future plans of their party on Radio and TV on 2 February 2017.

The text of his presentation is given below.

I hereby respectfully greet all ethnic nationals, living in the Mon Region by saying, "Mingalar bar."

All Mon Regions Democracy Party was formed on 7 April 2010 in accord with the desires of the Mon Reverend Sayadaws and Mon nationals were all desirous of having a Mon political party to represent all Mon nationals and that there should be only one party to take part in the general elections to be held under the 2008 Constitution.

I will present the policy and political outlook of the AMRDP.

1. For all citizens to enjoy democracy and human rights to the

full.

2. To build national unity based on equality and self-determination.

3. For the emergence of a genuine multi-party democracy system.

4. For the emergence, consolidation and perpetuation a genuine Federal Union.

5. To fight against bribery and corruption.

6. To work for social and economic progress.

7. To work for the development a peaceful global community.

AMRDP will represent all Mon nationals through free, just and fair elections held in accord with the democratic practices. AMRDP contested in 2010, 2012 and 2015 elections and it will again contest in the 2017 by-election.

Following the 2015 general election, the National League for

Democracy Party won and formed the government. The incumbent government is continuing to hold the political and ceasefire talks which had been initiated by the previous government. Internal armed conflicts which had started since 1948 have not yet ended but are still continuing up to this moment. The armed conflicts which have been continuing for 69 years have claimed many lives and destroyed enormous amounts of properties. As known by all citizens, the dignity, especially, that of women and children had been greatly harmed.

The only way to escape from these sufferings and worries is to build internal peace and to maintain eternal peace. The only way to solve the root cause of the internal armed conflicts is to build internal peace and eternal peace. This is none other than to have in place a nationwide ceasefire and from that stage to work towards eternal peace through political dialogues, which is a new political culture.

Inequality among ethnic groups and among Regions and States, lack of ethnic and regional rights, lack of rights for self-determination, loss of rights to revive and preserve national identity of ethnic nationals, inequality in enjoying the benefits natural resources, lack of right to self-rule, lack of equality in sovereignty, preponderance of Big race chauvinism and narrow-minded racial views have been the causes for the emergence of armed conflicts. Though arms have been used to solve internal armed conflicts for nearly 70 years, the goal of ending conflicts is still far away.

Due to failure to reach the state of all-inclusive dialogue for nation-



Party Logo.

wide ceasefire, inability to hold national level political dialogues, in performing the existing nationwide ceasefire process, peace and eternal peace must be said to be still far away. As long as peace and eternal peace are still not within our reach, we will be far from building a Union based on federalism and democracy which will guarantee equality that ethnic nationals and the State has longed for. As long as we are still far from building a Federal Union, we will be far from peace and eternal peace.

AMRDP will co-operate with all other nationals and ethnic national groups for building a federal union which has peace, eternal peace and self-determination.

Various kinds of ethnic national have lived together in our country since time immemorial. AMRDP will try to build a federal union with less central control. Simultaneously, re-drafting of the true federal union constitution that Mon nationals, people living in Mon Region and other nationals longed for, compiling Mon State Constitution, sending equal parliamentarians from States and Regions into Amyotha Hluttaw, attaining more rights to legislate

ethnic and State affairs in Amyotha Hluttaw, forming State Cabinets under the leadership of Chief Minister chosen by majority votes from local representatives, acquisition of rights to act within the framework of law, concerning national affairs, languages, literature and culture of ethnics, especially, designating ethnic language and literature, inter alia, as the official ones, will be performed. And we will work for the right to use the Mon language during school hours in schools in Mon State under the constitution.

In conclusion, AMRDP will try hard to cooperate with all nationals for achieving peace and eternal peace, and simultaneously to build the Union based on democracy and federalism that will guarantee equality. With our deep promise that we will try our best to build the Union in future, which is the true federal union in which all the respective States have their respective national identities. In conclusion I request you to vote for me, a candidate for Chaungzon constituency.

I send my heartfelt wish to you all to have mental and physical happiness. (Unofficial Translation)

Workshop on rights of indigenous peoples held in Nay Pyi Taw

A national-level workshop for the study of the UN declaration of the rights of international indigenous peoples was held in Nay Pyi Taw Thursday morning.

"This year, the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration of the Rights of International Indigenous Peoples coincides with 10th anniversary of the signing of the important declaration in the General Assembly of UN by Myanmar. Our country is comprised of various kinds of national ethnics with traditions and cultures closely related with each other. Thus, we are required to co-exist peacefully and in harmony. By understanding the UN declaration of the rights of international indigenous peoples, we can build a peaceful and harmonious society without discrimination," said Naing Thet Lwin, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs. "The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs was formed in accord with the law protecting the rights of national ethnics and for national people

to enjoy equal rights, to protect the rights of nationals and for all nationals to have respect for the differences of each other. One of the major objectives of the law protecting rights of the nationals is for all the national ethnics in Myanmar to have equality. Laying down plans to draft laws, rules and regulations on promoting protection of rights of nationals coincides with the time of implementing matters included in the declaration."

Mr Pablo Barrera, the UN Resident Coordinator, said the workshop aims to preserve the cultures of often-under-represented groups and promote understanding.

"We are grateful of all to have a right to hold such an important occasion. Indigenous peoples are only 5 per cent of the global population, the least populous group. The UN Declaration of the Rights of International Indigenous Peoples was enacted in 2007 with a view to performing

the greater development process and conservation of their edifices, cultures and traditions, by conserving and controlling natural resources & land area, to protect cultures and languages of the indigenous people from disappearing. We firmly believe that acknowledging the rights of national people will lead to harmony and cooperative relation between the State and indigenous peoples, based on justice, democracy, respect of human rights, lack of discrimination and good will," Mr Barrera said.

The workshop was also addressed by Salai Zaoaklein, project manager of Chin Human Rights Group, U Aung Hlaing, local representative of International Fund for Agricultural Development and Mr Raja Devassish Roy, Vice-Chairman of UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The discussion will end on 3 February.—Myanmar News Agency

Squatters blocking factory gates want more money

Ko Moe

SEVERAL people who have erected shanties in front of the factories in the Hlathar Industrial Zone are trying to extort money, factory owners claim, saying they are owed compensation for the land on which they worked and lived before being asked to move.

"They are blocking the way to the factory's gate. We asked them to move, but they said they cannot move because (the land) is theirs," said U Tun Tun Naing, the owner of Ever Plastic Factory.

The owner complained to the township police to remove them, but it became necessary for owners to file a lawsuit. Although the owner has sued, nothing will occur for the next four days, they said. The factory owner said he has already paid compensation — initially 25 lakhs for the shanty owners to move and then 100 lakhs

to be paid at a later date.

"They demanded Ks200 lakhs from us and we made a compromise with 125 lakhs," said U Tun Naing.

Seven factories in Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone in Hlaing Tharship have also experienced similar issues about farmer trespassing and demands for compensation from the factory owners.

Daw Sanda Min, Member of Parliament and the president of Yangon Region Parliament's Finance, Planning and Economic Committee, said the case has been submitted to the Yangon Region government.

"We received two complaint letters and inspected the industrial zone. Sadly, we found seven cases," she said.

"The money extorters, so-called farmers, cannot produce documents that they are the land owner. It is unacceptable for such action of blocking the factory gate," she added.

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

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

From H.E. Mr. Joachim Gauck,
President of the Federative Republic of Germany
Mr President,

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the occasion of Independence Day in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The year 2016 brought the people in your country the democratically elected government for which they had longed for many years. I wish you and your Government strength and patience in tackling the large num-

ber of tasks with the inclusion of all parties and groups. Achieving reconciliation between all ethnic groups and ensuring peaceful coexistence between the various groups in your country will require further great efforts.

I wish you and your compatriots the best of luck for the future. Germany will be a reliable partner for you.

From H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoev,
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Your Excellency,

Please accept my sincere congratulations and wishes

on the occasion of the National holiday of Your country – the Independence Day.

I have the honour to express my confidence that by our joint efforts friendly relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will develop henceforth.

Taking this opportunity I wish to Your Excellency strong health and new successes in Your responsible state performance, prosperity and welfare – to the citizens of Myanmar.

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to State Counsellor

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

From H.E. Mr. Linas Linkevicius,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania
Excellency,

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to you and to the people of your country on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I sincerely wish you and your beloved Burma all the success and peace.

The relations between our countries are becoming more intensive and stronger each year. I am convinced that the recent accreditation of the Ambassador Ina Marčiulionytė to Myanmar will greatly contribute to the deepening of our bilateral ties.

We believe that the visit of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė to Myanmar

would be a positive impetus for further strengthening cordial relations between our countries.

I would like to use this joyful occasion in express my sincere wish to welcome you in Lithuania at your earliest convenience. I believe that a great opportunity for this could be ASEM conference “Women’s Economic Empowerment: Creating Equal Opportunities in the World of Work”, which we will host in Vilnius on 25-26 of May this year.

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

From H.E. Mr. Mikheil Janelidze,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia,
Republic of Georgia

Excellency,

It gives me a great pleasure to extend to You my warm-

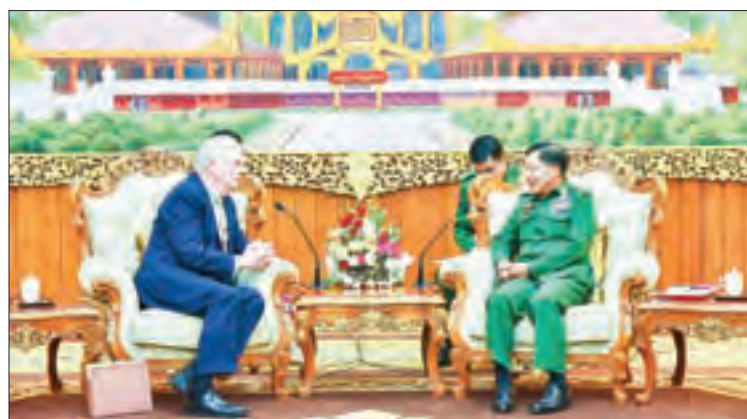
est and sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Georgia attaches high importance to promoting friendly ties with Myanmar, which have considerable potential for successful cooperation in the various spheres.

On this notable day for your country I would like to convey my willingness to closely work with You for exploring new avenues of cooperation in the areas of mutual interest. Let me also express confidence that the bilateral partnership, as well as efficient cooperation on the International arena will continue to actively grow in the coming years.

Once again, Excellency, let me congratulations You upon this remarkable occasion and wish You and the People of Myanmar continued peace success and prosperity.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives delegations



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Thomas J Vallely.
PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr Thomas J Vallely, the senior adviser on Southeast Asia for the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation of the Har-

vard Kennedy School of Government and Myanmar-based Proximity Designs at the Bayintnaung Guest House yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, the senior general discussed efforts to maintain stability on the current political trends, the ultimate need to end armed conflicts, steadfast stand of the Tatmadaw regardless of government changes and the cooperation of the Tatmadaw with the government for the stability of the country.

Afterwards, Mr Vallely talked about attitudes on the peace process of Myanmar, discussions at the OIC meeting in Indonesia and Rakhine State issues.—*Myanmar News Agency*

More than 190,00 amphetamine pills seized in Maungtaw

MORE than 190,000 amphetamine tablets were seized in a village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

A local anti-drug squad discovered the drug haul hidden an extra wheel at the back of a Pajero Car during a search at a house owned by Kawri Mullah in Kanyintan (Myoma) Village in the

township.

Kawri Mullah managed to escape from the scene but Mamauk Karsein, who was found in the house, was arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking. The anti-drug squad has opened a file against the two suspects at Maungtaw (Myoma) Police Station.— *Min Min Zaw (MNA)*



Mamauk Karsein. PHOTO: PHOE ZAW



Deputy Prime Minister Dr Samkid Jatusripitak pays homage to Jade Buddha Image at the Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: MNA

Thailand delegation visits Shwedagon Pagoda

A THAILAND delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Dr Samkid Jatusripitak visited Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday evening.

The visiting delegation signed in the visitors’ book and contributed cash to the fund of

the pagoda through the pagoda’s board of trustees.

During the visit, the delegation, they offered flowers and lit candles and paid homage to the Shwedagon Pagoda.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Violent attacks suspect dies of stomach inflammation

A MAN who was detained on suspicion of involvement in the violent attacks in October and November last year in northern Rakhine State died on Wednesday at the hospital in Buthidaung, Rakhine State, while receiving medical care for in-

flammation of the stomach.

Mammud Rawphi, also known as Mummud Arlaung, was sent to the hospital by security forces at 7 pm on Monday after he complained of stomach pain.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Syrian army dash to al-Bab risks Turkey clash

BEIRUT/ISTANBUL — A rapid advance by the Syrian army towards the Islamic State-held city of al-Bab risks sparking a confrontation with Turkey as Damascus seeks to stop its neighbour penetrating deeper into a strategically important area of northern Syria.

Northern Syria is one of the most complicated battlefields of the multi-sided Syrian war, with Islamic State now being fought there by the Syrian army, Turkey and its rebel allies, and an alliance of US-backed Syrian militias.

In less than two weeks, Syrian army units have moved to within 6 km (4 miles) of al-Bab, a city that is also being targeted in a campaign waged by the Turkish military and its allies, groups fighting under the Free Syrian Army banner.

A source in the military alliance fighting in support of President Bashar al-Assad told Reuters on Wednesday the Syrian army aimed to reach al-Bab and was ready “to clash with the FSA fighting” alongside the Turkish army if necessary.

However, the source, a non-Syrian, said the main aim was to frustrate Turkey’s ambitions and “to acquire a strong hand in the game unfolding on that front”, rather than to provoke an all-out confrontation.

If a clash does occur, it would be the first time Syrian government forces have confronted the Turkish army on the ground in northern Syria since



Smoke rises from the northern Syrian town of al-Bab, Syria on 1 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkey launched its operation in August.

Russia, Assad’s most powerful ally, has carried out air strikes targeting Islamic State in the al-Bab area in support of both sides, underlining big shifts in the diplomatic landscape.

The non-Syrian military source spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not an official spokesman for the pro-Assad alliance.

The attack is led by the army’s elite Tiger Force, with intelligence support from a command centre in Aleppo staffed

partly by Iranian advisors, the pro-Assad source said. The army campaign was receiving Russian air cover “when asked for”.

Assad has been backed in the war by an array of Iranian-backed Shi’ite militias, including Hezbollah, and the Russian air force.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based group reporting on the war, said on Wednesday the Turkey-backed forces had made new advances to the southwest of al-Bab, calling this an effort to halt the gains by Syrian government

forces.

Turkey launched its campaign in Syria, “Euphrates Shield”, in order to secure its frontier from Islamic State and halt the advance of the powerful Kurdish YPG militia. Helping rebels to topple Assad is no longer seen as a priority for Ankara.

The Euphrates Shield campaign has carved out an effective buffer zone controlled by Turkey-backed rebel groups, obstructing the YPG’s plans of linking up Kurdish controlled areas in northeastern and northwestern Syria.—Reuters

Turkish warplanes kill 51 Islamic State militants in Syria — military statement

ANKARA — Turkish warplanes killed 51 Islamic State militants in operations over the last 24 hours, the military said in a statement on Thursday.

Warplanes destroyed 85 Islamic State targets in the areas of al-Bab, Tadiif, Kabbasin and Bzaghah, including buildings and vehicles. Turkey launched an operation, dubbed “Euphrates Shield”, to drive jihadists away from the Syrian border more than five months ago and has been besieging the Islamic State controlled town of al-Bab for weeks.—Reuters

Suspect in Canada mosque shooting sought money, scouted site

QUEBEC CITY — The suspect in the shooting rampage at a Canadian mosque visited the site before Sunday’s massacre, asking for money and scouting the scene before returning with guns and killing six men as they prayed, a member of the mosque said.

Alexandre Bissonnette, 27, was charged in court on Monday with six counts of premeditated murder and five counts of attempted murder with a restricted weapon after Sunday evening’s massacre at the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec.

Members of the mosque were shocked to find the man that had been seen twice outside the centre in the days before the shooting was the same slightly built French-Canadian that police said was the lone attacker in the shooting. “I remembered his face,” Lhoussine El Manoug said on Wednesday, recalling his reaction when the suspect’s image was broadcast across Canada after the massacre.

El Manoug said he recalled meeting the man just three days before Sunday’s shooting. The suspect showed up at the mosque between 7:45 pm ET and 8 pm ET (0045-0100 GMT) on Thursday, the same time as the attack on the mosque Sunday night.

He was dressed in a black coat and carried a school bag, El Manoug recalled, adding the suspect said a strange thing: “I love Allah. I’ve seen photos of Allah.”

El Manoug suspected the man did not know anything about Islam, but he saw nothing to tip him off to the suspect’s evil intentions.

“I thought he was someone who was simply ignorant,” El Manoug said.—Reuters

Iran confirms missile test, drawing tough response from Trump aide



Iranian Defence Minister Hossein Dehghan delivers a speech as he attends the 5th Moscow Conference on International Security (MCIS) in Moscow, Russia, on 27 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

DUBAI — Iran said on Wednesday it had test-fired a new ballistic missile, prompting a tough response from a senior adviser to US President Donald Trump.

Iran’s defence minister said the test did not breach the Islamic Republic’s nuclear agreement with world powers or a UN Security Council resolution endorsing the pact,

Iran has test-fired several ballistic missiles since the nuclear deal in 2015, but the latest test was the first since Trump entered

the White House. Trump said during his election campaign that he would stop Iran’s missile programme.

“The recent test was in line with our plans and we will not allow foreigners to interfere in our defence affairs,” Defence Minister Hossein Dehghan told Tasnim news agency. “The test did not violate the nuclear deal or (UN) Resolution 2231.”

Trump’s national security adviser, Michael Flynn, said the United States was putting Iran

on notice over its “destabilising activity” after it fired the missile.

“As of today, we are officially putting Iran on notice,” Flynn said, without explaining exactly what that meant.

Flynn said the missile launch defied the UN resolution that called on Iran not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

A US official said Iran had test-launched a medium-range ballistic missile on Sunday and it exploded after travelling 630 miles (1,010 km).

The Security Council held an emergency meeting on Tuesday and recommended the missile testing be studied at committee level. The new US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, called the test “unacceptable”.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that Tehran would never use its ballistic missiles to attack another country.

Some 220 Iranian members of parliament reaffirmed support for Tehran’s missile programme, calling international condemnation of the tests “illogical.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is against weapons of mass

destruction, so its missile capability is the only available deterrence against enemy hostility,” the lawmakers said in a statement carried on state media on Wednesday.

The state news agency IRNA quoted Ali Shamkhani, head of Iran’s National Security Council, as saying Iran would not seek “permission from any country or international organisation for development of our conventional defensive capability”.

The Security Council resolution was adopted to buttress the deal under which Iran curbed its nuclear activities to allay concerns they could be used to develop atomic bombs, in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

The resolution urged Tehran to refrain from work on ballistic missiles designed to deliver nuclear weapons. Critics say the resolution’s language does not make this obligatory.

Tehran says it has not carried out any work on missiles specifically designed to carry nuclear payloads.

The test on Sunday, according to US officials, was of a type of missile that had also been tested seven months ago.—Reuters

When towering rivals Rabin and Nasser met for lunch — in Rabin's own words

NEW YORK — In the midst of a furious Middle East war nearly 70 years ago, a group of Israeli and Egyptian officers put down their guns, ate lunch together and discussed the prospects for peace in the region, according to a documentary film that premiered in New York last month.

The group included two men who would become leaders of their respective countries and fierce rivals — Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt. But on that day, the young officers interacted warmly and forged at least a modicum of trust.

The details emerge in a 1994 interview with Rabin, then prime minister, that is the centerpiece of “Shalom Rabin,” director Amos Gitai’s new film about Rabin’s bid for peace with the Palestinians.

In the film Rabin says that based on the chance encounter with Nasser months after Israel’s founding in 1948, he had high hopes Nasser’s overthrow of Egypt’s monarchy in 1952



FILE PHOTO: Israeli military Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin (C) shakes hands with soldiers stationed in the Negev Desert on 30 May, 1967 before the Middle East War, in this handout picture released by the Israeli Government Press Office (GPO). PHOTO: REUTERS

would lead to Arab-Israeli peace.

Rabin says Israeli officers invited their Egyptian counterparts after surrounding their brigade at the Faluja enclave. Rabin was a leader of the elite Palmach fighting force.

“He (Nasser) was a major. I was a lieutenant-colonel,” Rabin says. “We of-

fered them to come and have lunch at (Israel’s) Kibbutz Gat and they came.”

The Israelis gave their word the Egyptians would return to their brigade safely.

“Nasser was sitting next to me. He looked at the emblem of the Palmach and asked me what it meant and I explained. Then he told me the war we are fighting

is the wrong war against the wrong enemy at the wrong time. And I remembered that, because he didn’t say it in private.”

“And I believe at that time that we were very close to peace,” Rabin says.

“And what happened happened, and he went the opposite direction. I guess the road is much longer than

we would have wished,” Rabin says.

As army chief in the June 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Rabin defeated Israel’s neighbors including Egypt, led by Nasser, who had amassed tens of thousands of soldiers in Sinai near Israel’s border.

Nasser, who died in 1970, acknowledged in his war diaries that an Israeli officer approached Faluja in an armored vehicle with a white flag and it was agreed the two sides would meet the next day, 11 November, 1948, at Gat.

In diaries his daughter Huda compiled into a book called “60 Years Since the July 23rd Revolution,” Nasser wrote:

“We were well-received. We met with the Jewish commander who said that he wishes to stop the bloodshed and that our situation is desperate. He asked for us to surrender. The Egyptian commander objected and he asked to pull out to Gaza or Rafah but the Jews refused and said they would agree on one condi-

tion: that the Egyptian army withdraw from all of Palestine.

“We asked for the evacuation of the wounded to Gaza but they rejected that and said, ‘We’re willing to give you the medicine you need,’ and finally we left. They offered us orange juice, oranges, sandwiches, chocolate, candy and biscuits.”

The diaries do not mention the commander or Rabin by name, and Nasser’s daughter could not be reached this week for comment. Israel’s southern commander at the time was the late General Yigal Allon.

Nasser’s successor Anwar Sadat signed a 1979 treaty with Israel. He was assassinated during a 1981 military parade by an Islamist army officer opposed to the treaty, which remains in effect.

A Jewish gunman opposed to peace moves with Palestinians assassinated Rabin in November 1995. Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking has been gridlocked since 2014.—Reuters

Four killed, 30 trapped as building collapses in northern India

NEW DELHI — At least four people were killed and 17 others injured Wednesday after an under-construction building collapsed in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, officials said.

According to officials, rescuers were trying hard to locate 30 people trapped underneath the debris of the six-storey building.

The building collapsed in the afternoon at Jajmau of Kanpur city, about 83 km southwest of Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh.

“Today afternoon an under-construction building collapsed here trapping 50 people mostly labourers working there,” District

administrator, Kaushal Raj Sharma told Xinhua.

“Following the collapse, we dispatched police and other teams to rescue people trapped under debris of the building. The rescuers pulled out 21 people in injured condition, out of which four succumbed and 17 were hospitalized.”

Five teams of National Disaster Response Force, state police, fire services and officials from local administration, besides locals are making efforts to rescue the trapped workers.

Authorities have also rushed in four columns of Indian army to the spot to reinforce rescue work.

The rescue operation according to Sharma was going on and would take several hours.

“The rescue teams have pressed in earth movers, gas cutters and other equipment to trace the trapped ones,” Sharma said. Local media reports said the building belongs to Mehtab Alab, a politician affiliated with ruling Samajwadi Party in the state. Police officials have registered a case and ordered an investigation into the building collapse.

“It is too early to predict the exact cause but it is quite apparent there was some fault in the planning,” Sharma said.—Xinhua

Italian translation of Haruki Murakami novel wins Japanese award

TOKYO — Antonietta Pastore, who translated a 2013 Haruki Murakami novel into Italian, has won a Japanese publisher’s award for outstanding translation of Japanese literature, Kodansha Ltd. said Thursday.

Pastore was named the recipient of the 21st Noma Award for the Translation of Japanese Literature for

translating the popular novelist’s “Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage” into Italian.

After completing a graduate program at Sorbonne University in Paris, Pastore served as a visiting professor at the Osaka University of Foreign Studies, now part of Osaka University. Other literary works

translated by her include novels by Soseki Natsume, Kobo Abe and Yasushi Inoue.

The biennial prize, established by Kodansha in 1989, is aimed at promoting understanding of Japanese culture abroad. An award ceremony will be held in Milan on 7 April.—Kyodo News

Israeli minister visits grave of Japanese diplomat who saved Jews

YOKOHAMA — Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon visited on Wednesday the grave of the late

Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara who saved thou-

sands of Jews from Nazi persecution during World War II.

Kahlon visited the grave in Kamakura, southwest of Tokyo, along with Israeli Ambassador to Japan Ruth Kahanoff and Sugihara’s fourth son Nobuki.

While working as an acting consul in Lithuania, Sugihara defied orders from the Japanese Foreign Ministry and issued transit visas to Jews who were trying to escape the Holocaust, and is credited with saving 6,000 lives.

Although he was pressured to leave the ministry upon his return to Japan, his act was praised by Israel and the United States.—Kyodo News



Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon (C) offers flowers at the grave of the late Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, who saved thousands of Jews from Nazi persecution during World War II, in Kamakura, southwest of Tokyo, on 1 February 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Notice

Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) released a Request for Proposal (RFP) to prospective Core Banking Vendors to provide a Core Banking System (CBS). The responses to the RFP should be received at our Yangon Office by end of day 24th February 2017.

For enquiries please contact Ms. Niang Muan Kim via email address niangmuankim@mcb.com.mm or phone number +959767800362 before end of business day on 7th February 2017.

MCB reserves the right to release the said RFP upon evaluation of information provided.



Myanmar Citizens Bank Limited
383 Mahabandoola Street
Kyauktada Township
Yangon, Myanmar

Ex-nuclear plant worker seeks damages from TEPCO, Kyushu Electric

TOKYO — A former nuclear plant worker who helped to combat the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster sought a total of 59 million yen (around \$524,000) in damages from plant operators for his subsequent suffering from leukemia at the first hearing of his trial at the Tokyo District Court on Thursday.

The 42-year-old man from Fukuoka Prefecture is the first to have been recognized by labor authorities with an illness linked to workplace radiation exposure after Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc.'s Fukushima Daiichi plant suffered meltdowns following the huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. Tokyo Electric, known as TEPCO, and Kyushu Electric Power Co., whose Genkai nuclear plant was also the plaintiff's workplace, asked the court to reject his claim, questioning the connection between his radiation exposure and leukemia.

The man engaged in welding operations at Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Daini plants in northeastern Japan and the Genkai complex in the southwestern Japan prefecture of Saga during the period from October 2011 to December 2013, and was exposed to at least 19.8 millisieverts of radiation in total, according to his written complaint. The operations he was engaged in were subcontracted by the utilities. The man was diagnosed as suffering from acute myeloid leukemia in January 2014 and later became plagued by depression, both of which the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare have recognized as work-related illnesses. "I worked there because of my ardent desire to help bring the disaster under control but I was treated as if I was a mere expendable laborer," the plaintiff said. "I want Tokyo Electric to thoroughly face up to its responsibility," he said.—*Kyodo News*

Aid group joins Massachusetts lawsuit over Trump travel ban

BOSTON — A US anti-poverty group said on Wednesday it is joining a Massachusetts lawsuit to strike down President Donald Trump's travel ban, as the law has blocked overseas partners from meeting with officials in Washington.

Boston-based Oxfam America joined the ACLU of Massachusetts and state Attorney General Maura Healey in challenging the order which halts refugee resettlement for 120 days and travel into the United States by people with passports from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days.

Trump is facing legal challenges from four states — Massachusetts, New York, Virginia and Washington state — saying the order targets Muslim-majority countries and violates the US Constitution's guarantees of religious freedom. The White House says the order is necessary for national security.

Oxfam provides humanitarian aid to families in five of the countries on the travel ban — Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, and



An international traveler arrives after US President Donald Trump's executive order travel ban at Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts, US on 30 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sudan.

Oxfam had to cancel a meeting in the next 90 days because it cannot bring its country director to Washington to brief State and Treasury Department officials.

An Oxfam spokeswoman declined to say which of the countries the person was based in, citing security concerns.

The group was also planning to bring representatives from Syria for

meetings in March but the order will also prevent those trips.

The US Justice Department is due to argue the case in the US District Court in Boston on Friday.

In New York on Wednesday, hundreds of protesters gathered in Foley Square and marched in Lower Manhattan, chanting "No hate, no fear, immigrants are welcome here."

Many in the crowd

carried signs, flags and banners, including some placards written in Spanish and Arabic.

Protester Selma Khan, a 23-year-old graduate from York College, said she feared her sister's husband, who is a Pakistani national, may have trouble coming to the United States in the future if the travel ban is expanded.

"It is depressing and it's tearing families apart," Khan said.—*Reuters*

Deep sea canyons at risk from human activities: New Zealand scientist

WELLINGTON — New Zealand's extensive underwater canyons are under threat from human activity and need better protection, says a government scientist who worked on an international study of the marine ecosystems.

There were about 10,000 large submarine canyons, major features of continental margins, around the world with at least 230 off New Zealand, according to the study by the International Network for Submarine Canyon Investigation and Scientific Exchange.

Recent studies of canyons had considerably increased understanding of their ecological role, the goods and services they provided to humans, and the impacts of human activities on their overall ecological condition, said marine ecologist Ashley Rowden, of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, who worked on the study. Pressures from human activities included litter, fishing, dumping of land-based mine tailings, and oil and gas extraction, Rowden said in a statement Thursday.

The effects of climate change might modify the intensity of currents within canyons, which was predicted to impact the structure and functioning of canyon communities, as well as affect food supply to the deep-ocean ecosystem.

Only 10 per cent of canyons worldwide were covered by marine protected areas (MPAs), and these were not evenly distributed around the globe. Also, canyon protection mainly focused on the shallow areas, and it was important to protect complete systems as they acted as the main connection between shallow and deep waters, said Rowden.

"MPAs within the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone protect 41 large canyons, or 17 percent of their total estimated area, but more should be part of the network. They contain important biodiversity and face a number of threats," Rowden said.

The Kaikoura Canyon, one of the most productive deep-sea ecosystems in the world, lying off the northeast of the South Island, was mostly protected.—*Xinhua*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (021)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (021) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.2.2017 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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MV PIYA STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PIYA STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.2.2017 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.

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Phone No: 2301185

Beyonce's surprise twins announcement goes viral

LOS ANGELES — Pop superstar Beyonce said on Wednesday that she and her husband, rap star and entrepreneur Jay Z, were expecting twins, sending social media into a meltdown.

"We would like to share our love and happiness," Beyonce, 35, posted on her Instagram page. "We have been blessed two times over. We are incredibly grateful that our family will be growing by two, and we thank you for your well wishes."

The announcement came with a photo of the "Crazy in Love" singer stripped down to her lingerie, caressing a noticeable baby bump, and wearing a veil over her head.

The news became the top trending item on Twitter with more than 500,000 tweets in the first hour. The birth of the couple's first baby, Blue Ivy, caused a paparazzi storm in 2012 with New York's Lenox Hill hospital shutting down part of its maternity wing to accommodate music's royal couple.

Beyonce did not say when the twins were due to be born nor did she give any details about her pregnancy.

The news came less than



Jay-Z presents the Video Vanguard Award to Beyonce as he holds their daughter Blue Ivy during the 2014 MTV Video Music Awards in Inglewood, California in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

a year after the release of Beyonce's album "Lemonade," in which she appeared to address long-standing rumors of trouble in her eight-year marriage.

The lyrics of several songs spoke about being cheated on, and regretting being married. But Beyonce made clear in the final tracks of the album and in music videos featuring Jay-Z that she had decided to stay in the relationship.

The couple have never directly addressed the rumors

It was not clear whether the pregnancy would affect plans for the Grammy Awards on Feb. 10, where Beyonce has a leading nine nominations, mostly for "Lemonade," and would be expected to perform.

She is also due to headline a concert at the Coachella music festival in southern California in April.—Reuters

Lady Gaga takes Super Bowl spotlight, but how will she use it?

LOS ANGELES — As Lady Gaga prepares to take America's biggest stage at the National Football League (NFL) Super Bowl halftime show on Sunday, much of country is speculating whether the outspoken singer will grab the opportunity to speak out on women's rights, immigration or US President Donald Trump.

In the past, Gaga's attention-getting performances have ranged from dressing in raw meat to taking sexual assault victims to the Academy Awards. Many viewers are well aware of that history and will watch keenly on Sunday, when Gaga headlines a 15-minute set during the NFL championship game between the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons in Houston.

"People will take note of the lyrics and the political climate and come to their own conclusions," said Nolan Feeney, staff writer at Entertainment Weekly.

When it comes to the Super Bowl's 100 million-plus television audience, the 30-year-old



Lady Gaga sings the US National Anthem before the start of the NFL's Super Bowl 50 between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos in Santa Clara, California in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

singer may find that the safest way to make a political statement could be following in the footsteps of Beyonce, who let her music do the talking at last year's Super Bowl.

Beyonce sang "Formation," an anthem supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, accompanied by dancers dressed in homage to the Black Panthers Party of the 1960s and 70s.

Her powerful performance drew widespread praise, along with some criticism from people who perceived the song as anti-police. But their call to boycott Beyonce's music fizzled out within weeks and her album became one of the year's

best sellers.

Both Gaga and the NFL have kept a tight lid on any details about her performance, which follows her drama-free singing of the U.S. national anthem at the 2016 Super Bowl.

The NFL on Wednesday denied reports that it had asked the singer to avoid political commentary.

"Everyone we work with understands this is a moment for families across America and the world to come together for a great experience. Lady Gaga understands that and we know she will deliver an incredible performance yet again," NFL spokeswoman Natalie Ravitz said.—Reuters

Islands, chateau, art: Johnny Depp's lifestyle laid bare in lawsuit

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Depp took himself to the brink of financial ruin by spending tens of millions of dollars on homes, art, cars, a yacht and Hollywood memorabilia, according to a lawsuit filed by his former business managers.

The suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on Tuesday by the Mandel Company, which handled Depp's affairs for 17 years until being fired in March 2016, was a counterclaim to the actor's \$25 million lawsuit last month accusing the firm of fraud and financial mismanagement.

The court papers detailed Depp's spending as including \$75 million on buying or improving 14 residences, including a French chateau and a chain of islands in the Bahamas. He also bought 45 luxury vehicles, amassed a 200-piece art collection with works by Andy Warhol and Amedeo Modigliani and has 12 storage units full of memorabilia associated with Marilyn Monroe, Marlon Brando and other celebrities, the lawsuit said.

The actor, whose career took off after the first "Pirates of the Caribbean" movie in 2003, also spent more than \$3 million to blast the ashes of author Hunter Thompson over Aspen, Colorado, from a cannon, the lawsuit alleged.

Depp lawyer Adam Waldman responded to the lawsuit with a statement saying: "How cataloguing alleged spending by Mr. Depp of his own money could somehow absolve the defendants of a large and multi-faceted mosaic of



Johnny Depp. PHOTO: REUTERS

wrongdoing will ultimately be determined by the court."

Last month Depp's divorce from actress Amber Heard was finalized, ending their 15-month marriage. Depp, 53, agreed to pay \$7 million to Heard that she said will be donated to charity.

The Mandel Company, which is seeking \$560,000 in damages and fees owed by Depp, said it had done "everything possible to protect Depp from his own irresponsible and profligate spending" to no avail.

"Depp, and Depp alone, is fully responsible for any financial turmoil he finds himself in today," the lawsuit said. "He has refused to live within his means." Forbes magazine ranked Depp as Hollywood's highest paid actor from June 2009 to June 2010 with earnings of \$75 million. In December, the magazine named him the most overpaid actor for a second straight year as films such as "Alice Through the Looking Glass" and "Mortdecai" did not fare well.—Reuters

British singer Vera Lynn to release new album for 100th birthday

LONDON — British singer Vera Lynn will celebrate her 100th birthday by releasing an album of remastered classic songs next month, which could make the wartime singer the first centenarian to hit the UK charts.

The artist known as the "Forces sweetheart" will release "Vera Lynn 100", which will include hits such as "We'll Meet Again" and "Sailing" set to new orchestral accompaniment, on 17 March, three days ahead of her milestone birthday.

"It's truly humbling that people still enjoy these songs from so many years ago, reliving the emotions of that time," Lynn said in a statement.

"I was after all just doing my job as a singer — and it's so wonderful for me to hear my songs again so beautifully presented in a completely new way."

Through her songs, Lynn became a symbol of hope for British and Allied soldiers fighting Nazi Germany and she was given the title of Dame in 1975 for her work.

In 2009, aged 92, Lynn be-



Second World War British Forces Sweetheart Vera Lynn attends the Battle of Britain commemoration outside the Churchill War Rooms in London in 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

came the oldest living artist to land a UK No.1 album with a compilation release called "We'll Meet Again: The Very Best of Vera Lynn".

The album also made her the only recording artist to have spanned the pop charts from the 1940s to the 21st century.—Reuters

Fit for an emperor — a virtual reality tour of Nero’s golden palace

ROME — Emperor Nero, a technology enthusiast, would have loved it: his over-the-top golden palace in Rome is about to get the virtual reality treatment.

From Saturday, visitors to the buried Domus Aurea (Golden House) will be able to don headsets to get a closer look at the frescoes on its 12 meter (40 ft)-high walls.

The palace was built in 64 AD after fire swept through the city, the one through which the man himself is — probably apocryphally — said to have fiddled.

“We believe it is fundamental to get visitors to understand what the Domus Aurea was really like,” said

the site’s special superintendent Francesco Prosperetti. “We wanted to let them experience it even better than Nero himself.”

Named after the gold leaf covering some of its walls, the palace was the centerpiece of a complex that once included an artificial lake where the Colosseum now stands.

The exhibitionist emperor indulged his penchant for clever contrivances with benign inventions like a revolving dining hall inside the palace and more sinister plans such as, according to legend, a collapsing ship to carry his mother to a watery grave.

Filled with rubble by



A woman wears a virtual reality device during a visit at the Domus Aurea, built by Roman Emperor Nero in 64 AD and later buried by Emperor Trajan in Rome, Italy, on 31 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the later Emperor Trajan, who built his baths on top, the palace was rediscovered in the 15th century. It has been undergoing restoration in recent years.

The complex used to attract 1,000 visitors a day before leaking water put the underground chambers at risk of collapse and prompted its closure. Rome’s archaeological authorities decided to open up the palace in 2014 to small groups of visitors, partly to show people how the state-funded restoration was progressing.

The site superintendent’s office has estimated reinforcing the palace will cost 31 million euros (\$33.39 million).—Reuters

Legoland Japan holds ceremony for completion ahead of April opening

NAGOYA — A ceremony was held Thursday to celebrate the completion of the first outdoor Legoland amusement park in Japan ahead of its opening on 1 April.

At the ceremony, Leg-

oland Japan President Torben Jensen said the new Lego-block theme park in Nagoya, central Japan, offers fun for all the family for a whole day.

The 9.3-hectare park has seven different themed

areas, with 17 million Lego blocks and 10,000 Lego models featuring dozens of rides and other attractions, according to the operator.

A one-day pass is 5,300 yen (\$47) for children aged 3 to 12 and

6,900 yen for those aged 13 or older.

Children aged 2 or younger can enter the park for free. Indoor Lego-block parks operate in Tokyo and Osaka. —Kyodo News



Reporters are allowed to visit new entertainment park “Legoland Japan” in the central Japan city of Nagoya, on 2 February 2017, prior to its opening in April. It is Japan’s first outside Legoland facility. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

mitv

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(3-2-2017 07:00am ~ 4-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Unique Pattern of Myanma Ethnic Group: A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Trend of Kachin Dress
08:54	Am	Goldsmith
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Shrinking Footprints
09:51	Am	Kyeikhteyyoe: Welcome All
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-1) Jellyfish
10:36	Am	Myanmar Prehistory

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Thursday 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
07:26	Pm	Five Treasures in the Ancient City of Mrauk U
07:42	Pm	A Worth Studying Site for Ancient Myanmar Heritages
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	National Literary Icon and Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature “Sayar Zaw Gyi” (Childhood and Student Life)
08:47	Pm	Myanmar Master Class “Artist Win Pe Myint”
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Thursday 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)		

Ancient sunken warship found in southern Sweden

STOCKHOLM — A naval ship has been found in southern Sweden some 400 years after it went missing, Swedish Television reported on Wednesday.

The Blekinge naval ship was the first to set sail from the Karlskrona naval base in southern Sweden in 1,682 and is considered to have marked the launch of Karlskrona’s famed ship-building history.

With its 70 canons and 450-strong crew, Blekinge was used in the bombing of Copenhagen and King Karl the Twelfth’s landing in Denmark in 1,700. Later, the ship fell into oblivion.

Last year, the Blekinge county in southern Sweden

got hold of old maps of Karlskrona where the ship was clearly marked out.

Diving expeditions were carried out and it was confirmed that an old shipwreck was indeed buried in thick layers of sediment at the bottom of the sea.

Now, all evidence seem to point to it being the Blekinge warship and it seems it was deliberately sunk, with the intention of using it as a blockhouse.

The ship will likely not be salvaged, however.

“We don’t quite know how much remains of the ship, but there is a theory that one deck is intact,” said marine biologist Petra Strakendal.—Xinhua

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(3-2-2017, Friday)

6:00 Am

◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 Am

◆ Breakfast News

7:30 Am

◆ People Talks

8:30 Am

◆ Current Affairs

9:30 Am

◆ Weekly Entertainment News

10:30 Am

◆ Weekly Sport Info

11:35 Am

◆ MRTV’s Worker Programme

12:35 Pm

◆ TV Drama Series

1:05 Pm

◆ Myanmar Video (Part -2)

2:15 Pm

◆ Talk and Old Film

2:45 Pm

◆ Applied Financial Knowledge

3:15 Pm

◆ TV Drama Series

4:15 Pm

◆ 70th Anniversary Union Day Programme

4:35 Pm

◆ Myanmar Series

5:15 Pm

◆ 70th Anniversary Union Day Programme

5:35 Pm

◆ Hyper Sport

6:20 Pm

◆ HUMAN DIGNITY FILM INSTITUTE “ The Gong ”

7:15 Pm

◆ TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm

◆ News/International News/ Weather Report

8:35 Pm

◆ Political Parties Campaign Speeches

9:00 Pm

◆ News/ Weather Report

◆ TV Drama Series

◆ Songs In Myanmar Movies (Part-27)

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Life goes on for 'disappointed' Bolt after losing medal

MELBOURNE — Sprinting great Usain Bolt is refusing to dwell on the disappointment of losing his Beijing Olympics 4x100 metres gold medal after his Jamaican team mate Nesta Carter tested positive for a banned stimulant. Bolt, who completed a remarkable 'treble treble' of 100m, 200m and 4x100m Olympic titles at the 2016 Rio Games, had his 2008 relay gold stripped last month after Carter's re-tested sample indicated he had taken methylhexanamine.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) ordered Carter, who has already said he would appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), and team mates Bolt, Asafa Powell and Michael Frater to return their medals.

"Initially (I was) disappointed, of course," Bolt told report-

ers at Melbourne Airport as he arrived ahead of the Nitro Athletics series. "But in life, things happen. I'm not sad... I'm just waiting to see what's going to happen. "But I gave up my medal." Powell, who served a six-month doping ban for a positive test in 2013, was as phlegmatic as his storied compatriot.

"It's very unfortunate and we have to look to the future," Powell said. "We've accomplished a lot and we just need to be positive about everything right now. "I'm in no position to say what should and should not be (banned). It is what it is. Some things aren't fair." Bolt will lead an international team of "All Stars" in the Nitro Athletics series in Melbourne against four other teams representing England, China, New Zealand and Japan.—Reuters

Tiger Woods takes another comeback step, glad he can take any

NEW YORK — Tiger Woods will take the next step on his comeback this week at the Dubai Desert Classic, a step that just a few months ago he was not at all sure he would be able to take.

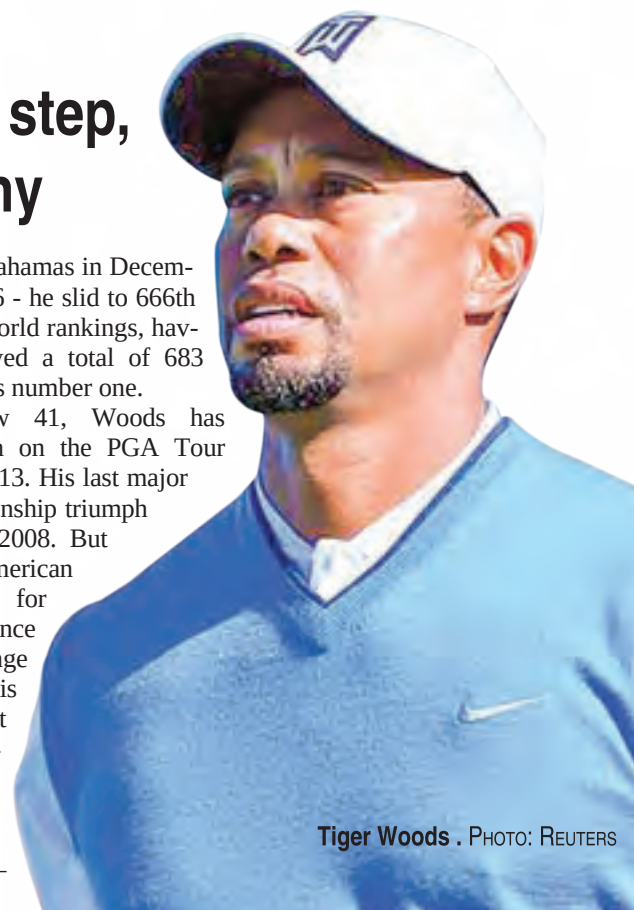
He had not played on the PGA Tour since August 2015 and went through back surgery in September and again in October of that year. His recovery was long and painful.

"It was tough. It was more than brutal," Woods said in a video interview released in conjunction with the Desert Classic event. "Because there were times when I physically didn't know if I could get out of bed."

In the 15 months before Woods next played in a tournament - the Hero World Challenge

in the Bahamas in December 2016 - he slid to 666th in the world rankings, having enjoyed a total of 683 weeks as number one.

Now 41, Woods has not won on the PGA Tour since 2013. His last major championship triumph was in 2008. But the American is glad for the chance to change that this week, at a tournament he has won twice.—Reuters



Tiger Woods . PHOTO: REUTERS

Man City dazzle as United held by Hull

LONDON — Manchester City turned on the style to dismantle West Ham United 4-0 and revive their fading Premier League title aspirations as Manchester United's hopes suffered a potentially fatal blow with a goalless home against struggling Hull City on Wednesday.

City produced a scintillating first-half display, scoring three times before the break through Kevin De Bruyne, David Silva and new boy Gabriel Jesus, before Yaya Toure's penalty capped a one-sided romp at the London Stadium.

Clinical finishing was in short supply at Old Trafford, however, where United came up against an inspired performance from Hull keeper Eldin Jakupovic, who made a string of superb saves to keep Jose Mourinho's side at bay.

While City's victory moved them level on 46 points with fourth-placed Liverpool and kept leaders Chelsea just about in their sights, United's slip-up left them sixth, four points adrift of City and 14 off the summit.

Hull's unlikely point moved them off the foot of the table while Stoke City and Everton drew 1-1.

It has not been plain sailing for City manager Pep Guardiola in recent months and he came into Wednesday's game facing the prospect of losing three successive top-flight away matches for the first time in his managerial career.

City had already beaten West Ham twice this season with an aggregate score of 8-1 and they were returning to the Lon-



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney gestures towards referee Mike Jones at Old Trafford, on 1 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

don Stadium less than a month after thrashing their hosts 5-0 in the FA Cup third round.

De Bruyne started and finished off a swift counter to put them ahead after 17 minutes and with the home side in disarray, City turned the screw.

Sane gave Silva a tap-in at the far post four minutes later, before Jesus grabbed his first for the club.

City's January signing side-footed in Raheem Sterling's pass six minutes before the break and when Sterling was felled by Jose Fonte, making his West Ham debut, Toure stepped up to thump his penalty into the net.

Jesus caught the eye with his high-energy display and as

part of a youthful front three with Sterling and Sane, had City boss Guardiola purring.

"Gabriel Jesus is a fighter with an instinct for the goal. He's good at assists too," Guardiola told the BBC.

"We played a front three with an average age of 20. I like the fans to be excited. Those players are the future of the club."

United, facing Hull for the third time in 23 days after their League Cup semi-final, were thwarted by a determined Jakupovic, who saved well from Zlatan Ibrahimovic and even more impressively from substitute Juan Mata.

Daley Blind, Marcus Rojo, Marcus Rashford and Ibrahi-

movic missed further chances as United dominated, although they almost suffered a stunning defeat when Lazar Markovic hit the post for Hull.

Stoke's Peter Crouch dusted off his robot dance after opening the scoring against Everton with his 100th Premier League goal after seven minutes, finishing on the stretch after Marko Arnautovic had broken the offside trap.

At 36 years and two days, the former Liverpool and England forward is the oldest player to reach his Premier League century.

The lead lasted until six minutes before the break when Ryan Shawcross deflected Seamus Coleman's shot into his own goal.—Reuters

Suarez, Messi wonder strikes give Barca edge at Atletico

BARCELONA — Luis Suarez and Lionel Messi scored stunning goals to edge Barcelona towards a fourth consecutive King's Cup final with a 2-1 win at Atletico Madrid on Wednesday, although the holders were lucky to survive a late onslaught from the hosts.

Suarez opened the scoring with a breath-taking individual goal in the seventh minute, carving Atletico open with a thrusting run from the halfway line and producing a crisp low finish before Messi smashed in off the post from outside the area in the 33rd.

Atletico vastly improved in the second half and after Antoine Griezmann's header reduced the deficit in the 59th minute they laid siege to the Barca area, but the equaliser remained elusive.

The return leg at the Nou Camp takes place next Tuesday although neither Barca forward Neymar nor Atletico captain Gabi will be able to play through suspension after picking up bookings.

"It would be absurd to think you can come to the Calderon and not suffer. We did everything to try and survive their waves of pressure and for now we can enjoy the result," Barca coach Luis Enrique told reporters.—Reuters