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A DAY FOR BOGYOKE & CHILDREN

State Counsellor celebrates birthday of her father, Bogyoke Aung San

Above, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, speaks with children and staff members in Taunggyi yesterday. Below, with a statue of General Aung San in the background, the State Counsellor gives a gift to a child from a philanthropic group in Taunggyi, Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

IN commemoration of the 102nd birthday of her father, Bogyoke Aung San, the architect of Myanmar's independence, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made a pilgrimage to the Pagodas — Shwe Hpone Pwint, and Cula Mani, in Taunggyi, Shan State — to pray and share her meritorious deeds to all beings.

The State Counsellor gave holy offerings of flowers, water ablutions and 102 lighted candles, one for each year since her father's birth, to the Buddha image connected to the star under which Bogyoke Aung San was born.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also received the Five Precepts from the Reverend Sayadaws presided over by Soon Loon Sayadaw at the Shwe Hpone Pwint Religious Community Hall.

At the Cula Mani Pagoda, the State Counsellor similarly offered flowers, water ablutions and 102 candles.

While at the Cula Mani Pagoda, she signed the guest book and greeted fellow pilgrims. During the greetings, a first-year university student majoring in Myanmar language and literature asked the State Counsellor whether she had a right to take part in the Peace Process. The State Counsellor replied that anyone has access to participate in the Peace Process, as does an unhealthy but strong-minded traveller in the journey of life. The State Counsellor gave words of encouragement to the student.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was also present at a ceremony during which a nutritious lunch was given to disabled children and orphans in commemoration of Bogyoke Aung San's Birthday, held at the City Hall of Taunggyi.

"The meal was given in commemoration of my father's birthday, and concurrently in honour of the Day for Children in Myanmar. I would like to pray for them, to be blessed with health and pleasure, a long life and having an access to serve the country. Enjoy the meal well. Only if you take such a meal will you be healthy. Thank you all."

In a separate event, donation money and offertories were later given by the State Counsellor to the association of yellow generation youth philanthropists and

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Yangon celebrates Day for Children marking Bogyoke Birthday

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

THE 102nd anniversary of Bogyoke Aung San's birthday, which is also designated as the Day for Children in Myanmar, was celebrated at the Office of the National League for Democracy in Bahan township, yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Thura U Tin Oo, patron of the NLD who presided over the ceremony, spoke of the importance of recognising the nation's children.

"There is a day that the world designated as the World Day for Children.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses Union Tax Bill, Territorial River and River Zones Bill

THE PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW held its regular meeting yesterday during which its bill committee submitted findings on the Union Tax Bill, the Territorial River and River Zones Bill.

During the meeting, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Ministry of Planning and Finance clarified the Union Government's tax report for the first six months.

In other action, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw rejected the controversial bill revoking the Inland Water Transport Authority Act yesterday, following a debate on the issue.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw nods motion of borrowing 10.787 billion Yen for maintenance of hydro power plants

A MOTION on borrowing 10.787 billion Yen (Ks129.87 billion) from the Japan International Cooperation Agency for the maintenance of hydro power plants was passed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday by a vote of 506 to 3.

Dr Tun Naing, the Deputy Minister for Electric and Energy, said that the ministry would proceed to borrow the money in accordance with the rules.

Japanese and Myanmar engineers inspected the Beluchaung power generation plant six times and found it was necessary to carry out extensive maintenance tasks from 2017 to 2023 for the plant to reach its full capacity.

Similarly, the Hsedawgyi Hydropower Plant, which has been operating continuously for 28 years, has suffered from wear and tear of its machinery and needs major maintenance.

As a result, maintenance tasks will be carried out from the 2017-18 fiscal year to the 2023-24 fiscal year. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Dr Tun Naing, the Deputy Minister for Electric and Energy. Photo: MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passes Ks3.65 billion allocation for development of Rakhine

A MOTION for spending Ks3.65 billion for the development of Rakhine State was passed yesterday at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The allocation of Ks3.65 billion for socioeconomic development of Rakhine State proposed by President U Htin Kyaw would come from the reserved funds under the 2016 Union Budget Law, according to the clarification by ministries concerned at the parliament.

Under the progamme, development tasks would be carried out in 17 townships in the state.

Among them, priority has been given to construction of a concrete road passing through 13 villages in Rathedaung Township and a bridge, said Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

Plans are underway to hand over the project to the Ministry of Construction, which would start in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Prevention of collapse of river banks, improving water way made in Sagaing

THERE are 45 projects for prevention of collapse of river banks and improving of water way for smooth transportation Sagaing Region, according to Sagaing region directorate of water resource and improvement of river systems department.

The project was started at the beginning of January ad targeted to finish in April. The projects are being jointly implemented by 17 companies and directorate of water resource and improvement of river systems department.

"The consequences of collapse the river banks are not very serious. The engineers from the department will draw the architectural designs with the use of advanced technology and their experiences. The prevention of collapse of river bank will be conducted on the Sagaing region side," U Phone Kyaw Sein, director of Sagaing region directorate of water resource and improvement of river system department.

Thirty-six projects for prevention of collapse of rivers are being implemented with the use of Ks 3,394.41 million from regional budget and three projects are being implemented with the use of Ks 314.84 million form regional supplementary budget. The three projects for improving river system are implemented with the use of Ks 170 million from Union budgets while three projects for prevention of collapse of rivers project are being implemented with the use of Ks 908 million of Union reserve fund.

"There are many ways to prevent the collapse of river banks," said U Myat Min Tun, assistant director of Sagaing region directorate of water resource and improvement of river system department. The projects will be implemented in Chindwin, Myitthar, Mu and Ayeyawady rivers. There are a total of 22 projects to implement: 12 projects in Chindwin, one project in Myitthar, four projects in Ayeyawady and five projects in Mu rivers. Another 23 projects will be implemented for prevention of collapse of the creeks. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Performance, fund raising ceremony held marking Union Peace Year-2017

Traditional dancers perform together with comedians at the performance held in conjunction with fund raising for peace process. PHOTO: MNA

A PERFORMANCE and fund raising for peace process was held at Myanmar International Convention Center -2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening speech by Chairman of the Union Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win.

Afterwards, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor of Myanmar U Kyaw Tint Swe awarded congratulatory certificates to MyaPunnamar and ThiLayThi Troupes Representative U Zarganar and Main Sponsor Diamond Wall Co.Ltd's Managing Director U Kyaw Zaw Ya.

Following the programme Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Mayor Dr Myo Aung awarded certificates of honour to donors for the National Reconciliation and Peace Center, donations include 500 Lakhs from Mudon Maung Maung Co.Ltd, 250 Lakhs from Authentic Co.Ltd, 200 Lakhs from Good Brother Co.Ltd, 100 Lakhs from U Maung Mhway and family from Yangon, 50 Lakhs from Linn I.T Solution Co.Ltd, 40 Lakhs from CCD CO.Ltd, and a representative from the University of Taunggyi donating 30 Lakhs.

This was followed by a formal announcement of the list of donors and amount of donations.

Afterwards MyaPunnamar and ThiLayThi Troupes performed with music, dance and a-nyeint comedic entertainment for the Union Peace Year (2017) celebration.

In attendance were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khine Than, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung, Union Election Commission Chairman and wife, Union ministers and wifes, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and wife, National Peace Commission Chairman and wife, deputy ministers, MPs, donors and local residents from Nay Pyi Taw.—*MNA*

Gov't, CSOs to raise collaboration on disaster prevention projects in Mandalay

A COLLABORATIVE effort to carry out disaster risk reduction activities will be implemented in six townships in Mandalay which experience natural disasters on an annual basis, the Region Minister for Natural Resources said.

The government hopes to spend about Ks30 million on the disaster prevention programmes in the project areas of PyinOoLwin, Yamethin, Kyaukse, Singaing, Myittha and Wundwin townships, planning to establish some groups comprised of members of the local community.

The disaster preparedness project is expected to initiate later this month by the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department, local administrative bodies, residents and civil society organisations through a sector-by-sector approach. A powerful wind hit townships across Mandalay Region between 21 April and 1 May of last year, killing 18 people and over 1,400 farm animals. The total loss of damage reached more than Ks3 billion.

Under the programme, participants will inspect the strength of houses and other structures in the target areas to repair some parts of the buildings if it necessary. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw receives Thai Ambassador

President U Htin Kyaw received Thai Ambassador H.E. Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, who had completed his tour of duty at 3pm yesterday in the hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they discussed matters concerning bilateral cooperation and promotion of amiable relations between Myanmar and Thailand. Present at the meeting were the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Thai Ambassador Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor celebrates birthday of her father, Bogyoke Aung San

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the following philanthropist organizations: Daw Gyi Daw Ngae Philanthropist Centre; Citta Thukha Philanthropist Centre on behalf of Dhamma Vidu Youth Development Philanthropist Centre; Women Philanthropist Centre; Yan Taing Aung Aye Tha Yar Philanthropist Centre; Citta Thukha Philanthropist Centre; Aung Chan Thar Philanthropist Centre; Miba Myitta Philanthropist Centre; Open Door Aye Tha Yar Philanthropist Centre on behalf of Open Door Aye Tha Yar Philanthropist Centre and Phayaphyu (Christian) Disabled Centre and Peace Youth Development Philanthropist Centre.

A representative spoke words of thanks on behalf of Philanthropist Schools with children reciting poems and songs of Bogyoke Aung San.

After the ceremony, State Counsellor shared a meal with the children.

The State Counsellor left Taunggyi for Nyaung Shwe township to pay a pilgrimage visit to Inle Phaung Taw Oo Buddha Images and again offered holy flowers, water ablutions and 102 candle lights.

In the afternoon, the State Counsellor returned to Nay Pyi Taw via Heho in Shan State.

Bogyoke Aung San, widely admired as the architect of Myanmar Independence was born to Pleader U Phar and Daw Su on 13th February 1915 in Natmauk. He was responsible for bringing about Burma's independence from British rule but was assassinated in Yangon in 1947, six months before independence. He is recognized as the founder of the Union of Burma.

The 13th February is also designated as the Day for Children in Myanmar, with commemorative ceremonies held across the country.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Scouts volunteer at Children's hospitals

Ko Latt (MNA)

IN commemoration of the birthday of Bogyoke Aung San and the Day for Children in Myanmar, members of the Myanmar Scouts Association gave a day's worth of nutritious meals — breakfast, lunch and dinner — to children at the 500-bed Children's Hospital in Yankin, also giving souvenirs to the young patients and helping hospital staff with sanitation work.

At the 500-bed Yankin Children Hospital, U Aye Kyaing, joint-secretary of Myanmar Scouts Association and male scouts, Daw Khin Saw Ohnmar, Deputy Chief Scouts of Myanmar Women Scouts Association and university scouts made sanitation works together with hospital staff in the hospital campus, giving talks to children about Bogyoke Aung San, giving nutritious meals and souvenirs.

Then, donation money of Ks 3 lakhs from the Scouts was given to Dr Daw Myint Myint Khaing, superintendent of Yankin Children Hospital, and deputy superintendent Dr Daw Mi Mi Khin.

In the afternoon, donation money of Ks 2 lakhs from the scouts was handed over to Dr Daw Su Su Dwe, the superintendent of the 500-bed Yangon Children Hospital for one day of meals. Then, the scouts gave souvenirs to children patients.

In addition, University Scouts made sanitation work in the hospital compound together with hospital staff, talking about Bogyoke Aung San, singing scout songs and demonstrating with games.

Scouts comfort a patient at the Yankin Children Hospital. PHOTO: MNA

Investigation Commission on Maungtaw continues fact-finding mission in villages

THE Investigation Commission on Maungtaw continued its probe into human rights violations in villages in Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

Yesterday morning, commission members visited villages including Kyargaungtaung and Yaydwinkyun villages in Maungtaw Township's Kyargaungtaung, Yaykhetchaung, Gwasone village-tracts, and interviewed the elderly, the youth, women and children individually and in group settings in an open and transparent manner.

In the afternoon the commission members divided into two groups and visited Pwintphyuchaung, Dargyisar and Myawtaung to interview local residents individually in an open and transparent manner on matters related to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) report on human rights violations, as well as challenges faced by the residents concerning their economic and financial situation, the youth's education, and religious matters.—*Myanmar News Agency*

A member of Investigation Commission on Maungtaw inquires women in Pwintphyuchaung Village. PHOTO: MNA

Yangon celebrates Day for Children marking Bogyoke Birthday

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But we are celebrating such a day at the time that will be suitable to our country. We are doing our best for our children to become good leaders for our country's future. And we will continue to carry out this duty to celebrate the Day for Children more effectively," Thura U Tin Oo said.

It is learnt that a children's quiz, entertainment with songs intended to arouse patriotism, traditional dances, ASEAN dances, souvenirs and meal-giving were also part of the ceremony.

U Yan Aung, Yangon Region Parliamentarian, said the day is unique because it combines the ideals of General Aung san and the importance of our children.

"The ceremony was held with the intention for our children to imitate the spirit of Bogyoke Aung San and his marvelous deeds so that they will become valuable sources of the country in the future," U Yan Aung said.

Construction of public recreation area to be completed this year

CREATION of a public recreation area on the Yangon riverside will be completed during this fiscal year, said an official from the Playgrounds, Parks & Gardens department under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The public recreation area will be constructed at a cost of Ks100 million. The area will be 70 feet wide and over 700 feet long. The project will be implemented on a plot of and owned by Asia World Company.

The public recreation area will be constructed to attract tourists as well as city-dwellers to unwind and enjoy nature. The YCDC is constructing the public recreation area because there are few public places for city residents to relax. Upon completion of the construction of the public recreation area, people will be able to view and feel the beautiful scenes of the river, officials said. The project is expected to be completed during this fiscal year. The Playgrounds, Parks & Gardens department under the Yangon City Development Committee will spend Ks1.6 billion to implement the public recreation areas and playgrounds during fiscal 2017-2018.

The YCDC also has plans to renovate Seikkan Thar Park.—*200*

Fires across Myanmar cause over Ks1.7 billion in losses last month

PROPERTY losses from fires that occurred around the country in the first month of this year amounted to more than Ks1.7 billion, according to the Myanmar Fire Services Department.

There were 178 cases of fire between 1 and 31 January of this year.

Yangon and Ayeyawady regions ranked first with 22 cases each, followed by Sagaing Region with 20 cases, Mandalay Region with 16 cases, Bago Region with 15 cases, Rakhine and Mon states as well as Magway Region with 11 cases each and Taninthayi Region with 10 cases.

Kayin, Kayah, Kachin and Chin states, and the capital Nay Pyi Taw had fewer than 10 cases.

The largest fire losses occurred in Mandalay, with police taking action against 181 people.

An official of the department said that the majority of fires in Yangon were caused by negligence on the part of people who used electronic devices carelessly while cooking-related incident accounted for most of the fires in the countryside.

Awareness-raising efforts are being made to reduce fiery accidents in every state and region through a wide range of programmes, said one police officer, who urged people to follow suggestions offered by the fire service providers.—*Mi Wai*

Women invited to join walkathon to combat anaemia

WOMEN have been invited to take part in a walkathon to be held on 19 February in Yangon, with organisers planning to offer medical examinations for anaemia free of charge.

This is the fourth time the annual women's walking race has been held in the city to reduce possible health problems by changing lifestyles. Under the programme, participants will walk along Waizanyana Road, starting from Thuwunna Indoor Stadium, from 4am to 9am.

The event will be organised by the Ministry of Health and Sports and a partner medicine company which produces drugs used for iron deficiency anaemia. The key objective of the event is to raise public awareness on anaemia, a common health problem for women.

Enthusiasts may register their participation on www.facebook/ferrovitmyanmar or send SMS to 09 254 136 128.

As in previous years, the event will feature free medical examinations, public health seminars and entertainment programmes. About 6,000 women participated in last year's walkathon, with organisers hoping more participants would participate this year.

According to physicians, anaemia develops when a person's blood lacks enough healthy red blood cells, or hemoglobin, a main part of red blood cells that binds tooxygen. It is a medical condition in which somebody has too few red cells in their blood, making them look pale and feel weak.

Anaemia is most common in Myanmar women and remains a major health problem in the country. The disease has been found mostly in women from poor backgrounds living in under-developed areas.

According to a survey, seven in ten pregnant women were found to be anaemic.—*Wah Wah*

Crime NEWS

Sittway Court gives death sentence to culprit involved in Kotankauk Outpost attack

SITTWAY District Court yesterday gave the death sentence to one of the violent attackers involved in the 9 October assault on the Kotankauk border outpost in Rathedaung Township, Rakhine State.

Uruma, also known as Mammud Nu and Ular, received the death sentence under Section 302 (1) (c) of the Penal Code and a five-year jail term with hard labour under the Penal Code.

On the morning of 9 October 2016, a group of about 20 individuals raided the Kotankauk border outpost, killing one on-duty officer and injuring two officers. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Stimulants worth over Ks190 million seized in Naf River

PATROLLING police seized stimulant tablets worth over Ks190 million from a row boat at about 10:30 pm on Sunday in the Naf River in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

Police on patrol found a boat heading for another country. When they pursued the boat, the people on board fled. Police seized 97,500 stimulant tablets worth over Ks190 million and the boat measuring 20 feet by 7 feet.

Police handed over the boat and stimulant tablets to the relevant authorities. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Seized stimulant tablets. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Middle-age man drowns in creek

A MAN drowned in a creek in Kyaukyetwin Village, Paung Township, Mon State on Sunday, according to police.

According to investigators, the man died while he was washing dishes in the Yinnyein Creek on Sunday evening. Police were called to the scene after the body was spotted in the creek. The body had no visible injuries, police said. Police say that the body was that of U Soe Myint Naing, 45, of Kyaukyetwin Village, who lives alone and may have suffered a mini-stroke. Police are still investigating the case.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

New 500-bed hospital to be built in Bago later this month

Bago General hospital.
PHOTO: KYEMON

THE LOCAL government will develop a new 500-bed hospital in Bago Region using a Ks2.4 million budget on the project.

Organised by the Ministry of Health and Sports, the six-storey hospital is planned to be constructed on 25-acre of plot beside bypass near Kali Village beginning from later this month.

The invitation to tender for the project has already been announced by authorities, who target to spend Ks800 million budgets this fiscal year, U Maung Maung Lwin, Bago Region Minister for Development Affairs, said when he met with media persons.

After completing the project, local from the region and nearby areas will receive better healthcare at the new hospital.

The land for the project was donated by a well-wisher. —*Tin Soe (Bago)*

LOCAL Business

FDI hit over US$ 5.81 billion in 10 months of this FY

Foreign direct investment (FDI) flowing into Myanmar during the first 10 months of this fiscal year hit over US$5.81billion, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

The expected amount of FDI in this FY is to reach US$6billion. It is about two months left to end the current fiscal year and US$5.8billion of FDI was flowed into Myanmar over the past ten months. Therefore, the FDI is likely to exceed the expected amount.

During the first ten months of this fiscal year, the transportation and communication sectors are at the top of the list with FDI of US$3.031 billion, followed by the manufacturing sector with FDI of US$1.01 billion, the real estate sector with US$747.6 million, the power sector with US$612.8 million, the hotel and tourism sector with US$241.2 million, the livestock and fisheries sector with US$96.6 million and other sectors worth US$76.723million, according to the data and statistics of the DICA. Out of 22 foreign countries investing in Myanmar during this fiscal year, Singapore topped the line-up of the countries or zones that invest most heavily in Myanmar, followed by Viet Nam, China, Hong Kong and Thailand.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) permit investment proposals only after scrutiny of environmental and social impact assessments and sector-specific developments, in keeping with the existing laws.—*Ko Htet*

Rohu fish are seen at the Kyimyindine Sanpya Fish Market in Yangon on 7 January 2017. The livestock and fisheries sector hit over US$96.6 million during the first 10 months of this fiscal year. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

130 tonnes of dried tea leaves exported to Thailand

Over 130 tonnes of dried tea leaves were exported to Thailand in January through the Tachilek border trade camp, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Nearly 92 tonnes of dried tea leaves worth US$35,802 were shipped to Thailand between 21st and 27th Jan while 39 tonnes of dried tea leaves were sent to Thailand via Tachlek earlier the same month, according to official figures of the Commerce Ministry.

The fresh tea leaves are mostly for domestic consumption but tea associations are making concerted efforts to gain access to more international markets. About two tonnes of fresh tea leaves have been exported to Germany.

Myanmar's tea leaf is favoured by European consumers because it is farmed organically. However, the production rate is low and the price is still on the rise due to high production cost.

Three are over 200,000 acres of tea leaf plantations across the nation and the tea leaves are mostly cultivated in northern, southern and eastern Shan State.—*Mon Mon*

External trade over US$23 billion as of 3rd February

THE value of external trade from 1st April to 3rd February in this fiscal year 2016-2017 reached US$23.05 billion which is up from US$22.88 billion in the similar period of last year, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce.

The export values as of 3rd February this year were $9.51 billion, which is up by $625.891 million from the previous year, whereas the import values during this fiscal year with a total import value of $13,539.716mil is down by over $450 mil when compared to that in last FY. There is a trade deficit of $4,021.514mil when imports surpassed exports.

The values of normal trade amounted to $16,973.648mil, with import values of $11,224.554 mil and export values of $5,749.094mil whereas the border trade fetched $ 6,084.270mil, with import values of $2,315.162mil and export values of $3,769.108mil, according to official figures of the Commerce Ministry.

The capital goods, raw industrial materials and personal goods are imported into the country while agricultural products, livestock, fisheries, forest products, minerals, manufacturing and other products are shipped to the foreign countries.

The border trades with the neighbouring countries — Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh — flow in and out from these border trade camps: Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chin Shwe Haw, Kengtung, Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung, Maese, Sittwe, Maungtaw, Tamu and Reed.—*Ko Htet*

Over 240 CNG buses received slip from deregistration

A total of 242 buses made before 1995 which use compressed natural gas (CNG) have been deregistered so as to receive a slip for family used cars in return, according to the Road Transportation Administration Department (RTAD) (Myintha).

A returning slip for cars after deregistration of old buses later than the 1995 model was started in November 2016. Out of 586 buses later than 1995 model applied to the said department for deregistration, 557 buses later than 1995 models were allowed to deregister in order to return slips.

Those 242 buses which have been deregistered in return for a slip include City buses, mini-buses and BM vehicles, it is learnt.

The deregistration of City Buses are mostly witnessed, said an official from the RTAD (Myintha).

There is no deadline for this and the owners of the old buses need to give the CNG gas tank back to the department as part of the deregistration process. —*200*

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Cambodian PM sues commentator for linking ruling party to murder

KANDAL (Cambodia) — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen on Monday sued political commentator Kim Sok who accused the ruling party of killing political analyst Kem Ley.

Kem Ley, 46, was shot dead at a mini-mart in Phnom Penh on 10 July last year. A suspect was arrested soon after the murder and he claimed that he got furious with Kem Ley, who owed him 3,000 US dollars but failed to pay him back.

On Saturday in a radio program, Kim Sok accused the ruling party of killing Kem Ley.

Hun Sen said his lawyer Ky Tech filed a lawsuit against Kim Sok to the Phnom Penh Municipal Court on Monday morning.

"I am demanding half a million US dollars in compensation," Hun Sen said, adding that Kim Sok's groundless accusation had seriously affected the honor of the ruling Cambodian People's Party.

"The accusation is an incitement to cause social chaos, which is a crime that faces imprisonment," Hun Sen said, ordering the police to keep an eye on the commentator to prevent him from fleeing the country.

The prime minister on Monday also vowed to maintain the country's hard-won peace and warned the opponents to prepare coffins for themselves if they attempted to conduct the so-called color revolution.

It is the third lawsuit lodged by the prime minister. Hun Sen had previously filed two cases respectively against former opposition senator Thak Lany and former opposition leader Sam Rainsy.—*Xinhua*

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India navy spurns homemade warplane, latest blow to Asia push for self reliance

BENGALURU/NEW DELHI — India's navy is in the hunt for a new foreign fighter jet after rejecting an indigenously made aircraft as too heavy, the latest sign of the struggle to get Asian militaries to buy locally to grow their defence industries.

The navy last month invited manufacturers to pitch for 57 planes for its aircraft carriers, a multi-billion dollar order the government had hoped would go to the state-run producers of India's Tejas, a combat aircraft 33 years in the making.

India, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian buyers are expected to intensify efforts this year to develop indigenous warplanes, military officials said, due to anxieties that the United States may be less engaged in the region under President Donald Trump.

But their hopes of manufacturing state-of-the-art warplanes could still be decades away as countries need more time to master the technology, experts said.

"It's been long on ambition short on success," Richard A Bitzinger, senior fellow at Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, said of the drive.

An Indian Air Force (IAF) light combat aircraft 'Tejas' performs during the Indian Air Force Day celebrations at the Hindon Air Force Station on the outskirts of New Delhi, India, on 8 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"These things are being done because of techno-nationalism. They are done because these countries perceive of themselves as rising powers."

As part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Make-in-India" campaign, scientists will showcase the Tejas warplane at an air show opening in Bengaluru on Tuesday. But the jet remains a work in progress, with only three in service with the air force.

South Korea, supported by Indonesia, has multi-billion dollar plans to develop a twin-engined KF-X fighter jet, while Taiwan said this month it plans to build 66 jet trainer aircraft that could eventually help it manufacture a combat plane.

Chang Yeoung-keun, an adviser on the KF-X fighter jet project and a professor at Korea Aerospace University, said full development of the plane and its technologies will take decades.

"South Korea needs to develop core technologies of the jets, not just shells," he said. "I am sceptical. South Korea may be able to develop core technology in 30 to 40 years, but they have to develop them in 10 years, with current fighter jets ageing."

Cleared by the government in 1983, the Indian plane was meant to be the backbone of the air force due for induction in 1994.

Instead, it suffered years of delay with scientists trying to build the world's most modern light combat aircraft from scratch, including the engine.

In December, the navy chief, Admiral Sunil Lanba, said the sea version of the plane was "not up to the mark" and it could not take off from an aircraft carrier once weapons were loaded.

A source in the navy said that the plane for years has failed flight tests when taking off from a 200-metre carrier deck with weapons on board. That prompted the navy to issue a request last month for information for a foreign fighter to fill the gap, the first stage in a long procurement process.

Boeing Co has pitched its F-A/18 Hornet, that the US navy flies from its carriers, to the Indian defence ministry, including an offer to build it locally.

Sweden's Saab AB said on Friday it will offer the naval version of its Gripen fighter to the Indian navy.

India's top defence scientists said they were disappointed by the navy's decision and that fighter aircraft development was a challenge everywhere, including with the US Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35.

"Look at the F-35, with all the might of the multinational effort, is still evolving," said a source in the aeronautical development agency which is spearheading the LCA effort.

"There are no shortcuts."—*Reuters*

Indonesia opposition-backed candidate may be dark horse in Jakarta poll

JAKARTA — A former Indonesian education minister backed by the main opposition party has quietly made gains in the race to become the capital's governor by courting disaffected Muslim voters while acrimony over a blasphemy trial occupies his rivals.

Anies Baswedan poses a late but serious challenge in Wednesday's vote for governor of Jakarta, a post that can be a stepping stone to the presidency of a country with the world's largest Muslim population.

Campaigning for the election has raised the sensitive issue of religion in politics of a country with a state ideology that enshrines religious diversity in an officially secular system.

Officials from the Gerindra party backing Baswedan dismiss any suggestion he has played a religious card, while acknowledging he has appealed to voters, who happen to be Muslim, in slums where the incumbent, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, has raised anger with forced evictions to combat flooding.

Anies Baswedan.
PHOTO: REUTERS

"Anies has made sure he heard the voices of the victims of forced evictions who were mainly Muslim," said Arif Poyuono, a senior Gerindra official, referring to Baswedan by his first name.

Baswedan's popularity has spiked since the head of the party, Prabowo Subianto, who narrowly lost the 2014 presidential election, started campaigning on his behalf, promising a comeback to the national stage in 2019, Poyuono said.

The Jakarta poll is being widely seen as a proxy battle for the 2019 presidential election.

Purnama, Jakarta's first ethnic Chinese and Christian governor, has won credit for cutting red tape and improving the performance of the bureaucracy. He has the backing of President Joko Widodo's party, and is standing again.

The third contender is Agus Yudhoyono, the son of former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

But the election has been overshawdowed by Purnama's trial on blasphemy charges stemming from an accusation that he insulted the Koran in comments about how people vote.

Purnama, known by the nickname Ahok, denies insulting the Koran but the accusation has provided common ground for Widodo's opponents and Islamist political forces, who have staged massive rallies against him.

Former President Yudhoyono and his son have rejected claims that they or their family supported the protests.—*Reuters*

New nuclear-capable missile test a success, North Korea says

SEOUL — North Korea said on Monday it had successfully test-fired a new type of medium- to long-range ballistic missile the previous day, claiming advances in a weapons programme it is pursuing in violation of UN resolutions.

North Korea fired the missile on a high arc into the sea early on Sunday, the first probe of US President Donald Trump's vow to get tough on an isolated regime that tested nuclear devices and ballistic missiles last year at an unprecedented rate.

The North's state-run KCNA news agency said leader Kim Jong Un supervised the test of the Pukguksong-2, a new type of strategic weapon capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

The United States, Japan and South Korea requested urgent UN Security Council consultations on the test, with a meeting expected later on Monday, an official in the US mission to the United Nations said.

Japan said further sanctions against North Korea could be discussed at the United Nations, and called on China to take a "constructive" role in responding.

China is North Korea's main ally and trading partner but is irritated by its repeated aggressive actions, although it rejects suggestions from the United States and others that it could be doing more to rein in its neighbour.

A view of the test-fire of Pukguksong-2 guided by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on the spot, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 13 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We have asked China via various levels to take constructive actions as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and we will continue to work on it," said Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

China said it opposed North Korean missile tests that run contrary to UN resolutions.

"All sides should exercise restraint and jointly maintain regional peace and security," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular briefing, adding that China would participate in talks at the United Nations on the launch with a "responsible and constructive attitude".

Russia's foreign ministry expressed concern over the launch, RIA news agency quoted the ministry as saying.

North Korea has conducted five nuclear tests, including two last year, although its claims to be able to miniaturise a nuclear weapon to be mounted on a missile have never been verified independently.

Leader Kim said in his New Year speech the North was close to test-launching an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and state media have said such a launch could come at any time.

A fully developed ICBM could threaten the continental United States, which is about 9,000 km (5,500 miles) from North Korea.

The KCNA news agency said the missile fired on Sunday was launched at a high angle in consideration of the safety of neighbouring countries. A South Korean military source said on Sunday it reached an altitude of 550 km (340 miles).

It flew about 500 km towards Japan, landing off the east coast of the Korean peninsula.

The missile was propelled by a solid fuel engine and was an upgraded, extended-range version of its submarine-launched ballistic missile that was tested successfully last August, according to KCNA.

The missile's name — Pukguksong-2 — translates as north star or Polaris, the same name of the first US submarine-launched missile.

South Korea's military said the missile had been launched using a "cold-eject" system, whereby it is initially lifted by compressed gas before flying under the power of its rocket, a system used for submarine-launched missiles.

North Korea's pursuit of large solid-fuelled missiles was "a very concerning development", said Jonathan McDowell of the Harvard Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics.

"Large solid-fuel motors are difficult to make work correctly so this is indeed a significant advance by North Korea," McDowell said.—*Reuters*

7th Cambodia-China Friendship Bridge inaugurated in S Cambodia

KANDAL, Cambodia — The 7th Cambodia-China Friendship Bridge was inaugurated in Cambodia's Kandal province on Monday after a three-year construction.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia Xiong Bo presided over the inauguration ceremony which was attended by some 5,000 people.

The 415-metre-by-13.5-metre bridge, spanning the Tonle Bassac River, is located in Koh Thom district, about 60 km south of Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia.

The prime minister said the Cambodia-China Friendship Koh Thom Bridge, connecting Kandal province with neighbouring Vietnam, is a new achievement in transport infrastructure development.

"The bridge will provide huge benefits to the people, particularly those living in the Koh Thom district," he said.

Hun Sen expressed his profound gratitude to China for having provided a great amount of grant aid and concessional loans to Cambodia for socio-economic development.—*Xinhua*

Philippines' ruling party backs policy advisor to head central bank

MANILA — The political party of Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte has backed Antonio Moncupa, the president of mid-sized lender East West Bank and head of the party's policy think tank, to become the next governor of the country's central bank.

Support for Moncupa was announced by Senator Aquilino Pimentel, president of the ruling PDP-Laban party, in a statement issued on the Senate website on Sunday. The current governor of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Amando is due to step down in July having completed a maximum two terms. Tetangco is a career central banker widely praised for his stewardship of one of the world's fastest growing economies.

It was not immediately clear whether the PDP-Laban party's choice of Moncupa also had the blessing of Duterte. Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez has said potential candidates for the next central bank governor will undergo a selection process. Moncupa, who holds a double degree in economics and accounting from De La Salle University in Manila and a masters in business administration from the University of Chicago, has served as president of East West Bank since 2007.

"I am humbled and greatly honoured by the endorsement. I believe he (Pimentel) sees a responsive and independent BSP as consistent with PDP-Laban's advocacies towards inclusive growth and the fight against criminality," Moncupa said in a text message to Reuters.—*Reuters*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.2.2017 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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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HALONG VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2017 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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.

No development without discipline

Kyaw Myaing

AS we march towards the goal of a modern, democratic, federal union, we think it is fitting and proper for us to discuss the two key words in the title of this editorial. The two words "development" and "discipline" are very common words. They appear in many of our writings and even in our daily conversations with colleagues. However, we should pause a bit and think more deeply and these two simple words and see how important they are.

Our teachers have taught us in so many ways the importance of discipline for our success. Among our teachers, Lord Buddha is All-knowing and Supreme. In one of his teachings he said:

"Self is the Lord of Self,
Who else could be the Lord,
With Self well subdued
A man finds a Lord such as few can find."

- The Dhammapada

From this utterance of the Lord Buddha, we may take it to heart that self-control and self-discipline are the foundation stones of the Buddhist way of life. Before we try to teach others, we should first begin with self-discipline and practices that will help us gain more insight into how our minds work and the true nature of our bodies.

To modernize our economy we need to have more discipline in our public sector as well as our private sector. When we say discipline, we mean staff discipline as well as financial discipline.

On another level, when we take an objective overview of the hierarchy of authority and responsibility, this is what we find:

- The strength of our townships depends on the strength of our wards and villages.

- The strength of our wards and villages depends upon the strength of each family in each ward and village.

- The strength of each family depends on the head of the family. (It may be the father or the mother. When there is no father, the mother becomes the head of the family).

As we all know Myanmar is a Theravada Buddhist country and the majority of the citizens are Buddhists. At the same time we are fully aware of the fact that Myanmar is a multi-ethnic and multi-racial country. Therefore, we all need to live in harmony with each other and take extra care to discipline ourselves not to tread upon the rights and beliefs of other racial groups or people with different religious beliefs.

One of the strong points of Myanmar is the fact that Buddhism is very much alive as the institution of the Sangha is still very strong and well established. The teachings of the Lord Buddha are being preserved in the Buddhist monasteries all over the country. At the same time, the practice of Insight meditation or Vipassana is being taught in countless meditation centers all over the country. The Buddhist monks live their lives according to the Vinaya (code of conduct for monks). They are regarded as the sons of the Buddha. The Buddha's teachings are very much alive in Myanmar and every Buddhist knows the "the Anandaw Ananda Ngaba" which means "the Big Five". It means the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Sangha, Parents and Teachers. The Pali word "Ananda" means uncountable. Thus Anandaw Ananda simply means that the gratitude owe to the "Big Five" is uncountable or infinite.

Thus, in a Buddhist country like Myanmar, the foundation for maintenance of discipline begins from the respect that we have for the "Big Five" namely, the Buddha, the Dhamma, the Sangha, Parents and Teachers.

Since parents are our "first teachers", the quality of our current citizens and our future generations will certainly depend on how our parents have taught us and how well our teachers have taught us at school.

Let us therefore remember that for us to reach our desired goal, talking about it and wishing for it would not be enough. We should begin this process of change from the old ways of thinking to the new ways of viewing things at the grass-roots level; after all the family unit is the foundation stone of any strong and vibrant community. To repair the social fabric, we need to begin from the family level.

Recent developments in microstructure approach to exchange rate determination and implications for monetary policy

Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (Former Senior Economist)

(continued from yesterday)

The order flow information provides rich information which enables the central bank to set two important strategies, among others. The first strategy involves disaggregating order flow. The inter-dealer order flow data can be collected separately for large banks versus small banks, or investment banks versus commercial banks. Data sets on customer order flow can be split into financial and non-financial (corporations) players. Second, the effect of influential market players on FX can be identified for indirect intervention. In other words, intervention operations can be either negotiated with individual FX dealers or channeled in the inter-dealer market.

This implies that order flow presents an informative component, sterilises central bank operations, which anticipates shifts in short-term interest rates and monetary aggregates. It encourages the effectiveness of central bank's intervention operations on the functioning of FX markets and influences the FX formation process and the market characteristics.

Another finding of FX studies show that sterilized intervention maintains currency values and exchange rate volatility. It also indicates foreign exchange intervention reduces market uncertainty on future exchange rate fundamentals it also augments trading volume and transaction costs in FX markets. It reduces exchange rate volatility, intervention is more informative and impact on the FX is larger. Recent studies have attempted to bridge the divide between macro and micro approaches to exchange rate economics by examining the linkages between exchange rate movements, order flow and expectations of macroeconomic variables. In brief, evidence suggests that order flow anticipates shifts in foreign exchange fundamentals. The empirical result of microstructure approach has more explanatory power of order flow through two different channels of transmission, viz. to portfolio-balance and information effects. This framework also allows to monitor the central bank's intervention activity on the liquidity and efficiency in the FX markets. It can also be used for change in other major currencies in the FX market.

If country's historical FX data indicates the deprecation trend in the medium to long terms, the application of long-terms policies is called for as suggested by the traditional FX theory. It asserts that higher labour productivity tends to appreciation of real FX. The evidence shows that the positive productivity effect is transmitted through the real FX based on prices of tradable goods. In addition, studies on the link between the dollar's movements and productivity developments in the United States, Japan, and the euro area suggest that productivity influences much of the change in the external value of the dollar over the past three decades. On the link between FX theory and labour productivity, there exists various policies and strategies. Based on the relevance of transition economy, two most important policies among others can be highlighted. These are policies and strategies on 'technology and innovation' and 'labour mobility' through labour sector reform or wage policy to mobilize labour from low productive sector to high productive one. In this regard, the evidences suggest that the direct effect of central bank's intervention on productivity growth using interest rate policy is insignificant. However, indirect effect through effectively designed monetary policy enables adjustments in the aggregate demand and supply in the economy leading to price and FX stability, where market is efficient. It means that the policy design of international trade, industry, foreign direct investment, monetary and fiscal measures should be centered on the above mentioned 'labour productivity' for better FX performance in the presence of sustainable growth. The start of enhancing labour productivity activities would also provide the signal to the private sector on expected future fundamentals and the expected results.

Lessons learnt

(i) The evidence suggests that 'foreign currency order flow has significant and persistent effects on the nominal FX mostly in short term, even also in the medium term.

(ii) It reflects the effect of the short term change in order flow on the FX and provide a feedback mechanism for effectiveness of central bank's intervention and monetary policies in the short term.

(iii) The order flow information enable the central bank and monetary authorities to pursue the strategies on identifying major marker makers, monitoring the possible effects on FX and the required indirect intervention with negotiations and direct monetary policy alignment to control FX volatility.

(iv) In addition, the order flow information provides the monetary authority towards other monetary instruments that would prevent short-term further depreciation in the short term. These instruments include, among others (i) enhancing bond market operations, (ii) use of currency swept facilities, and (iii) policy alignment towards enhancing foreign currency supply of corporations and export-import enterprises in the FX auction.

(v) Use of electronic trading system and tools with high frequency data/news may enhance transparency, wipe out information asymmetry, and lower volatility of FX.

(vi) As medium to long term policy, the policy designs of international trade, industry, foreign direct investment including foreign loans and aid, and monetary and fiscal measures should be centered on the above mentioned 'labour productivity' and FX performance in the presence of economic stability.

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Mon National Party presents policies and programmes

Nai Sein Mya Maung of Mon National Party.

NAI SEIN MYA MAUNG, member of the Central Executive Committee of Mon National Party, presented policies, attitudes and programmes of his party on 13 February 2017, on radio and TV programmes. The translation of his presentation is given below:

Esteemed Mon nationalities and voters,

I am CEC member Naing Sein Mya Maung from Mon National Party. The Mon National Party will contest the bye election to be held on 1 April 2017 in Chaungzon Township Constituency.

I would like to express the political policy and attitudes of our party as follows:

1. for the entire people to enjoy democracy and human rights fully,
2. To build a strong unity with firm foundations based on national equality and self-determination,
3. for a democratic, federal union to emerge to ensure national equality and self-determination,
4. for a genuine multi-party democratic system to emerge,
5. To strive for achieving eternal peace throughout the Union of Myanmar and to contribute to international peace making endeavours,
6. To make sure that any type of dictatorship which oppresses the people would never raise its ugly head again, and
7. In implementing the political, economic, educational, health care and social sectors, all-round developments of the entire people living in the union are to be implemented based on the united and common desire of the people.

To put the above-mentioned political policies into practice, the following programmes have been laid down:

The political processes are as follows:

1. We will make efforts to enable the people to enjoy the basic human rights and democratic fruits,
2. We will build national reconciliation and internal peace seeking solutions through political means hand in hand with the democratic forces.
3. We will build a democratic federal Union formed with states that enjoy self-determination and equality through multi-party democracy system,
4. We will fight chauvinism and narrow-minded nationalism, and build friendship among all nationalities,
5. We will guard against a system which protects the interests of a fistful of people ignoring the interests of the entire people.
6. We will eliminate the bribery and corruption.
7. We will form an alliance with any party whose belief, conviction and attitude are identical with us in our effort to ensure democracy, equality and self-determination.

We, the Mon National Party, will contest the bye election laying down the following three slogans to implement the above-mentioned political policies and processes-

1. For the political forces within and without the Hluttaws to do politics in synchronization,
2. To draw up a new constitution or to amend the 2008 constitution, and
3. To strive for emergence of true Mon State which guarantees national equality and self-determination.

Therefore,

"Let's vote for Mon National Party to implement national equality."

"Let's vote for Mon National Party to amend 2008 constitution."

"With the strength of a Hintha (a mythical bird) to fly high above the sky to reach the white stars."

Thank you.

(Unofficial Translation)

Party Logo.

Over 60 tonnes of illegal timber found in Dagon Industrial Zone

THE forestry department reported that 60 tonnes of illegal timber have been discovered in Dagon Industrial Zone (1) on Sunday, bringing the total amount of seized illegal timber in the past three weeks to over 1,200 tonnes in the Yangon Region alone.

A team led by the Assistant Director from Yangon Northern District's Forestry Department discovered 55 tonnes of Padauk wood and five tonnes of Tama Lann wood in Warehouse (145) (B), U Htun Nyo Street, Dagon Industrial Zone (1), in an inspection yesterday morning that was prompted by a tip-off.

"With information from citizens and work by our staff members, we were able to find the illegal timber stored in the warehouse. It was really a cooperative effort," reported U Thein Toe, Yangon Region Forestry Department's director.

"On 24th January, we were able to confiscate two containers of illegal teak in MIP harbor. Following that we were able to confiscate a total of over 1,200 tonnes of illegal timber in the Yangon Region, most of them being Padauk timber."

U Thein Toe said the large amount of Padauk timber confiscated is a sign that the hardwood was headed for illegal export.

"Padauk is not used commonly in Yangon. It can be concluded that the Padauk in the containers were to be illegally exported to the overseas market."

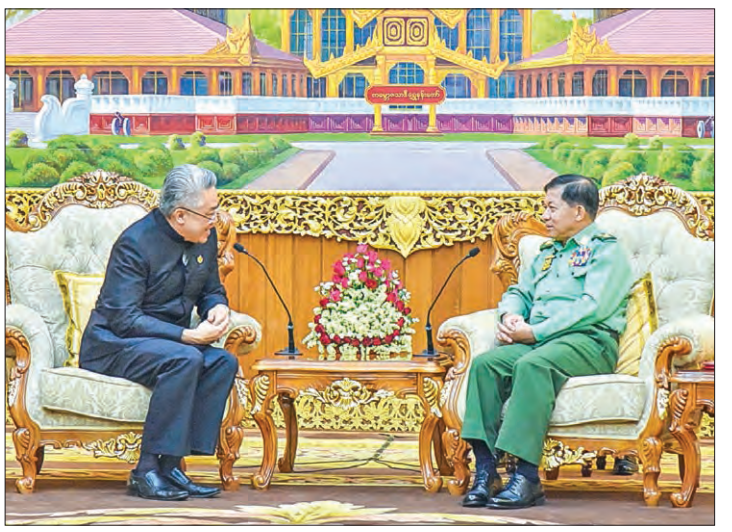
The timber owners who are suspected of involvement are to be prosecuted before the law.

"The warehouse owners failed to verify before accepting the timber. Following these recent apprehensions they should have been more careful. There should be a systematic verification of whether the accepted timber is legal or illegal, and if there is suspicion of its nature, to be checked with the Forestry Department," said U Thein Toe.

From 24 January to 8 February, over 60 tonnes of teak, 954 tonnes of Padauk, 25 tonnes of Tama Lann and five tonnes of Kokko wood have been found, a total of over 1,000 tons of illegal timber.

Also found yesterday were eight empty cargo containers, bringing the total of confiscated containers to 37, and six ten-wheeled container trucks. The value of all illegal timber and related confiscations in the last 16 days is estimated to be over Ks30,000 lakhs, according to the Forestry Department.— *Taryar*

Forestry Departmental officials inspect illegal timber in Dagon Industrial Zone. PHOTO: FORESTRY DEPARTMENT



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Thai Ambassador at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai Ambassador

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Thai Ambassador H.E. Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata, who had completed his tour of duty at 9:30 am yesterday at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw.

At a meeting, they discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries, cooperation in security, exchange of information, heightened co-operation in prevention of and combat against human trafficking, narcotic drugs and transnational organised crime.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Correction

A story in the 3 February edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar headlined "State Counsellor presents cash assistance to displaced persons" incorrectly stated the amount of money given as Ks 300 billion. The correct figure is Ks 300 million.—*GNLM*

Kremlin says Putin-Trump meeting possible before July

A billboard showing a pictures of US president-elect Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin is seen through pedestrians in Danilovgrad, Montenegro, on 16 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said on Monday there was talk of a possible meeting between President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump taking place before a G20 summit in July, but there was nothing specific to report so far.

The two men have never met, but both have said they want to try to mend battered US-Russia ties, which fell to their lowest level since the Cold War after Moscow's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. The new US administration is under pressure over Russia however because Michael Flynn, Trump's national security adviser, is struggling to get past a controversy over a call he had with the Russian ambassador to the United States Sergei Kislyak before Trump took office.

Top White House officials have been reviewing over the weekend Flynn's contacts and whether he discussed the possibility of lifting US sanctions on Russia once Trump took office, which could potentially be in violation of a law banning private citizens from engaging in foreign policy.

When asked about it on Monday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters that Flynn and Kislyak had not discussed lifting sanctions on Moscow.

"Obviously every ambassador informs the centre (Moscow) about all the contacts he has so the information gets to us, but we are not willing to comment on internal discussions being held in Washington," Peskov said. Asked if there had been talks between any Russian and US representatives on easing sanctions, Peskov said: "We have already said there have not been any (such talks)". —*Reuters*

French election contender Macron is Russian 'fake news' target — party chief

PARIS — French presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron is a "fake news" target of Russian media and his campaign is facing thousands of cyber attacks, his party chief said on Monday.

Richard Ferrand, secretary-general of Macron's En Marche! (Onwards!) party, said that Russian state-controlled media Russia Today and Sputnik had spread false reports with the aim of swinging public opinion against Macron.

An independent centrist, Macron has surged in campaigning for the French election and opinion polls make him favourite to win election in May.

Ferrand said that Macron, as a staunch pro-European, was a Russian target because he wanted a strong united Europe that had a major role to play in world affairs, including in the face of Moscow.

Sputnik earlier this month ran an interview with a conservative French lawmaker accusing Macron, a former investment banker, of being an agent of "the big American banking system", a report that was in turn picked up by Russia Today.

"Two big media outlets belonging to the Russian state Russia Today and Sputnik spread fake news on a daily basis, and then they are picked up, quoted and influence the democratic (process)," Ferrand said.

Russian newspaper Izvestia has also reported comments from Wikileaks founder Julian Assange who said his organisation had "interesting information" about Macron, who opinion polls say would easily beat far-right leader Marine Le Pen in a 7 May runoff. In addition, Ferrand said the Macron campaign was being hit by "hundreds if not thousands" of attacks probing the campaign's computer systems from locations inside Russia.

Calling for government action to prevent foreign meddling in the election campaigning, Ferrand said: "What we want is for authorities at the highest level to take the matter in hand to guarantee that there is no foreign meddling in our democracy. The Americans saw it but it came to late."

US intelligence agencies said in a report last month that Russian President Vladimir Putin had directed a cyber campaign to help Republican Donald Trump's electoral chances by discrediting Democrat Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential campaign.

French Defence Minister Jean Yves Le Drian promised last month to boost military resources to fight foreign cyber attacks, acknowledging that France was no less vulnerable than the United States. In an election campaign which has sunk into smear and sleaze, Macron on 7 February was also forced to kill rumours of a gay relationship outside his marriage to Brigitte Trogneux.

The media reports about Macron emerged from Russia as erstwhile poll favourite Francois Fillon, a conservative who speaks positively of Putin, was hit by a scandal which has badly affected his election chances. —*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey's Erdogan says aims safe zone in Syria after Raqqa operation

ISTANBUL — President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday Turkey aimed to create a safe zone in Syria, extending its military operations to the towns of Manbij and Raqqa after driving Islamic State from al-Bab, if it acts together with the US-led coalition.

In a speech in Bahrain, broadcast live on Turkish television, Erdogan said the planned safe zone would cover an area of at least 4,000-5,000 square kilometres (3,475 square miles) and would require a no-fly zone.—*Reuters*

Vietnam, Greece vow to boost trade, maritime transport cooperation

HANOI — Vietnam and Greece vowed here Monday to step up negotiations to achieve the early signing of agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation as well as on maritime transport.

The remarks were made at the bilateral talks in Vietnam's capital Hanoi between Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh and visiting Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias.

Speaking to reporters after the talks, Kotzias, the first Greek foreign minister to visit Vietnam, vowed to enhance Greece-Vietnam friendship and cooperation, especially in economy and maritime transport.

Greece is willing to become a gateway for Vietnam to boost ties with the European Union, said Kotzias.

Vietnam-Greece bilateral trade revenue hit 239 million US dollars in 2016, according to Vietnamese government's e-Portal on Monday.—*Reuters*

Norway plans further military cooperation with Germany

OSLO — The Norwegian government will announce on Monday further military cooperation with Germany, it said in a statement.

Norway's prime minister and defence minister will present the plan at 1200 GMT, which will hold significant potential for Norwegian defence contractors, it added.

On 3 February the two countries announced a joint cooperation regarding the ordering and construction of new submarines, which are expected to be built by Thyssenkrupp.—*Reuters*

China, US eying foreign ministerial talks this week

BEIJING — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is considering holding his first talks with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson this week on the sidelines of a multilateral meeting in Germany, diplomatic sources said Monday.

Wang now plans to attend a two-day meeting of Group of 20 foreign ministers in Bonn from Thursday, after US President Donald Trump last Friday reaffirmed Washington's long-standing recognition that Taiwan is part of China during a phone conversation with Chinese President Xi Jinping, according to the sources.

Prior to that conversation, the two leaders' first since Trump's inauguration on 20 January, diplomatic and Chinese government sources had said Wang had no plan to travel to Germany as he needed to tend to important domestic affairs.

They had said Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong would participate in the ministerial meeting of the world's top 20 economies on behalf of Wang.—*Kyodo News*

At least four killed in avalanche at French skiing station

LYON — At least four people have been killed in an avalanche at the Alpine skiing station of Tignes, local authorities said on Monday.

Authorities added that emergency services were also looking for other survivors from a skiing party of nine that was swept away by the avalanche, which struck an off-piste slope.

The incident occurred during a particularly busy time for French skiing destinations, with families flocking to the resorts during the school half-term holidays. —*Reuters*

Netanyahu opposes Palestinian state, Israeli minister says ahead of US visit

JERUSALEM — Benjamin Netanyahu opposes a Palestinian state, a senior Israeli cabinet member said on Monday, but left it unclear whether the prime minister would say that publicly in talks with US President Donald Trump in Washington this week.

Netanyahu has never explicitly abandoned his conditional support for a future Palestine, and his spokesman did not respond immediately to a request to comment on Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan's remarks.

Erdan belongs to Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, whose leading members have often espoused a harder line than the prime minister himself.

"I think all members of the security cabinet, and foremost the prime minister, oppose a Palestinian state," Erdan told Army Radio after the forum met on Sunday on the eve of Netanyahu's departure for Washington for talks with Trump on Wednesday. "No one thinks in the next few years that a Palestinian state is something that, God forbid, might or should happen," he said in the interview.

But asked if Netanyahu would voice opposition to statehood on camera when he meets Trump, Erdan said: "The prime minister has to weigh things according to what he feels in the meeting and the positions he encounters there. No one knows what the positions of the president and his staff are."

Palestinians seek to establish a state in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital. Israel captured those areas in a 1967 war and pulled its troops and settlers out of Gaza in 2005.

Citing Israeli settlement activity, Palestinian leaders and the former US administration of Barack Obama have questioned Netanyahu's commitment, which he first made in a 2009 policy speech, to the so-called two-state solution to decades of conflict.

"It is not only their statements — what the government of the extreme right in Israel does on the ground prevents any chance of the establishment of a Palestinian state," Wasel Abu Youssef, an official of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said of Erdan's comments. Since Trump took office last month, Netanyahu has approved construction of 6,000 settler homes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, drawing international condemnation which the White House did not join.

In recent days, however, the Trump administration has taken a more nuanced position, saying building new settlements or expanding existing ones may not be helpful in achieving peace.

Netanyahu has spelled out terms for a future Palestine: its demilitarization, the stationing of Israeli troops in its territory and Palestinian recognition of Israel as the "nation-state" of the Jewish people.

Last month, Israel's Haaretz newspaper said Netanyahu, in a closed-door meeting with Likud ministers, coined a new term "Palestinian state-minus" to describe his vision of limited Palestinian sovereignty. Under interim peace deals, Palestinians, who number about 2.5 million in the West Bank, currently exercise limited self-rule in the territory, where some 350,000 Israeli settlers live.

Some members of Netanyahu's government have called for the annexation of parts of the West Bank, a demand he has resisted.—*Reuters*

Syrian government ready for prisoner swaps with rebels — state TV

BEIRUT — The Syrian government signalled on Monday it was ready to agree prisoner swaps with rebel groups, a confidence-building measure that might help both sides prepare to attend peace talks.

Syrian state media said the government was "always ready" to exchange prisoners in its jails for people "kidnapped by terrorist groups", "particularly in the framework of efforts being made for the coming meeting in Astana".

There was no immediate reaction from rebel groups, which have long demanded a prisoner release from the government as one of a number of humanitarian measures they say it must take ahead of any peace talks.

Kazakhstan's foreign ministry said on Saturday that Syrian government and rebel delegations were invited to attend meetings on the Syria crisis in its capital, Astana, on 15-16 February.

Separately, UN-backed peace talks are due to start in Geneva on 20 February. The main Syrian opposition body on Sunday approved its delegation to the talks.

This month, in a rare move, the Syrian government and rebel groups swapped dozens of women prisoners and hostages, some of them with their children, in Hama province in northwestern Syria.—*Reuters*

Medical stretchers are seen abandoned along the corridors at the emergency section of the Kenyatta National Hospital during a doctors' strike to demand fulfilment of a 2013 agreement between doctors' union and the government that would raise the medical practitioners pay and improve working conditions in Nairobi, Kenya, on 19 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kenyan judge orders doctors' union officials to be jailed

NAIROBI — A Kenyan judge on Monday ordered officials from the national doctors' union to be jailed amid a strike in public hospitals that has turned into a test of President Uhuru Kenyatta's leadership ahead of August elections.

As news of the ruling emerged, truckloads of riot police took up positions and doctors wearing white gowns and surgical caps blew whistles and chanted angrily in the street.

Doctors in public hospitals have been on strike since 5 December over pay and conditions.

A series of corruption scandals, including an investigation into millions of dollars allegedly missing from the Health Ministry, has bolstered support for the doctors, even though Kenyan media has reported that patients have died during the strike.

A court ruled that the strike was illegal in December. In January, Justice Hellen Wasilwa sentenced leaders to jail for ignoring her earlier ruling, but suspended the sentence to allow negotiations. On Monday, she ordered union officials arrested.

"This court decides to resume its order sentencing the applicants to a one-month jail term," she said.

The union, which has about 5,000 members, wants the government to implement a deal agreed in 2013 to give doctors a 150-180 per cent pay rise on basic salaries; review working conditions, job structures and criteria for promotions and address under-staffing in state hospitals.

The government has said it can only afford a 40 per cent pay rise.

The Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists' Union had warned that doctors in private hospitals might also strike if union officials were jailed.

Union leaders and Ministry of Health officials were not available for comment.

University lecturers are also striking over pay, deepening the political crisis ahead of the elections in August when Kenyans choose their next president, members of parliament and local governors.—*Reuters*

Jihadist rebel groups clash in northwest Syria—monitor

BEIRUT — Syrian jihadists seen as close to Islamic State battled a rival hardline Islamist faction on Monday in northwestern Syria, a war monitor and an official with another insurgent group said.

Jund al-Aqsa and Tahrir al-Sham clashed around Kafr Zeita in the countryside north of Hama, and near Tamaniaa, Khan Sheikhoun and Tal Aaas in southern Idlib Province, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based war monitor.

An official with a rebel group that fights under the banner of the Free Syrian Army (FSA), which was not involved in Monday's confrontations, confirmed the fighting.

A statement released by Tahrir al-Sham said Jund al-Aqsa was responsible for the violence, accusing it of coordinating with Islamic State and of having attacked Tahrir al-Sham with suicide blasts and a car bomb.

The main conflict in Syria's civil war pits President Bashar al-Assad, backed by Russia, Iran and Shi'ite militias, against an array of rebel groups aiming to oust him, including some that have been backed by the United States, Turkey and Gulf monarchies.

Since the army recaptured Aleppo in December, some of the many armed groups in the northwest have consolidated into factions that are now fighting each other for control of territory and resources.

Tahrir al-Sham was formed in January from a merger of Syria's former branch of al Qaeda, previously known as the Nusra Front and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, along with several other Islamist groups

Jund al-Aqsa and Fateh al-Sham fell out last year despite having previously aligned with each other, and insurgent sources and the Observatory say Jund al-Aqsa's ideology is closer to that of Islamic State group, al Qaeda's main jihadist rival.

Both Tahrir al-Sham and Jund al-Aqsa are also fighting against an alliance of another Islamist group, Ahrar al-Sham, and rebel factions fighting under the FSA banner. Jihadist groups attacked the FSA for sending delegates to peace talks in Kazakhstan last month.—*Reuters*

Courts likely to probe Trump's intent in issuing travel ban

NEW YORK — Washington state's attorney general has promised to uncover "what truly motivated" President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration, an approach that could prompt a rare public examination of how a US president makes national security decisions.

The presidential order imposed a temporary ban on travellers from seven predominantly Muslim countries, but a federal judge has barred enforcement of the order while the court considers a challenge brought by Washington state.

On Thursday, the US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit left the judge's ruling in place without deciding the ultimate merits of either side's arguments. In its decision, the 9th Circuit cited a previous case establishing that "circumstantial evidence of intent, including … statements by decision makers, may be considered in evaluating whether a governmental action was motivated by a discriminatory purpose."

The Trump administration has argued that the ban is necessary to prevent potential terrorists from entering the country and is not discriminatory because the text of the order does not mention any particular religion.

Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson signalled on Sunday that he will move aggressively to obtain written documents and emails authored by administration officials that might contain evidence the order was unconstitutionally biased against Muslims or Islam. He also said he would also move to depose administration officials.

Legal scholars say this could move the court into uncharted waters.

"The idea of looking at motive has never really been applied to the president," said John Yoo, a former Justice Department lawyer in the George W Bush administration.

"It would represent a serious expansion of judicial oversight of what the president and the entire executive branch does," said Yoo, now a professor at the University of California at Berkeley School of Law.

People participate in a protest against US President Donald Trump's immigration policy at the Jewish Rally for Refugees in New York City, US on 12 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump has harshly criticized the federal judge in Washington for his decision and a top White House aide on Sunday accused the 9th Circuit of a "judicial usurpation of power."

"The president's powers here are beyond question," senior policy adviser Stephen Miller told Fox News on Sunday.

US courts have historically been careful about probing the motives behind laws, in part out of respect for the separation of powers between branches of government. But on questions of racial or religious discrimination, they have sometimes allowed intent to be examined.

In 1993, for instance, the Supreme Court found that an ordinance banning animal sacrifice in Hialeah, Florida, though neutral on its face, was actually intended to discriminate against a Santeria church, which holds sacrifice as a sacred rite.

Stephen Griffin, a professor of constitutional law at Tulane University, said cases like this make it clear that the court can look beyond the words of Trump's executive order. "Motive is relevant," he said.

One question in the current case is likely to be which, if any, of Trump's statements should be admissible in examining the administration's motives in issuing the order.

"If you're allowed to use evidence from the campaign, the state's case is very strong," said Griffin.

In December, 2015, days after a mass attack by an Islamic State sympathizers in San Bernardino, California, Trump called for "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our representatives can figure out what is going on." He later said he supported only suspending immigration from areas with a history of terrorism.

Stanford University Law School professor Michael McConnell, a former federal appeals judge, said the court should not consider campaign statements, because Trump only swore an oath to uphold the Constitution after he became president.—*Reuters*

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(3 / 2017)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-082(16-17)	ZP375 Rotary Table (1) No	US$
(2)	IFB-083(16-17)	Travelling Block with Hook (2) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-084(16-17)	Rotary Swivel (2) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-085(16-17)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Engine and Accessories (6) Sets	US$
(5)	IFB-086(16-17)	Transformer Welding Set, 400 AMP with Accessories (4) Sets	US$
(6)	IFB-087(16-17)	Welding Machine (Portable) with 14 HP Engine and Accessories (4) Sets	US$
(7)	IFB-088(16-17)	50 Ton Hydraulic Mobile Crane (1) Unit	US$
(8)	IFB-089(16-17)	Fuel Bowser (2800 Gal Capacity) (1) Unit	US$
(9)	IFB-090(16-17)	Skid Mounted Crude transfer Pump with Engine(100GPM x 300PSI) (2) Sets	US$
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(11)	IFB-092(16-17)	Air Compressor Engine Driven Skid with Air Dryer (80-120 HP) (1) Set	US$
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(13)	IFB-094(16-17)	2900 Series Well Head Equipment (1) Set	US$
(14)	IFB-095(16-17)	900 Series Well Head Equipment (1) Set	
(15)	IFB-096(16-17)	600 Series Well Head Equipment (3) Sets	US$
(16)	IFB-097(16-17)	Pumping Unit (160D-173-74) Max Length 74 Inches (1) No	US$
(17)	IFB-098(16-17)	Pumping Unit (114D-119-96) Max Length 74 Inches (1) No	US$
(18)	IFB-099(16-17)	Gas Compressor (1) No	US$
(19)	DMP/L-024(16-17)	A3 Digital Multifunction Copier (1) Item	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-025(16-17)	Binocular Microscope with Lighting Equipments (1) Item	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-026(16-17)	Space Aerial Cable (SAC) 95mm², KVA Rate & Aerial Bundle Cable, 95 mm², (600/1000 V Rated) (2) Items	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-027(16-17)	Submersible Pump with Motor(4-6) KW (1) Item	Ks
(23)	DMP/L-028(16-17)	Telephone Cable (2) Items	Ks
(24)	DMP/L-029(16-17)	630 KVA, 11/0.4 KV & 100 KVA, 11/0.4 KV Transformer (2) Items	Ks
(25)	DMP/L-030(16-17)	Electrical Cable (1CU x 185mm²) (1) Item	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 13-3-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13TH February, 2017 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Citing Trump and Brexit, EU sees euro zone economy risk, sharp drop in UK growth

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said on Monday that uncertainty about US policies, Brexit and elections in Germany and France would take their toll on the euro zone economy this year.

It forecast euro zone economic growth to lose some speed this year before rebounding in 2018. It saw a sharp growth drop ahead in non-euro zone and EU-leaver Britain.

The British economy will nearly halve its expansion by 2018, the European Union executive said in a broad series of economic forecasts. Growth in the 19 countries sharing the euro would slow to 1.6 per cent this year from 1.7 percent in 2016, but would gain speed in 2018 when the bloc's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to increase by 1.8 per cent.

Germany, the bloc's leading economy by far, is expected to see its GDP growth slow to 1.6 percent this year from 1.9 per cent in 2016. Growth will accelerate from 1.2 per cent to 1.4 per cent in France, and remain stable at 0.9 per cent in Italy.

Despite the slowdown from 2016, the euro zone growth forecasts were slightly revised up for this year and 2018 from the Commission's previous estimates released in November. Then, euro zone GDP was estimated to grow 1.5 per cent this year and 1.7 per cent in 2018.

The revision was due to "better-than-expected performance in the second half of 2016 and a rather robust start into 2017," the Commission said, noting however that "the outlook is surrounded by higher-than-usual uncertainty."

The "still-to-be-clarified" intentions of US President Donald Trump in "key policy areas" are seen as the first cause of uncertainty for the bloc's economy. In the near term, the possible package of US fiscal stimulus "could provide a stronger boost to global GDP than currently expected", the Commission said.

However, in the medium term "potential disruptions associated with shifting US positions on trade policy could damage international trade," it said.

The Commission is also waiting for clarifications from the Trump administration on banking regulation, tax and fiscal cooperation, Pierre Moscovici, the economics commissioner, told a news conference. The European Union will face other political risks caused by divorce negotiations with Britain, likely to begin in March, and elections in several EU countries this year, including Germany and France, the Commission said.

Britain is expected to pay a higher cost for the political uncertainty surrounding Brexit talks. Its GDP growth is forecast to decline from 2.0 per cent in 2016 to 1.5 per cent this year, and to further slow down to 1.2 per cent next year. Britain's "business investment is likely to be adversely affected by persisting uncertainty while private consumption growth is projected to weaken as growth in real disposable income declines," the Commission said. The British unemployment rate is seen rising slightly to 5.6 per cent in 2018 from 4.9 per cent last year, while inflation will increase steeply to 2.5 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent in 2018.—*Reuters*

Samsung chief appears for second round of questions in graft probe

SEOUL — Samsung Group leader Jay Y Lee appeared at the South Korean special prosecutor's office for questioning on Monday as part of a wider investigation into an influence-peddling scandal that could topple President Park Geun-hye.

The special prosecutor has focused on South Korea's biggest conglomerate, accusing Lee in his capacity as Samsung chief of pledging 43 billion won ($37.31 million) to a business and organizations backed by Park's friend, Choi Soon-sil, in exchange for support for a 2015 merger of two Samsung companies.

The funding included sponsorship for the equestrian career of Choi's daughter, who is under arrest in Denmark after being sought by South Korean authorities.

Park, Lee, Choi, and Samsung Group [SAGR.UL] have all denied bribery accusations.

Proving illicit dealings between Park or her confidantes and Samsung Group is critical for the special prosecutor's case that ultimately targets Park, analysts have said.

Park was impeached by parliament in December and South Korea's Constitutional Court will decide whether to uphold that decision. She has been stripped of her powers in the meantime.

Lee Jae-yong (C), vice chairman of Samsung Electronics, arrives to be questioned as a suspect in a corruption scandal that led to the impeachment of President Park Geun-Hye, at the office of the independent counsel in Seoul on 13 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lee arrived at the prosecution office in southern Seoul early on Monday in a black sedan, dressed in a dark blue suit and tie and flanked by Samsung Group officials and his lawyer.

"I will once again tell the truth to the special prosecution," Samsung Group's third-generation leader told reporters before entering an elevator. He gave no details.

Outside the prosecutor's office, protesters held up signs calling for his arrest.

The special prosecution team said investigators were questioning two other Samsung executives as suspects. Both are officers of the Korea Equestrian Federation and have been questioned previously in the case.

One of those two, Samsung Electronics Co Ltd president Park Sang-jin, did not respond to reporters on his arrival at the special prosecution team's office.

Lee Kyu-chul, spokesman for the special prosecution office, told a news briefing the office would decide soon whether to make a second arrest warrant request for the Samsung Group chief. He did not comment on other details, including what Jay Y Lee, 48, during Monday's questioning.

Spokesman Lee said prosecutors would also consider whether to seek arrest warrants for four other Samsung Group executives identified as suspects. The prosecutor's office had previously said it would not seek arrests for any Samsung executives other than Jay Y Lee.

In January, the special prosecution sought a warrant to arrest Samsung chief Lee after questioning him for more than 22 hours, accusing him of paying bribes to win the state pension fund's support for the controversial merger of Samsung C&T Corp (028260.KS) and Cheil Industries Inc.

However, a Seoul court rejected that request.

Chang Choong-ki, deputy head of Samsung Group's corporate strategy office, known informally as its "control tower", was also questioned as a suspect on Sunday and returned home hours later.

Shares in Samsung Electronics were down 0.9 percent by 0600 GMT on Monday, compared with a flat wider market .KS11.

"The issue will have limited impact on share prices, except if the worst-case scenario happens, since political issues previously did not have a big influence on share prices or earnings," said Bae Sung-young, a stock analyst at Hyundai Securities.— *Reuters*

Nearly 200,000 people told to flee crumbling California dam spillway

OROVILLE, (Calif) — Evacuation orders for nearly 200,000 people living below the tallest dam in the United States remained in place early on Monday after residents were abruptly told to flee when a spillway appeared in danger of collapse.

Authorities issued the evacuation order on Sunday, saying that a crumbling emergency spillway on Lake Oroville Dam in north California could give way and unleash floodwaters onto rural communities along the Feather River.

"Immediate evacuation from the low levels of Oroville and areas downstream is ordered," the Butte County sheriff said in a statement posted on social media.

The California Department of Water Resources said on Twitter at about 4:30 pm PST (0030 GMT Monday) that the spillway next to the dam was "predicted to fail within the next hour."

A damaged spillway with eroded hillside is seen in an aerial photo taken over the Oroville Dam in Oroville, California, US on 11 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Several hours later the situation appeared less dire, as the damaged spillway remained standing.

The state water resources department said crews using helicopters would drop rocks to fill a huge gouge, and authorities were releasing water to lower the lake's level after weeks of heavy rains in the drought-plagued state.

By 10 pm, state and local officials said the immediate danger had passed with water no longer flowing over the eroded spillway. But they cautioned that the situation remained unpredictable.

"Once you have damage to a structure like that it's catastrophic," acting Water Resources director Bill Croyle told reporters. But he stressed "the integrity of the dam is not impacted" by the damaged spillway.

Asked about the evacuation order, Croyle said "It was a tough call to make." He added: "It was the right call to make." Butte County Sheriff Korey Honea told an earlier news briefing he was told by experts that the hole forming in the spillway could compromise the structure. Rather than risk thousands of lives, the decision was made to order evacuations. Officials said they feared the damaged spillway could unleash a 30-foot wall of water on Oroville, north of the state capital Sacramento. They said evacuation orders remained in place for some 188,000 people in Oroville, Yuba County, Butte County, Marysville and nearby communities and would be re-evaluated at dawn.— *Reuters*

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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
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Botahtaung Township, Yangon. **Myanmar.**
Dated **14th February 2017** kmma@kcyangon.com

"La La Land" wins big at Britain's BAFTA awards to continue hot streak

LONDON — Musical "La La Land" won big at Britain's main film awards on Sunday as it scooped the prize for best film, while Emma Stone and Damien Chazelle picked up awards for best actress and best director respectively.

It won five gongs in total to keep its hot streak in the movie awards season going before the Oscars later this month, as it also picked up awards for cinematography and original music.

Amid the awards there were also veiled references to new US president Donald Trump, who has caused controversy with his plans to build a wall on the Mexican border and his restrictions on migration.

"In a time that's so divisive I think it's really special that we were able to come together... to celebrate the positive gift of creativity and how it can transcend borders and how it can help people to feel a little less alone," Emma Stone said in her acceptance speech.

"La La Land", a throwback musical about an aspiring actress and a jazz pianist who are trying to make their way in Hollywood, had been nominated for 11 British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards. Its success follows on from the Golden Globes, where it picked up seven awards.

It has a joint-record 14 nominations for the Academy Awards on 26 February, Hollywood's highlight of the awards season.

Justin Hurwitz, who won the award for the film's music, said that he hoped the success of the film might prompt a renaissance in the genre.

"I love to go the theatre and see musicals. So if this can help any more musicals get green-lit, that would be amazing," he told Reuters ahead of the ceremony.

The team behind 'La La Land" hold their awards for Best Film at the British Academy of Film and Television Awards (BAFTA) at the Royal Albert Hall in London, Britain, on 12 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

While Stone triumphed, co-star Ryan Gosling lost out in the best actor category to Casey Affleck, for his performance in family drama "Manchester by the Sea". Gosling was also notable by his absence, with the film's producers saying he had a family matter to attend to.

"Manchester by the Sea" picked up two awards in total, with Kenneth Lonergan's picking up an award for original screenplay.

A popular pick among the audience in the Royal Albert Hall, Londoner Dev Patel, 26, won best supporting actor for his performance in "Lion", which charts the real-life story of an Indian boy adopted by an Australian couple. The film also won an award for best adapted screenplay.

Viola Davis took home the prize for best supporting actress for her performance in "Fences", an adaption of a Pulitzer Prize winning play about the life of a black family in 1950s Pennsylvania.

She alluded to issues with race relations in the United States in her acceptance speech, and defended Meryl Streep, who was criticised by Trump after the Golden Globes.

"Anyone who labels Meryl Streep 'an overrated actress' obviously doesn't know anything about acting," she told reporters. "That's not even just directed towards Donald Trump, that's directed towards anyone."

Outspoken director Ken Loach turned his ire onto British politicians, lambasting the "callous brutality" of the government as he accepted the award for "I, Daniel Blake", an unflinching depiction of a man's struggles while on benefits.

However, some of the political interventions were more light-hearted.

American director Mel Brooks, who wrote and directed "The Producers", a 1968 comedy about the producers of a musical about Nazi Germany, also made light of the current political situation.

"I'm not afraid of Trump, not at all," Brooks told reporters, after he won an award for contribution to film, known as the Fellowship. "I think he's mostly an entertainer." —*Reuters*

Adele sweeps Grammy awards in upset victory over Beyonce

LOS ANGELES — Adele swept the Grammy Awards on Sunday, taking home statuettes for the top prizes — album, record and song of the year — in a shock, history-making victory over Beyonce on a night marked by political statements and emotional tributes. Adele, 28, won all five Grammys for which she was nominated, including for her comeback album "25" and her soaring ballad "Hello." She became the first person in Grammy history to win the top three awards twice, following her wins for her last album "21" in 2012.

Beyonce, 35, had gone into Sunday's awards show with a leading nine nominations for her powerful "Lemonade" album about race, feminism, and betrayal. She had been hoping to win her first album of the year Grammy. Adele, who now has a career total of 15 Grammys, seemed stunned, telling reporters backstage that she "felt like it was her (Beyonce's) time to win."

"My queen and my idol is Queen B I adore you," the British singer said to Beyonce, seated in the front row, as she accepted her award.

Adele waves to singer Beyonce who is in the audience as she and co-song writer Greg Kurstin (not pictured) accept the Grammy for Song of the Year for 'Hello' at the 59th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, on 12 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I can't possibly accept this award, and I'm very humble and very grateful. But my artist of my life is Beyonce. This album for me, the 'Lemonade' album, was so monumental," she added.

Beyonce and Adele also had the most talked-about moments on the Grammys stage.

In her first public appearance since her announcement 12 days ago that she is expecting twins, Beyonce donned a sheer, glittering gold dress and halo crown to perform her ballads "Love Drought" and "Sandcastles." Singing seated on a chair and surrounded by petals, she also appeared in video projections wearing a gold-chain string bikini.

Moments later, Adele literally stopped the show after flubbing the start of a tribute to the late British pop star George Michael. "I'm sorry. I know it's live TV," she said, cursing, stopping her slow ballad version of Michael's "Fastlove" and asking to start again. "I can't mess this up for him (Michael)," she said. She later apologized for causing any offense.—*Reuters*

Prince back on streaming platforms, two new albums coming

LOS ANGELES — Prince's early music catalog was made available across all streaming services on Sunday, almost a year after his death, and record label Warner Bros. said it planned to release two albums of new music from the pop funk musician in June.

Warner Records said in a statement that Prince's music, including his signature album "Purple Rain," was being released to coincide with Sunday's Grammy Awards, where Prince is to be remembered in a special tribute.

On 9 June, it will release a remastered copy of "Purple Rain," two albums of previously unreleased Prince music, and two complete concert films from the vault of the singer's Paisley Park recording complex.

The Minneapolis musician, who died in April 2016 at age 57, had shunned most streaming and digital music platforms in 2015, with the exception of Jay Z's Tidal outlet, which seeks to return a larger share of profits to artists. Prince signed with Warner Bros, owned by Time Warner, 40 years ago, recording albums that included "Controversy," "1999," "Purple Rain," and "Diamonds and Pearls," as well as some of his biggest hits like "Kiss," "Little Red Corvette," and "Sign O' The Times."

He split with Warner Bros. in 1996, when he changed his name to a symbol, but later re-signed with the label in 2014. Sunday's announcement covers streaming for his music through 1996.

"When we make any of Prince's music available to fans — from the hits to unreleased gems — we are committed to upholding Prince's high creative standards," Cameron Strang, chief executive of Warner Bros. Records, said in Sunday's statement. The streaming deal was reached with the agreement of Prince's estate and covers platforms such as Amazon Music, Spotify, Apple Music and Pandora.—*Reuters*

Chocolate fair ended in Portuguese capital Lisbon

People visit the chocolate fair at Campo Pequeno Square in Lisbon, capital of Portugal, on 12 February, 2017. Lisbon's chocolate fair ended Sunday at Campo Pequeno Square in Portuguese capital Lisbon, with dozens of local and international brands displaying tasty and unique cocoa products. PHOTO: XINHUA

Austrian authorities seeking Hitler double seen around birthplace

VIENNA — Austrian authorities are investigating reports of a man appearing in public in Adolf Hitler's birthplace as the Nazi dictator's double, including the distinctive mustache, haircut and clothing.

"I have often seen this gentlemen in Braunau and wonder if this means something," the Oberoesterreichische Nachrichten paper cited a local resident as saying on his Facebook page alongside a picture of the man it said resembled Hitler.

Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, then part of Austria-Hungary, in 1889.

Prosecutors confirmed the report.

The man, estimated to be 25 to 30 years old, was last seen in a local bookstore browsing through magazines about World War Two, adding he had identified himself in a local bar as "Harald Hitler.

On at least one occasion, he was photographed in front of the house where Hitler was born.

Austria's parliament voted in December to buy the three-storey house where Hitler was born, which the government has rented since 1972 to control how it is used.

Glorifying Hitler or the Nazis is a crime in Austria, which Nazi Germany annexed in 1938.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(14-2-2017 07:00am ~ 15-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Yoga & Health
07:47	Am	Gemstone Sculptor
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Writer "Chit Oo Nyo" (Part-2)
08:57	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Pre Kayaw Dance"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Archery Session(from Ramayana Play)
09:47	Am	Today Myanmar: CBT in Kampetlet Township
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Myanmar Prehistory
10:52	Am	One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Monday 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	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Rakhine Monte Ti)
08:54	Pm	Now in Yangon

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

Popular Japanese actress to retire to pursue religion

TOKYO — Popular actress Fumika Shimizu is to retire abruptly from show business, with her agent saying she has decided to devote herself to spreading the teachings of a religious group she follows, Happy Science.

Her agent made the surprise announcement on Sunday, and also said they have been unable to contact the 22-year-old actress since 6 February.

Shimizu, cast as an emcee in several TV and radio programmes, released a statement through Happy Science, offering an apology to fans, costars and staff for her "sudden disappearance" from the entertainment industry.

"I have worked in the industry for about eight years, and sometimes I had difficulty as my heart was unable to accept what I had to do," the statement said.

According to Happy Science, Shimizu has been an ardent follower since she was a child and recently struggled in playing a role in "a cannibal tribe" in a movie against her beliefs — a part she accepted due to fears her agent might stop giving her jobs if she rejected it.

She has been ill recently but will start her religious activities after she recovers and may appear in movies to be produced by the group.

Her agent denied having forced her to do the types of jobs she did not want to do.

Shimizu came into the public eye after appearing in public broadcaster NHK's drama series "Mare" in 2015.

"God, Buddha, life after death, things that I am in no way capable of confirming, and things that I have never seen -- those are the things I believe in, and I thought I wanted to live for God," she said in the statement.

Founded in 1986 by former trading company employee Ryuho Okawa, Happy Science members practice the teachings of Okawa on a daily basis to attain true happiness, according to the group's website.—*Kyodo News*

Japanese actress Fumika Shimizu, shown in this undated photo, said on 12 February, 2017, she is retiring from show business to devote herself to spreading the teachings of a religious group she follows, Happy Science. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Hollywood star renews criticism of US President Donald Trump

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actress Meryl Streep spoke critically of US President Donald Trump again on Sunday, saying she has become a target of Trump.

Streep made the remarks at a fundraising gala for the Human Rights Campaign, noting that she has got verbal aggression since she first criticized Trump in her Golden Globes speech in January.

"It's terrifying to put the target on your forehead," she said. "And it sets you up for all sorts of attacks and armies of brownshirts and bots and worse, and the only way you can do it is if you feel you have to. You have to! You don't have an option. You have to."

The term "brownshirts" was first used to describe an early Nazi militia, the SA. In Trump's tweets about Streep's criticism, he called her "one of the most overrated actresses in Hollywood" and "a Hillary flunky who lost big." Streep responded to Trump's language assault, "Currently, I am the most over-berated actress ... of my generation."—*Xinhua*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Ibrahimovic coy on Man United contract extension

LONDON — Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has yet to commit his future to the Premier League club despite the Swede saying he has fulfilled the requirements needed to extend his contract. The 35-year-old has silenced critics who suggested he may struggle to adapt to the pace and intensity of the English game, scoring 20 goals since moving to Old Trafford from Paris St Germain on a free transfer in July.

Manager Jose Mourinho said in November that United planned to exercise their option to extend Ibrahimovic's contract, which runs out at the end of the current campaign, for a second season. "Something like that. I have to score 100 goals," Ibrahimovic told British media when asked if he has triggered the extension clause with goals and appearances.

"The option is already fulfilled. But there's nothing done yet. From my side. We'll wait and see. Let's see what happens." Despite sitting sixth in the league, 12 points behind leaders Chelsea after 25 games, Ibrahimovic believes Manchester United are well placed to pick up silverware in other competitions.

United face Southampton in the League Cup final on 26 February and are still involved in the Europa League and the FA Cup. "We have one (the Community Shield) and we can get our second one (the League Cup)," the charismatic Swede added. "We are still in the Europa League and FA Cup, so if we don't become champions in the Premier League, at least we can try and win two or three trophies." United host French side St Etienne in the first leg of their round-of-32 Europa League clash on Thursday. —*Reuters*

Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chelsea go 10 points clear with draw at Burnley

LONDON — Premier League leaders Chelsea moved 10 points clear at the top on Sunday despite being held by Burnley in an entertaining game played amid flurries of sleet and snow.

Pedro gave Chelsea an early lead from a pass by Victor Moses but the home side fought back well and equalised midway through the first half with a superb curling free kick by Robbie Brady, making his full debut.

Matt Lowton and Andre Gray missed good chances as Burnley sought to maintain their impressive home record, while the defence restricted Antonio Conte's side who could have their lead cut to eight by Manchester City on Monday.

Burnley, promoted last season, moved up one place to 12th and fully deserved a point for their spirit and quality. They have earned 29 of their 30 points this season at home. "We must be a bit disappointed to take only one point," Chelsea's manager Antonio Conte told Sky Sports.

"We started well and kept the situation under control. We could have killed the game but it didn't happen."

Chelsea manager Antonio Conte. PHOTO: REUTERS

His team dominated possession but managed only two shots on target all match, the second of which was the goal.

It came in only the sixth minute from a classic counter-attack beginning with a throw-in deep in their own half. Pedro was involved before Eden Hazard found Moses in space on the right and his cross took out four defenders, allowing Pedro to beat goalkeeper Tom Heaton.

The equaliser was believed to be the first goal Chelsea had conceded from a direct free kick in four years.

Brady, a £13 million pound ($16.24 million) signing from Norwich City in January, curled his effort perfectly over the wall and into the top corner of the net from 20 metres.

Burnley could even have taken the lead when Thibaut Courtois had to save with his legs from full back Lowton.

In a quieter second half striker Gray also missed a good chance, shooting weakly at the goalkeeper.—*Reuters*

Wenger urges misfiring Ozil to become more ruthless

LONDON — Mesut Ozil is in the midst of a confidence crisis, according to Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who also urged the misfiring German midfielder to be more ruthless in front of goal.

Ozil has been under the spotlight following anonymous performances in recent defeats to Watford and Chelsea and did little to deflect the criticism after missing a host of chances in Arsenal's 2-0 Premier League win over Hull City on Saturday.

"It's time for him (Ozil) to score again. Maybe he will find confidence back as well, because he misses chances. He has chances and he misses the chances that don't look not feasible for him," Wenger told British media.

The 28-year-old Ozil, who has often divided opinion among supporters since his club-record move from Real Madrid in 2013, has been on the periphery of games in recent weeks and has not scored in his last eight matches.

"I felt he did not feel confident.—*Reuters*

Czechs make light of Kvitova absence to reach Fed Cup semis

MELBOURNE — Champions the Czech Republic made light of the absence of Petra Kvitova as they eased into the Fed Cup semi-finals for a ninth year in succession with a 3-2 defeat of Spain on Sunday. After the opening day of the tie in Ostrava had been shared 1-1, world number three Karolina Pliskova powered past French Open champion Garbine Muguruza 6-2, 6-2 before Barbora Strycova beat Lara Arruabarrena 6-4, 6-4. Strycova dedicated the win to double Wimbledon champion Kvitova who is recovering from a serious hand injury sustained during an attempted robbery at her home late last year.

"Of course we are thinking about her every day and we were talking to her," Strycova said. "Of course this was for her. We hope she comes back and we will welcome her with open arms."

Belarus also reached the semi-finals without the services of their top player Victoria Azarenka, who has just had a baby.

They beat the Netherlands 4-1 with 18-year-old Aryna Sabalenka securing the decisive point on her debut.—*Reuters*

One dead after soccer fans clash in Rio de Janeiro

RIO DE JANEIRO — A soccer fan was killed and several others injured after violence erupted in Rio de Janeiro before Sunday's Botafogo-Flamengo match, Brazilian news reports said.

The reports identified the fan as 28-year-old Diego Silva dos Santos, who was killed near the Engenhao stadium, the venue for the athletic events at the 2016 Olympic Games.

The clashes took place before the Rio de Janeiro state championship game that Flamengo won 2-1. Police eventually brought the violence under control with rubber bullets and tear gas.

"The Municipal Health Secretariat informs that eight men were taken to the Salgado Filho Municipal Hospital as victims of the violence or gunshots in clashes near the Engenhao," the Secretariat said in a statement quoted on the UOL news site and reported by other Brazilian media outlets. "Of these, one died, four were released and three are still being attended to, one of whom is in a serious condition."

Neither the Secretariat nor local police could be reached for confirmation on Sunday night.—*Reuters*

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