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Investigation commission in Maungtaw for a 4th time

FOLLOWING a report by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Investigation Commission on Maungtaw chaired by Vice President U Myint Swe travelled to Kyiganpyin, Rakhine State to attend a discussion in the Border Patrol Command Center yesterday on facts found in the course of the investigation.

During the meeting, the Commission Secretary presented the findings of the Investigation Commission and his team's investigations conducted between 11-13 February in 20 villages in the Maungtaw District.

Investigation Commission members and others involved presented their individual findings and examinations conducted in their respective villages of choice, as well as the process of fulfillment of basic humanitarian needs and rehabilitation efforts.

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A Muslim woman receives free health care from a nurse in UShaykyay Village, Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor introduces National Security Advisor to Diplomatic Corps and UN Agencies in Yangon

Meeting addresses formation of National Security Advisor's role, government's priorities, and situation in Rakhine State

YANGON, 15 February 2017 — Myanmar's newly appointed National Security Advisor, U Thaung Tun, met today with over (60) members of the Diplomatic Corps and UN Agencies at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon to brief them on his role.

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Kyaw Tint Swe, opened the meeting by explaining how the new role of National Security Advisor will support the government's efforts to build a peaceful, prosperous and democratic federal union.

He spoke of how the government has made national reconciliation and peace its priority and emphasized that:

"Without national reconciliation and peace, we cannot hope to build a prosperous, democratic nation."

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President's Office issues updated statement revealing details of U Ko Ni assassination

The plan to assassinate U Ko Ni, a legal adviser for the National League for Democracy, was months in the planning and involved a gunman hired for Ks 80 million and two brothers, one of whom is still on the loose, according to a press release from President's office.

The statement from the President's office released late yesterday on the 29 January fatal shooting of U Ko Ni reveals a chilling murder-for-hire plot that involved intricate planning, at least Ks100 million in cash and a gunman willing to kill.

The elaborate plan, according to the President's statement, began in July 2016, when Aung Win Khaing, a former Tatmadaw officer, offered his brother, Aung Win Zaw, Ks100 million to assassinate U Ko Ni. The motive for the killing is still unknown.

In October 2016, Aung Win Zaw travelled to Kayin State to purchase two guns and gave them to Kyi Lin, the man who would fatally shoot U Ko Ni at close range outside Yangon National Airport as the NLD legal adviser and well-known attorney returned from Indonesia. Kyi Lin was given Ks80 million to carry out the murder, according to the press release from the President's office.

Aung Win Zaw and Kyi Lin remain in custody. Interrogation of the pair has resulted in their confession of the assassination plot, the statement from the President's office said. Aung Win Khaing remains at large, with authorities asking the public for any information on his whereabouts.

The full text and unofficial translation of appendix-2 of the press release by the President's Office on the 29 January shooting at Yangon International Airport is on Page 10.

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th regular session holds its 9th day meeting

THE Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw announced the extension of the tenure of 14 Pyithu Hluttaw Committees to the Hluttaw at 9th day meeting of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 4th regular session held yesterday morning.

U Ohn Maung, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, replied to a question raised by U Bo Bo Oo of Sanchaung constituency as to whether there were orders forbidding the opening of new hotels in Mandalay, Taungyi , Inlay and Bagan.

"The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been issuing permissions in advance to build hotels, hotel business licenses (Ha licenses) and lodging house business licenses (Ta licenses), in accord with the existing Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Law, procedures of tourism, order for business license on hotels and lodging houses. In the time, when the incumbent government has been taking office as well, issues of permissions to build hotels in advance and business licenses are being made in accord with the law, orders and procedures. There were no cases of forbidding the opening of new hotels."

Major General Aung Soe, deputy minister for Home Affairs, replied to a question raised by U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency as to how the security of the area in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships will be managed, and which plans will be laid down from the perspective of national security, for local nationals to take part in protection teams along the Mayu and Naf River Valleys.

"Myanmar and Bangladesh have 168.57 miles in border length — 39.82 miles from the mouth of the Naf river to far west of the river; 128.75 miles from BP 31 to BP 73. The Union Government and State Cabinet formed committees on Rakhine State to be able to solve conflicts among those residing in this border area, implementing dealing with problems. District and township management committees comprising of district and township level departmental heads in the administrative sector of Maungtaw District, Rakhine State and the township committee for security, peace, stability and rule of law, comprised of township level departmental heads and townspeople implementing the works cooperatively."

U Ohn Maung, the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism. PHOTO: MNA

Major General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs. PHOTO: MNA

Afterward, U Ohn Maung, the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, and Major General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, clarified queries raised by U Min Kyi of Thandwe constituency, U Tin Ko Ko Oo of Bilin constituency, U Kyaw Htay of Leshi constituency and U Chin Pe Lin of Mansi constituency. Then, U Kyaw Min of Letpadan constituency put forward the motion urging the Union Government to implement laying down accurate and clear policy for the practical utilisation of the pasture lands across the country as farmland, pasture land, village land, or land for other use, with Dr Daw Khin Nyo of Dedaye constituency seconding the motion.

The Speaker of the Hluttaw received the decision of the Hluttaw as to whether the motion should be debated and announced that representatives interested in taking part in the debate would be placed on a list. At yesterday's meeting, the Speaker of the Hluttaw warned representatives to raise questions only after studying the accurate use of words related to the ministries. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 4th regular session holds meeting discusses youth, education issues

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. PHOTO: MNA

Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education. PHOTO: MNA

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, replied to the question raised by Dr Kyaw Than Tun (Canton) of Constituency 3, Mandalay Region, as to whether there were any plans to rehabilitate and assign duties to children who were going astray, with a view to guiding them to become valuable sons of the country. "The ministry drew a leading project for the eradication of those who were going astray on roads, beggars and unprotected disabled ones," Dr Win Myat Aye said. "And the ministry has been performing tasks for those children to get protection and reunite with their parents or guardians and to be able to enter social circles.

"The ministry is appointing youths having the qualifications described in paragraph 75 of the Police Manual (First Volume), out of those wishing to join the Police Force from youth training schools, as policemen, those having the qualifications described in Regulation 12 of the Myanmar Fire-Brigade as fire-brigade members. Tatmadaw opened Yenyun police training courses in the Institute of Martial Arts & Sports of the Tatmadaw under the Burma Auxiliary Force Act, 1943, from 1990 to 2008, allowing them to assign duties of their own accords. Due to the issue of law withdrawing "The Burma Auxiliary Force Act enacted under Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law 7 on 28 February 2014, anything more was not performed. Presently, the ministry cannot produce yet as the transformed youths for future Myanmar by training children and youths who went astray and drug-addicts at the Tatmadaw, Police and Fire-Brigade training schools. The Social Welfare Department has implemented tasks of opening 10 youth training schools for youths needed to be protected, supplying children who went astray with food and giving aids in social ways for physical and mental development, giving academic teaching and vocational training, having them registered in the national registration department, linking with respective ministries and departments."

Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, replied to the question raised by U Shan Alr of Chin State Constituency 2 as to whether there was a plan to open an Arts and Science University in Nay Pyi Taw. "To build a university, projects must be drawn and implemented for getting the sufficient land plot, building university, teaching and administration matters and acquisition of granted budget. Under the current situation, there is no plan to build an Arts and Science University in Nay Pyi Taw in the 2017-2018 fiscal year."

In addition, Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied to questions raised by U Tun Lin of Constituency 3, Taninthayi Region, U Kyaw Swe of Constituency 11, Magwe Region, U Man Law Moung of Chin State Constituency 8 and Daw Ohn Kyi of Constituency 4, Mandalay Region. U Kyaw Thiha of Constituency 12, Mandalay Region, submitted the motion to allow the motion presenter to withdraw the submission of the motion. Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, took the approval of the Hluttaw to allow the withdrawal, and it was announced that the withdrawal of the motion was granted. The 10th day meeting of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 4th regular session will be held on February 16.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Career, job forum to be held in Rakhine State

THE Rakhine State Government will organise a forum for career development and job opportunities on March 2 and 3 at the Agricultural Institute in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

During a discussion held on 15 February in the hall of the Rakhine State Government, U Kyaw Aye Thein, Minister for Rakhine State Finance, Revenue, Planning and Commerce said international experts should be invited to the forum to be able to discuss the trade prosperity and the development of agriculture, livestock and fishery sector in Rakhine State.

Entrepreneurs in agriculture, livestock and fishery from the township, INGO and NGO groups and consular officials from Bangladesh and India would be invited to the forum in which local products such as fruit, vegetables, marine products, livestock and breeding products will be displayed.

The Rakhine State Government has created a committee assigned ensure the successful operation of the career development and job opportunities forum.

During the discussion for forum implementation, a committee member presented their activities concerning the organisation of the forum. — *GNLM*

Provisions donated for those fleeing from northern Shan State violence

THE Ministry of Border Affairs held a charity event yesterday in Taunggyi, Shan State, for the donation of humanitarian needs and provisions for citizens fleeing the Northern Shan armed conflicts.

Also present at the ceremony held at the office of Shan State Government were Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, Deputy Director-General U Myint Soe of Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races and officials concerned.

Deputy Director-General U Myint Soe clarified the topic of donating to citizens who had fled from armed conflicts in Northern Shan State and transferred the provisions to the Chief Minister of Shan State.

This marks the second time the Ministry of Border Affairs has donated to northern Shan State's fleeing citizens. Items donated were 1,250 bags of rice, 2,100 viss of oil, 600 viss of salt, 6,000 viss of lentils and 1,398 blankets. — *Myanmar News Angency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Chief Executive Officer of Unilever Corporation, UK

H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received a delegation led by Mr. Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever Corporation, the United Kingdom, at 10 am yesterday at the Minister's Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to value-added agricultural products of Myanmar and Unilever's programmes in Myanmar such as job creation, community development and health education.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever Corporation, the United Kingdom at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

President accepts credentials of new ambassador

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw accepted the credentials of Mr. Mohammad Birra, the newly appointed Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria at the Presidential Palace at 2 pm in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Also present on the occasion were the Deputy Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin and Director-General U Ko Ko Naing of the Protocol Department.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor introduces National Security Advisor . . .

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The Union Minister also outlined the various steps taken by the government to revitalize the peace process since it came into office. He highlighted the State Counsellor's leadership of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee, the creation of the new Peace Commission chaired by Dr. Tin Myo Win and the reform of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre to reflect the government's wider focus on national reconciliation.

He also expressed his view that national reconciliation and peace in the Rakhine State is crucial to peace and stability throughout the country. The government, therefore, established the Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State, chaired by the State Counsellor, on 30 May 2016.

The Union Minister also stressed the importance of resolving, not inflaming the situation in Rakhine State. He noted the government's commitment to addressing the issue of underdevelopment in the State through the Central Committee on Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State, and highlighted the work of the independent commission led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, which will assist the government in finding long-term solutions.

Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, then updated and shared developments in the peace process; implementation of the NCA; the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong; the armed clashes and the discussions with non-signatories.

He explained that the government has chosen a two-track approach. One is to reach out to signatories of the NCA to ensure that the NCA implementation is on track, the other is to engage with non-signatories to bring them into the process.

He said that the NCA includes two critical parts: to maintain ceasefire and to implement political dialogue. The government met with the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) to ensure that the JMC continues its functions effectively. As a result, the clashes among NCA signatories have been minimal and the ceasefire among signatories has become stronger.

He further explained that the government implemented the first 21st Century Panglong to ensure that political dialogue is an integral part of the peace process. To strengthen local participation, a series of National Dialogues were initiated to collect divergent views that will be carried forward to the 21st Century Panglong. He also emphasized that the government is working closely with the Tatmadaw to ensure that the political dialogue is meaningful and fruitful.

It has been decided that at the next session of the 21st Century Panglong, scheduled in March, the UPDJC will work for an agreement on some basic principles of federalism.

It is the belief of the government that there has to be a viable ceasefire agreement to reduce clashes. The NCA includes the mechanism and code of conduct necessary for the reduction of clashes.

He concluded by stressing that the political dialogue is gaining momentum, and expressed his confidence that once all ethnic armed groups have joined the NCA process, military clashes will be reduced.

Diplomats in attendance at the meeting with National Security Advisor, U Thaung Tun in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

National Security Advisor, U Thaung Tun. PHOTO: MNA

U Thaung Tun concluded the meeting by introducing his new post as National Security Advisor. In this new position, U Thaung Tun will be responsible for working closely with relevant ministries and departments to look holistically at the country's security challenges.

Speaking at the meeting, National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun said:

"Our greatest national endeavour is to forge a lasting peace for all our people. It is my firm belief that only then will we succeed in building a truly democratic nation.

I take up my new role as National Security Advisor then with a clear mission- to ensure the safety and security of all our people as the foundations for building a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Myanmar."

U Thaung Tun also spoke of the government's wider vision for the country and the progress it had made in its first 10 months in office. He explained how the government is seeking to rebuild the economy and establish the foundations for future growth, in which the entire nation can share:

"We have set about the long-term mission to rebuild our economy; providing jobs, schools and hospitals. And we have begun reforming our system of government to create a fair and just society for all our people, strengthening the rule of law, tackling corruption and creating robust civil and democratic institutions."

The National Security Advisor concluded by addressing the issues in Rakhine State, reiterating the government's commitment to investigating recent allegations of abuses, and finding a long-term solution to the challenges in the region:

"There can be no excuse for excessive force, for abuses of fundamental human rights and basic criminality. We have shown that we are ready to act where there is clear evidence of abuses.

The situation in northern Rakhine has now stabilised. The clearance operations undertaken by the military have ceased, the curfew has been eased and there remains only a police presence to maintain the peace.

In addition to providing immediate humanitarian relief, our focus must now be on finding real, lasting solutions to the situation in Rakhine."

The National Security Advisor will now travel to Munich, Germany where he will attend the 53rd Munich Security Conference, an annual gathering of global security and political decision-makers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

No 1. Gate (Permission of Entry and Departure) reopen in Myanmar–Bangladesh border

GATE No 1. Maungtaw (Permission of Entry and Departure) in Myanmar- Bangladesh border is reopened on Februray 12, 2017 according to the State Counsellor Office Information Committee.

The gate No 1. (POE) in Maungtaw in Rakhine State was temporarily shut down since the terrorist progression had been occurred in Maungtaw township on October 9, 2016.

Current, Peace and Stability has been regained in the region and the gate is reopened started form February 12 in accordance with the law and regulation which is in the contract for Myanmar-Bangladesh border after Myanmar negotiates with Bangladesh.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Gate No 1. Maungtaw (POE) Myanmar-Bangladesh border seen. PHOTO: MNA

Over 300 restaurants in Yangon fined for failing to place duty stamps on vouchers

THE internal Revenue Department fined the owners of 347 restaurants who failed to affix duty stamps on their sales vouchers during 10 months of new government's periods, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

Authorities investigated the restaurants from 1 April to 31 December, 2016 and found that 325 restaurants failed to affix the duty stamps on their sales receipts. The Internal Revenue Department levied fines amounting to Ks84.3 million. The team also fined 22 restaurants in January, 2017.

Eleven out of the 325 shops have paid fines for every additional failure. The eleven restaurants that failed to follow the rules are Singapore's Kitchen, Roof Alchemy Bar and Kat Phoo restaurant from Ahlon, Hot Pot City restaurant from Mayangon, Win Star restaurant from Sanchaung, 77-cake from Kyimyindine, Lotteria and Shwe Kaung Hot Pot from Bahan, Natural Thai restaurant from South Okkalapa, Music Zone restaurant from Thingangyun and My Friends Unplugged & Restaurant from Hlaing townships.

The Internal Revenue Department said if those restaurants are caught failing to place duty stamps one more time, the department will take action against the restaurant owners under section 23 (E) of the trading tax law.

The individual stamps run from Ks50 to Ks10,000 each starting from 2014.

Thus a meal costing K1,000 is required to affix a Ks50 label. The Internal Revenue Department earned fines amounting to over Ks70.8 million from 253 restaurants in the fiscal 2015-2016.— *Min Min*

Competition of Myanmar traditional wood sculpture and awards ceremony held

A competition of Myanmar traditional wood sculpture was held in Sayarsan Plaza, Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday.

The 6th competition of Myanmar traditional wood sculpture was jointly conducted by Central Cooperative Association Company and Kaung Myanmar Aung Foundation (KMA), said an official from competition implementing committee.

The main aim of the competition is to promote Myanmar traditional wood sculpture skills and to encourage the continuation of wood sculpture among the younger generations. There are two categories of competition this year: freestyle and modern style. Each category has three levels of prizes, with Ks5,000,000 to the fist prize winner, Ks3,000,000 to the second prize winner and Ks2,000,000 to the third prize winner. The champion will also be presented with a special award.

This year, over 170 Myanmar wood sculptures made by artists from Darpain, Bago, Yangon and other regions will compete.—*200*

New buses for disabled commuters to be imported

TO PROVIDE barrier-free public transport service to individuals with disabilities, the No. 21 bus line operated under the Yangon Region Transport Authority will import new buses equipped with facilities for the disabled, said its owner Ko Tayoke Lay.

According to the new plan, new buses for disabled persons are scheduled to operate by the end of this year, Ko Tayoke Lay added.

The major purpose of the plan is to give reasonable assistance to person with disabilities as well as senior citizens who cannot use regular bus service.

In its initial stage, the bus line will purchase one or two buses equipped with a wheelchair lift to help disabled passengers board the bus, and are planning to offer public transport service to targeted audiences through new buses later this year.

According to the 2014 census, the disabled population accounts for more than 2.3 million (4.6 per cent) of the country's total population of over 51 million. Approximately 3.4 per cent of the seven million Yangon residents are members of the disabled community.—*200*

U Hau Do Suan concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Cuba

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Cuba.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Drugs worth over Ks 3,63.9 million seized in Kachin

POLICE from Mohnyin searched a Toyota Mark II vehicle en route from Sagaing to Kachin State at an inspection gate at the border between Sagaing Region and Kachin State on Tuesday and found illegal drugs in two pieces of luggage in the car.

Police seized 219 soap boxes containing 12 grams of heroin per box, totalling 2,628 grams of heroin. The heroin is worth Ks70,000 per gram, for a total value of Ks183,960,000. Police also seized 60,000 stimulant tablets worth Ks180 million.

The police interrogated the driver Tin Moe Lin and Maung La San, who was on board. The two suspects revealed that a man called Dee La, alias Khaw La, hired them to carry the drugs from PyinOoLwin to Myitkyina on Sunday. Dee La gave them Ks13 lakhs as service charges. When they reach Myitkyina, Dee La would contact them, the suspects said. Mohnyin Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Salai Mang Ngai*

Two suspects with drugs. PHOTO: SALAI MANG NGAI

Man charged for drug trafficking in Mongla Township

SHAN STATE police on Tuesday arrested a man after he was found in a possession of a cache of yaba bills.

An anti-drug police squad discovered 2,400 WY brand yaba tablets plus Ks70,000 in the possession of Bay Lay, 35, after they raided the suspect's house in 15-mile Village, Wuntapon Village-tract in Mongla Township in Eastern Shan State.

According to Police Sub-inspector Hlwan Moe, the suspect said that he bought the stimulant tablets from Kya Mu, who resides in Naungphu Village, Wowkhout Village-tract, in Monghkat township.Action has been taken against the suspect under Section 15/ 19 (A) /20 (A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Fire in Myawady destroys three houses, 12 apartments

A FIRE BROKE out at a home on Myopak Street, Ward 2 in Myawady Township, Kayin State on Monday morning.

Two children playing with fire caused the incident, which destroyed two six-flat apartments and three houses.

Township Fire Services Department officers and auxiliary firefighters put out the fire with the use of 17 fire engines and trucks within 30 minutes.

Kayin State Hluttaw Representative U Thant Zin Aung, District Administrator U Lwin Ko Oo, Township Administrator and officials provided assistance to 12 households rendered homeless due to the blaze, opening the shelters at Thantithukha Beikman in Ward 2.

Myawady Township Police Station opened filed a lawsuit against U Zaw Min Thet for the outbreak of fire under the section 285 of the Penal Code.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

LOCAL Business

Summer onion growers not making profit, unlike merchants

Summer onion growers are not making much profit, unlike merchants which store the onions. A late harvest of onions resulted in the rise in price in early February, and the price could possibly turn downward in March, said local industry experts.

The domestic onion price is usually higher than the external price when merchants sell out their stocks at the end of year. However, the price goes back to normal when they come to purchase the onions form the growers in March.

The increase in the domestic onion price causes onions to be imported from abroad, which adversely affects the domestic market and leads to price declines.

The wholesale price of onions produced from Seikphyu Township was Ks1,600-2,100 per viss, whereas that from Myittha Township fetched Ks2,150 to 2,500 per viss in Yangon market on 2 February.

The price slightly dropped in the Yangon market despite the high inflow of onions into the market. On 11 February, the wholesale price of onions form Seikphyu Township was Ks900-1,450 per viss, whereas that from Myittha was Ks1,700 to 1,950 per viss.

The onions imported from India fetched Ks2,500 per viss on 2 February, whereas the price of those onions (large size) was Ks1,550 per viss on 8 February. The price of various sizes of onions was Ks1,250 per viss on 10 February, it is learnt.—*Khin Saing*

A farmer waters onions on a field in Padigon township, Bago Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Imports of diesel and petrol on the rise to meet local consumption

WITH the high consumption of diesel and petrol in various sectors, the amount of fuel oil imported into the country is increasing, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Private petrol stations were granted permits to distribute imported fuel oil in the market. Since January, over 200,000 tonnes of diesel and petrol were imported into Myanmar through normal trade.

A total of 143,621.813 tonnes of fuel oil were imported through normal trade from 15th to 21st Jan, with 118,743.845 tonnes of diesel worth US$64,369,877 and 24,877.968 tonnes of petrol worth US$20,994,270, according to the Commerce Ministry. From 22nd to 28th of January, 62,104.306 tonnes of diesel worth US$31,915,547 and 23,503.694 tonnes of petrol worth US$16,073,791 were shipped into the country, according to the official figures of the Commerce Ministry.

The petrol is utilised in a variety of sectors — fishing boats, businesses, industrial enterprises, motor vehicles, factories, workshops and other economic businesses.—*200*

A file photo show a worker checks digital meter at a petrol shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Border trade value up by nearly US$150mil

THE value of border trade as of 3 February in this fiscal year totalled US$6.08 billion which is up by $149.7 million compared to last year.

Out of 16 border trade camps, Muse had the largest trade value of $4.19 billion, but that figure was down by about $300mil compared to the same period last year.

Border trade values from 1st April to 3rd Feb in this fiscal year were $4.19 billion from Muse border trade camp, $154.3mil from Lweje, $489.5mil from Chin Shwe Haw, $79.7mil from Kanpiketee, $4.2mil from Keng Tung, $61.7mil from Tachilek, $741.3mil from Myawady, $97.3mil from Kawthaung, $165.4mil from Myeik, $10.9mil from Htee Khee, $2.4mil from Maw Taung, $273,000 from Maese, $3.8mil from Sittwe, $4.7mil from Maung Taw, $44.2mil from Tamu and $30.6mil from Reed, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar is conducting border trade with China through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung while the country is trading with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittwe and Maungtaw, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.—*Ko Khant*

Housing and Building Expo on 17-19 March

APARTMENTS and condominiums for comfortable living at a low cost plus building materials will be displayed at the 2nd Housing and Building 2017 to be held next month in Yangon, according to the Trade Department.

Jointly organised by the Commerce Ministry and Dagon Exhibitions Ltd, the new event is scheduled to take place from 17 March through 19 March at Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall on U Wisara Road with an intention to showcase a wide range of housing equipment including interior decoration items, ultramodern designed furniture, ceiling tiles and related items.

More than 60 companies, both domestic and foreign, will display their products and services through about 100 booths. The expo will benefit house hunters and also those who are looking for adornment for their homes.

The key purposes of the new event are to penetrate high quality products and services into the market and promote awareness of such products and services to visitors, organisers say.

The upcoming expo will provide a networking platform for engineers, contractors, builders, bankers and other practitioners and professionals of housing and construction industry.

The latest technological advancements of equipment, materials, services and techniques in related fields will be introduced at the three-day expo.—*200*

SolarHome enters domestic market

SolarHome, a solar energy products company with an investment of Forum Capital Company from Singapore, entered the domestic market to introduce three solar domestic products at a reasonable price to rural off-grid households, according to an announcement released by the company.

The sales plan for three solar products — SunKing Home 60, SunKing Pro and Omnivoltaic under a monthly payment plan will be introduced. Using solar products can help prevent outbreaks of fire caused by the use of candles and kerosene lamps. Pay as you go (PAYG) system for solar products form Solar Home will be offered. The company is trying to make a significant impact on the quality of life of its customers with solar energy.—*Ko Khant*

India says in talks with Vietnam for first missile sale

BENGALURU, India — India is in talks to sell short range surface-to-air missiles to Vietnam, the head of India's defence research agency said on Wednesday, in what would be its first transfer of such weapons to the Southeast Asian country.

India has been helping the Vietnamese military with training and patrol vessels, but a further deepening of ties with missile sales could draw criticism from China that has been locked in a territorial dispute with Hanoi in the South China Sea.

New Delhi is currently talking to a number of countries for sales of its surface-to-air Akash missiles, said S Christopher, chairman of state-run Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The move is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's push to establish India as an arms exporter.

"We are talking to countries, one of them is none other than Vietnam," he told a news conference on the sidelines of an air show where the DRDO is showcasing its missile programmes and other key projects, including a home-grown light combat fighter.

India's ''Akash'' missiles, mounted on a truck, are displayed during the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on 26 January, 2007. PHOTO: REUTERS

Christopher did not provide any details of how many Akash missile batteries the government planned to supply Vietnam.

Vietnam is in the midst of a quiet military buildup that analysts say is designed as a deterrent, to secure its 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone as China grows more assertive in staking its claims in the South China Sea.

Experts say Vietnam is in the market for fighter jets and more advanced missile systems, in addition to the kilo-class submarines it has bought from Russia.

India, which is also sparring with China over a border dispute, has in the past considered the sale of its Brahmos supersonic missile with a range of 290 kms to Vietnam and has been steadily helping Hanoi beef up its defences.

Last year, Modi announced a $500 million credit line to Vietnam to buy defence equipment, on top of a $100 million given previously to help it buy patrol boats. The two sides have also agreed for training of Vietnamese air force pilots to operate Su-30 Russian fighter planes. —*Reuters*

Malaysian police arrest female suspect related to death of DPRK man

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian police said Wednesday that a female suspect was arrested in the investigation related to the death of a man from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said in a statement that the suspect was arrested at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport's second terminal, where the man looked for help after feeling unwell on Monday. He died on the way to hospital.

The female suspect, who was carrying a Vietnamese passport, was identified from the surveillance video footage at the airport, Khalid said, adding that the suspect was alone at the time of arrest.

The Malaysian police said earlier that the 46-year-old man who died Monday was holding a DPRK passport under the name Kim Chol.

But South Korean media reported that the man was Kim Jong Nam, the elder half-brother of DPRK's top leader Kim Jong Un.

His body was taken to a hospital in Kuala Lumpur Wednesday for postmortem to ascertain the cause of his death.—*Xinhua*

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Jakarta election heads for second round as Christian governor holds narrow lead

JAKARTA — The race to become governor of Indonesia's capital was neck and neck in early counting on Wednesday and heading for a second round between the incumbent Christian governor and a Muslim former education minister, sample counts showed.

The Jakarta poll has been overshadowed by religious tensions, with mass Islamist-led protests against Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, an ethnic Chinese Christian.

The vote is also being widely seen as a proxy battle for the 2019 presidential election.

Purnama had secured 42.57 per cent of the votes, just ahead of former minister Anies Baswedan in second place with 40.23 per cent, based on a quick sample count of around 40 per cent of the vote by private polling firm SMRC.

The other candidate, Agus Yudhoyono, was in third place with 17 per cent. Other pollsters showed similar results.

A candidate needs to get more than 50 per cent of the votes in the first round to win outright.

The job of governor can be a springboard to the presidency and weeks of campaigning have been overshadowed by mudslinging, political intrigue and rising hardline Islamist sentiment, raising questions about the role of religion in politics.

"We hope that everybody can return as a family after these elections," President Joko Widodo said after voting in Jakarta earlier on Wednesday.

Purnama was a deputy to Widodo when he was the previous Jakarta governor and Widodo's party is backing him.

Purnama has been campaigning while on trial on a charge of insulting the Koran, a case that has brought Muslims onto the streets, urging voters to shun a non-Muslim as leader.

He denies the charge and after dipping in opinion polls his support rebounded, which analysts attribute to his record of improving the bureaucracy and easing congestion and flooding in Jakarta.

Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population but is officially secular and home to minority Christian and Hindu communities, as well as hundreds of ethnic groups.

Baswedan is backed by a former general who Widodo beat in the last presidential election in 2014, Prabowo Subianto, who is promising a comeback to the national stage.

The elections in the capital, alongside scores of other regional polls in the world's third-largest democracy, were peaceful and mostly running without hitches, police said.

Police had deployed 75,000 personnel across Indonesia with 16,000 in Jakarta, concerned hardline Muslim groups may again take to the streets to oppose Purnama. —*Reuters*

Japan offers 4.8 billion yen aid to improve water supply in Nepalese city

KATHMANDU — Japan agreed Wednesday to provide a 4.8 billion yen grant to Nepal to improve water supply in Pokhara, the country's second largest city and a popular destination among tourists.

Under the project, which will be implemented by state-owned Nepal Water Supply Corp and is expected to be completed in 2022, water treatment plants and distribution infrastructure will be installed and upgraded in the western city.

The agreement for utilizing the official development assistance was signed by Japanese Ambassador Masashi Ogawa and Nepalese Finance Secretary Shanta Raj Subedi at the Finance Ministry.

Jun Sakuma, chief representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency's Nepal office, said the project aims to provide round-the-clock safe drinking water in the city of about 250,000 people, which is visited by some 230,000 tourists each year.

Shinya Machida, the embassy's deputy chief of mission, called the project a "new symbol of friendship between Nepal and Japan".

Water scarcity is a major problem in the tourist city, with nearly a quarter of total households getting water supply just once a week, while E. coli bacteria have been detected in water reaching 98 percent of households.

Japan has been providing ODA assistance for water supply projects in Nepal, including in rural areas and capital Kathmandu, since 1976. —*Kyodo News*

Hot air balloons seen in Mandalay region, Myanmar

Shows hot air balloons during sunrise time at the ancient city of Bagan in Mandalay region, Myanmar, in 15 February, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA/ U AUNG

Cambodian police arrests British prime suspect in Thai murder

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian police have arrested a British man who is the alleged mastermind in the murder of a British businessman in Pattaya, Thailand last month, a senior police official said on Wednesday.

"The General Department of Immigration (GDI) has arrested a British suspect in the Pattaya murder and sent him to the Phnom Penh Municipal Court this morning," National Police deputy chief Chhay Sinarith told Xinhua. Phnom Penh Municipal Court spokesman Ly Sophana confirmed that the British man was identified as Nelhams Toby Jamie, 45.

He said the court's presecutor Seang Sok had questioned the suspect as a formal charge against him was not made yet.

Nelhams Toby Jamie allegedly masterminded the killing of British businessman Tony Kenway, 39, in Pattaya, Thailand on 24 January, according to the Bangkok Post on Saturday.

Thai police said the suspected shooter, South African Abel Caldeira Bonito, 28, and alleged getaway driver, Briton Miles Dicken Turner, 24, also fled to Cambodia on the day of the murder. —*Xinhua*

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India launches record 104 satellites at one go

NEW DELHI — India successfully launched 104 satellites in a single mission on Wednesday, setting what its space agency says is a world record of launching the most satellites at one go.

Of the 104, 101 are foreign satellites to serve international customers as the South Asian nation seeks a bigger share of the $300 billion global space industry.

"This is a great moment for each and everyone of us. Today we have created history," said project director B Jayakumar.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted his congratulations on the launch conducted by the state-run Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) that went off smoothly and was carried live on national TV news channels.

"This remarkable feat by ISRO is yet another proud moment for our space scientific community and the nation," he said. "India salutes our scientists."

Modi is bullish on India's space program and has repeatedly praised the efforts of scientists who three years ago pulled off a low-cost mission to send a probe to orbit Mars that succeeded at the first attempt.

ISRO's low prices attracted international customers to launch 75 satellites last year from Sriharikota in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

The launch of PSLV-C37 in a single payload, including the Cartosat-2 series and 103 co-passenger satellites, together weighed over 650 kg (1,433 lb). Out of 101 nano satellites, 96 were from the United States and one each from Israel, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.—*Reuters*

China warns US against fresh naval patrols in South China Sea

BEIJING — China's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday warned Washington against challenging its sovereignty, responding to reports the United States was planning fresh naval patrols in the disputed South China Sea.

On Sunday, the Navy Times reported that US Navy and Pacific Command leaders were considering freedom of navigation patrols in the busy waterway by the San Diego-based Carl Vinson carrier strike group, citing unnamed defence officials.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said tension in the South China Sea had stabilised due to the hard work between China and Southeast Asia countries, and urged foreign nations including the US to respect this.

"We urge the US not to take any actions that challenge China's sovereignty and security," Geng told a regular news briefing on Wednesday.

The United States last conducted a freedom of navigation operation in the area in October, when it sailed the guided-missile destroyer USS Decatur near the Paracel Islands and within waters claimed by China.

Dave Bennett, a spokesman for Carrier Strike Group One, said it did not discuss future operations of its units.

"The Carl Vinson Strike Group is on a regularly scheduled Western Pacific deployment as part of the US Pacific Fleet-led initiative to extend the command and control functions of the US 3rd Fleet," he said.

"US Navy aircraft carrier strike groups have patrolled the Indo-Asia-Pacific regularly and routinely for more than 70 years," he said.

China lays claim to almost all of the resource-rich South China Sea, through which about $5 trillion worth of trade passes each year.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also claim parts of the waters that command strategic sea lanes and have rich fishing grounds, along with oil and gas deposits.

The United States has criticised Beijing's construction of man-made islands and build-up of military facilities in the sea, and expressed concern they could be used to restrict free movement. —*Reuters*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Let us set up genuine mutual trust with people's contribution!

Khin Maung Oo

IN a country, it is very important to win the hearts of the people. Once we win the hearts of the people, the power of the people can become a formidable force. In all the affairs of the country, especially in the national affairs of the country, it is very important to get the support and participation of the people. Thus, in order to make the process of achieving peace meaningful and effective, it is vitally important to harness the power of the people. In order to mobilize people's power, it is necessary for us to make risks and sacrifice ourselves not only for the present benefits of the people but also those of future generations. We assume that the incumbent Government will perform the above-said duties. People and Government should not be viewed separately as "those who govern" and "those who are being governed". A government should be seen as a body that brings into reality the wishes of the people or a body that manages people's affairs on behalf of the people. So, people should join hands with the government so that the government will be able to utilize "people's power" for the benefit of the whole country.

Looking back into history, we have found that people's power could change the country. Depending upon their depth of political knowledge, the people can assess the performances and achievements of successive governments. People in our country have been under various kinds of regimes. Accordingly, they understand and know about their country's affairs. That is, they already know to what extent, who took risks, who made sacrifices and who devoted themselves for the people. Now, people have the opportunity to choose their own representatives and monitor in what manner their Hluttaw representatives conduct themselves in the various Hluttaws. It is very difficult for the Hluttaw representatives to deceive the people as the Radio, TV and printed media are constantly covering the daily news as it unfolds and presents it to the people very effectively using the power of the internet, Facebook and via the smart phones. After gaining Independence, people's affairs have been managed in different ways, throughout Myanmar history. People know whether various successive governments had worked for the interests of the people and to what extent. Now, it is nearly one year since the NLD–led Government took office. People already know how much the current Government brought about the benefits of the people in such a short period of time.

The Government has been governing with difficulty, trying to make the tough political route smooth. Among all its efforts, we may see that the Government has made concerted efforts to implement the peace process, which is the most important and the most valuable for all the people. Our country lagged behind in economic and social development. One of the main reasons for this backwardness is the absence of Peace. So long as a country is void of peace, it will never develop. Presently, under the active leadership of the Government political dialogues are being held for achieving peace. To do so, genuine trust needs to be built. That is to build up mutual trust among different groups and organizations. Therefore, let us build the trust with people's contribution and people's power.

Keeping Yangon City clean, beautiful and pleasant

Tommy Pauk

ACCORDING to the GNLM news on 10.02.2017, it is learnt that rubbish collection in the Yangon Region will be handed over to private enterprises. It also added that Yangon Region produces over 2,500 tonnes of rubbish daily. This current news reminds us that we Yangon city dwellers ought to participate in sanitation work. Even then we are responsible for paying monthly refuse disposal fees.

Since Yangon is a great metropolis in South East Asia , the successive governments have made concerted efforts in making Yangon clean, beautiful and pleasant constantly. Sustainable hygienic environment, amenity, good system of garbage collection and good drainage system should be maintained at all time in Yangon. The incumbent government is striving hard for the all-round development of Yangon city as well. Therefore, we, Yangon city dwellers, are responsible for keeping Yangon clean, beautiful and clean in accordance with the government policy. The city dwellers must adhere to the acts of Municipal and help authorities of YCDC with sanitation tasks as well. Likewise, we all must avoid behaving undisciplined manners such as littering and spitting, chewing betel juice in public area.

Luckily, Yangon has been free from air-pollution such as smog as the factories exist on the outskirts of Yangon. Sunny sky or blue sky is visible over Yangon in day time throughout the year. It is an obligation that all Yangon city dwellers must abide by the discipline and municipal acts for keeping Yangon beautiful. The authority has increased fine for dropping litter in the back yard recklessly. Garbage bins are placed on the every street corner in the Yangon local area for garbage disposal. This is a part of task that is very supportive to city cleanliness and hygienic programme. YCDC's task of sanitation is carried out day and night with the assistance of city dwellers actively. However, unfortunately, the behavior of undisciplined street hawkers and betel quid chewers make the city ugly, harmful and detestable. Very recently, the local authorities have designated some places near downtown Yangon for the hawkers to sell things or food within the limited time in the evening. Thus a kind of night hawker-center appeared in Yangon and ugliness and harm can be erased effectively. On the other hand, the government of Yangon Region is providing basic amenities and trying to make Yangon cleaner.

The elderly dwellers recount the physical beauty, cleanliness and pleasantness of Yangon known as Rangoon. They say Yangon's picturesque buildings, religious monuments, lakes, trees, roads, lanes, parks awesomely attracted the visitors in 1950s.The drainage system, regular fumigation in the wards in Yangon, local transport system, local circular train, electric trolley-buses were the ones which served the city dwellers. They also say that Rangoon's streets and roads were clean and well-lighted even at night time. Public amenities were quite sufficient for the city dwellers in that period. The city's resident population of Yangon at that time was not so great and the number of cars was relatively less than the present figure.

During the era of Burma Socialist Programme Party, Yangon city dwellers contributed voluntary service to sanitation work on Sunday mornings in their own wards or streets or townships respectively. In other words, the city dwellers of Yangon participated in a weekend sanitation programme or carried out the sanitation work with city development council willingly and voluntarily. It showed that the city dwellers wanted to sustain the beauty, pleasantness and cleanliness of Yangon. However, that programme could not continue any further due to circumstances. Since then, such regular YCDC sanitation work with public participation cannot be seen until now.

During the SPDC era, the government abolished the old and rickety buildings and renovated the religious edifices as well as the buildings of Yangon heritage in Yangon. Besides, the SPDC government embellished the gardens and parks and built new satellite towns of Yangon. The SPDC government built some overpasses and planted shady trees in the vicinity of Yangon Airport. Even then, the block of flats, masses of condominium and tall buildings have mushroomed in the metropolitan areas in Yangon. The SPDC government established industrial zones in the designated industrial estate on the outskirts of Yangon so that the residents can commute or move easily in the city. These were the tasks done by the SPDC government for Yangon City Development.

The population of metropolitan Yangon has gradually increased because some citizens from various places in Myanmar moved to Yangon. For these situations, Yangon City Development Committee cannot carry out the sanitation work without public participation or without using modern garbage collecting method. Yangon requires modern garbage collecting system, good drainage systems, good sewage system, sewage works to cope with the increasing number of population and modern buildings in Yangon. Yangon does not have skyscrapers, but we must maintain the existing roads, buildings and overpasses regularly. It is our bounden duty to keep Yangon beautiful, clean and pleasant. In addition, we must be able to say that Yangon has a reputation for high standard of discipline. Regular sanitation work, regular fumigation and obeying disciplines will portray Yangon to be an attractive metropolis to international tourists vividly. Let's create Yangon to be the most beautiful, most pleasant and cleanest city in the world!

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All Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah State) presents policy and programmes

U Thae Raie, Central Committee Member of All Nationalities Democracy Party.

U THAE RAIE, Central Committee Member of All Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah State), presented policies, attitudes and programmes of his party on 15 February 2017, on radio and TV programmes. The translation of his presentation is given below:

Policy of the party

Introduction

The Union of Myanmar is home to various nationalities. They have been living in the country sharing weal and woe. The nationalities namely Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, etc. have had own monarchs since time under the feudal lords. Under this rule, they have had contact with one another like brothers and sisters of the same mother and are living till today.

Kayah (Kayinni) state, since time immemorial, formed own territories in the time of the feudal lords and under the colonial rule forming an alliance with Myanmar monarchs. Similarly, today, the nationalities living in Kayah (Kayinni) state will be living hand in hand with eggs and nests intact with other nationalities residing in Myanmar.

Policies

Nationalities Democracy Party is acknowledged by the Union Election Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the party registration No 64. The main objective of the party is to strive for emergence of clean and good government in Kayah (Kayinni) state. Through this the interests of the state and nationality will be served and we can work together with other nationalities and the Union Government. Nationalities Democracy Party will always strive for peace and democracy and emergence of genuine federal union system. To promote political, economic and social rights in Kayah state, the party will seeks ways and means together with the Union Government.

Political attitude

The executive, legislative and judicial branches of Kayah state will make discussions with the central government for ensuring appropriate power sharing. The party will eye on resurrection of Kayah formerly known as Kayinni Act, in other words, national traditions legally. As the population in Kayah has increased significantly, village tracts and townships have to be expanded for smooth administration. Law enforcement is too weak. People have to suffer a lot as the result of lack of law enforcement. The law must surely protect the people. People are to be informed and responsible persons are to be supervised for ensuring all the people are living under the rule of law with peace of mind.

The Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah state) will build strong, genuine and eternal peace with full trust. Within 60 years, Kayah state, without peace, is under the poverty line due to the internal strife. People lost their lives due to this internal strife. They had to flee from their places. Therefore, The Nationalities Democracy Party accepts that the peace making process is a must. The 2008 constitution should be amended in line with the changing situation.

The Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah state) understands that success will be achieved in nationality affairs in Kayah state only through own efforts because it has experienced poverty and suffering of the people in the successive eras. It will cooperate with all nationalities living in the Union of Myanmar paying respect to them. In that regard, it will make reports to and discuss with the Union government. It will put to the fore the concept of integration of the Union, national solidarity and perpetuation of the sovereignty. The party opines that law enforcement and peace and prosperity are a must for Kayah state.

Procedures

Political procedures

Kayah state is bordering with Shan state to the north, Kayin state to the south, Shan/Kayin to the west and Thailand (Yodayah) to the east. It is home to over 300,000 people. Geographically, the state sits on hill and mountains. Shan, Bamar, Kayin, PaO and other nationalities are living in the state in addition to nine nationalities. In forming a political party it should not be based on local, national and religious cults. As Kayah state is sparsely populated, it is important to form a party of all nationalities who know well about the situation of the state and conform to lifestyles of the local people. It will contest the general election to be held by the Union Election Commission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar mainly in Kayah State. The election campaigns will be conducted in the state.

The Nationalities Democracy Party (Kayah state) focuses on founding of a clean and good government. We will form an alliance with other nationality parties and serve the interests of the state and the Union. With regard to nationality affairs, the party will strive for self-determination, self-administration and self-management. As the vision of the party, it will strive for the emergence of a federal union which is desired by the nationalities. We believe that through this process, all nationalities will reach the goal of prosperous new society endowed with equal rights and genuine peace.

Our party fully supports the peace process led by the existing NLD government in the Union of Myanmar. We also supports the 21st century Panglong Conference. We wish to see persons, political parties and organizations who should participate in the process to take part after scrutinizing them.

Economy

Kayah state possesses a little land to strengthen the agriculture sector as it is a hilly region. Traditionally, it has to rely much on slash and burn agriculture. The land is to be left vacant after cultivating for one or two years to revitalize the soil. And after three or four years, farmers come back again to the land to cultivate on it. In this way, soil is not depleted but gaining its strength. To transform this slash and burn system to an industrialized one, we will cooperate with the Union government. We will encourage organic farming rather than using fertilizer.

Party Logo.

Forestry

Kayah state faces forest depletion due to cutting woods and timber production. We will carry out such work as reforestation, providing assistance to manageable scale farming, prohibiting of wood cutting and timber production. We will maintain natural forest and mountain preserved through traditional methods.

In exploiting minerals, we will make sure that there will be no harm to environment and we will focus on systematic extraction. In extracting minerals, we will discuss with the Union government on profit sharing for the people to gain more rights. Negotiating with the Union government, we will focus on increased tax of the state which comes from mining, forestry and electric sector of Kayah state.

Kayah state needs smooth transportation. We will make arrangements to pave gravel on township-to-township roads, two-way traffics and village-to-village roads. Bad transportation in the state creates difficulties for government staff and thus focus should be laid on construction of tarred roads, gravel roads, earth road and roads for the motorcycles. For better communication, more towers are to be built. Job opportunities will be prioritized to local people.

Women sector

With regard to women's participation, All Nationalities Democracy Party has laid down rules and regulations and incorporated them into the party's policies. These are not just symbols, but women have the right to participate in meetings. We are organizing women to participate not less than 30 per cent. Myanmar is a UN member country. It is a party to The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). As the nation signed the Security Council Resolution 1325, we will urge to the government execute the agreement.

Youth sector

Youths are the leaders of the future and reserve force of the nation. Naturally, they are active and intelligent. Interparty meetings, workshop on promoting skills and educational talks will be held to promote the skills of youths as well as to make them have high moral standard. For development of human resources, we will cultivate youths to be strong. Twenty per cent of members of our party must be youths. We will encourage youths to participate in traditional performing arts competitions. We are planning to include youths of 25 and above in the respective committees of the party and arranges are being made to enable than to be elected to the Hluttaws.

Refugee affairs

There are many Kayini refugees at the border of Kayah state and Thailand. All out efforts are to made for them who had fled their place while striving for peace. We will try for them for their legal homecoming with dignity. It is important to make arrangements to fulfill their food, clothing and shelter needs. Shelters, food, clothing and medicines for health care are to be provided.

The above-mentioned are the summery of our party's policies, attitudes and programmes. Only with the support of the entire people, we will win the elections and we will be able to put our plan into action. Then we can fully serve the interests of the people for the people. Therefore, I would like to urge the entire people to vote for us in the coming bye election to be held on 1 April 2017. I wish all the voters health and happiness.

(Unofficial Translation)

State gets US$20 million in profit in eight months from Letpadaung copper mine

Union Minister for Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Ohn Win said that the profit received by the State within eight months from Letpadaung copper mine which is owned and jointly operated by Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd (MEHL). and China's Wanbao Company was about US$ 20 million.

"The State's share of 23,266.504 metric tons of cathode copper produced within the period of 5 May 2016 to 31 January 2016 has the market value of US$ 19,990,876.91 at the London Metal Market (LME) rate on 31 January 2016 of US$ 5,921 per metric ton," Union Minister Ohn Win said. Union Minister Ohn Win was speaking at the parliament session held on February 14 in reply to the question when did the State start to receive its 51% share from this Letpadaung copper. The question was raised by lower house MP Aung Khin Win from Myaing constituency.

The profit sharing of the Letpadaung copper mine is divided into 51% to the State and 49% Wanbao. Union Minister Ohn Win clarified to parliament that the State's share of 51% was received only after May 5, 2016.

MEHL and Chinese Wanbao Company signed the agreement on Letpadaung Copper Mine on June 6, 2010.— *Min Min (Mizzima)*

Following is the unofficial translation of appendix-2 of the press release by the President's Office on the 29 January shooting at Yangon International Airport.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Press Release
15th February 2017

Appendix-2 of the press release of the President's Office on the shooting at Yangon International Airport

1. The press release 1/2017 on the close-range shooting that occurred at Yangon International Airport at about 5 pm on 29th January 2017, killing U Ko Ni, Legal Adviser to the National League for Democracy on his arrival at the airport was issued on 30th January and its appendix on 3rd February.
2. Kyi Lin, 52, who allegedly committed the murder, and Aung Win Zaw, 46, who is suspected of conspiracy to murder, have been detained. Based on information gathered during the interrogation of the two suspects, a combined team comprising members of the Tatmadaw and the Myanmar Police Force are continuing their investigation into the issue in attempts to arrest other suspects who are are connected with the murder.
3. During the initial interrogation conducted on Aung Win Zaw, he confessed that his brother, Aung Win Khaing, hired him to assassinate U Ko Ni; that in July 2016, Aung Win Khaing offered him Ks100 million to murder U Ko Ni; that that he gave him Ks10 million as a deposit; that following the offer of Aung Win Khaing, he started to find anyone who could commit the murder; that firstly, he offered Aung Soe, living in Insein, and later, he terminated contact with Aung Soe, giving the reason that the diplomat who would be murdered had returned home; that around September and October 2016, Kyi Lin visited him and asked for a job, and he offered Kyi Lin from K80 million to K100 million to kill U Ko Ni and Kyi Lin replied that just a car was enough to kill U Ko Ni; that out of Ks100 million offered by Aung Win Khaing, Ks80 million was set aside to be given to Kyi Lin and the remaining Ks20 million was set aside to spend on other preparations.
4. Around 16 October 2016, Aung Win Zaw went to Hpa-an, Kayin State, to buy guns and he tried to buy a gun via friends he made when he did antique trading, giving a reason that he would like to give guns as gifts to others as he was doing gold mining in Red Shan areas. He bought one 9mm pistol and 11 bullets at the cost of Ks2.5 million and one five-chambered gun and four bullets at the cost of Ks2.5 million. He spent the Ks10 million deposit from Aung Win Khaing on buying the guns and he lied that he bought the guns from Myint Swe, living in Thailand.
5. On 28th January, Aung Win Khaing contacted Aung Win Zaw by phone, alerting him to be ready with the guns as U Ko Ni would arrive back by air on 29th January. Afterwards, at 9 am on 29th January, Aung Win Khaing contacted him two times and told him that he would go first to the airport. Around 1 pm, Aung Win Zaw phoned Kyi Lin, telling him to come to the airport by taxi. When he arrived at the airport, Aung Win Khaing sent SMS messages to him and let him know the location where U Ko Ni would come out. In the messages, Aung Win Khaing said U Ko Ni "will come out from the exit for ordinary passengers, take care of CCTV, stop phone calls, delete all messages". Afterwards, Kyi Lin shot U Ko Ni at close range. Kyi Lin was arrested by the people and the police and he managed to escape by car but was arrested quickly.
6. According to the airport's CCTC records, it is found that Aung Win Khaing inquired about flight arrival times. Currently, the police are in hot pursuit of Aung Win Khaing. It is assumed that Aung Win Khaing, who is still at large, hired assailants to commit the crime and he had served for the Tatmadaw and he quit the Tatmadaw of his own volition in 2014 when he reached the rank of Lt-Col. The combined team comprising of members of the Myanmar Police Force and the Tatmadaw is investigating the case and hope to expose the crime in an attempt to arrest those who are connected with the crime, and further information would be made public.
7. Hence, the people are urged to be fully aware of religious and racial incitements, and attempts to destabilize the situation, and the people are requested to give information related to Aung Win Khaing, who is still at large, and any attempts to destabilize the situation to authorities.

CCTV footage shows suspect Aung Win Khaing arriving to Yangon International Airport before the assassination plot.
PHOTO: PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

New modern postboxes for Yangon

Ko Moe

POSTBOXES in the Yangon Region are being replaced with modern versions that take into account the weather and the height of Myanmar citizens, said Myanmar Postal Service (Yangon) Regional Manager U Thaung Nyne Soe.

"The new postboxes are highly advanced. Their height has been adjusted with the height of the people of this country in mind, and it utilises a technology system that protects the letters inside from wayward water or cigarette butts.

Of the 130 postboxes in the Yangon Region, a few have already been replaced and efforts are being made to replace the remaining ones as fast as possible." The Myanmar Postal Service has replaced postboxes throughout Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region. Japan's Ministry of Communication, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japanese media firm Daiwa and the Ministry of Transportation and Communication have collaborated on a three-year project to develop or upgrade 162 post offices throughout Yangon Region, Mandalay Region and Nay Pyi Taw.

"The Myanmar Postal Service, with help from Japan, is working on smoother conveyance of ordinary/local mail and express/registered mail. We are also working on making delivery prices more reasonable, ease of access to delivery services, and a postal service based on good quality performance,' said U Thaung Nyne Soe.

> Of the 130 postboxes in the Yangon Region, a few have already been replaced and efforts are being made to replace the remaining ones as fast as possible.

U Thaung Nyne Soe further explained that following the upgrades of Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw postal services, they aim to carry out developments in postal services around the country. "As more foreign investments pour into Myanmar, there will be a greater need for postal services and reliable packaging/receiving and delivery/distributing network," he said. Postal services are split into three categories: receiving, forwarding and distributing. Efforts are made to improve weak or underdeveloped areas in each of these categories through careful and systematic studies and observations for a reliable and fast postal service for the citizens. The first post office was established in Sittway in 1827, the second one in Pegu in 1852 and the third one in Yangon in 1854.

Investigation commission in Maungtaw for a 4th time

>> FROM PAGE 1

Afterwards the Vice President commented on the presentations and said he would help facilitate rehabilitation and relocation of locals to their original villages and the swift issuing of National Verification Cards.

At midday yesterday, the Vice President and his entourage visited the health care centre in Doedan Village, Maungtaw and enquired about how the combined-health project to vaccinate, treat and feed children there was being carried out with increased momentum.

During a visit to UShaykyay Village Basic Middle School, time was made to interview male villagers on whether care was taken to respect human rights in accord with international principles and if the use of violence was present.

The commission members also interviewed local women.

The Vice President and the State Chief Minister then proceeded to confer radios as gifts to the village residents. Afterwards, the Vice President and commission members observed the vaccination and medical treatment of school-children being carried out under the increase momentum combined-health project being implemented for the children and other medicinal support received by village residents.

—Myanmar News Agency

Kenyan court frees doctors' leaders jailed during health sector strike

NAIROBI — Kenya's Court of Appeal on Wednesday ordered the release from jail of officials from the national doctors' union so they can negotiate with the government over a strike that has paralysed the public health sector.

The strike has angered Kenyans and turned into a test of President Uhuru Kenyatta's leadership ahead of an election in August.

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

The seven union officials were ordered to serve a one-month jail term on Monday after a lower court found them guilty of contempt of court in relation to the strike which started in December.

Appellate Judge Hannah Okwengu said the seven officials would be released immediately. She said the parties in the labour dispute had seven days to find a resolution.

A brass band leads striking doctors chanting slogans outside the Court of Appeal as they wait for the release of jailed officials of the national doctors' union in their case to demand fulfilment of a 2013 agreement between their union and the government that would raise their pay and improve working conditions in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The applicants, respondents and interested parties undertake to resume negotiations forthwith, with a view to resolving the outstanding issues, in order to restore normalcy in the public health sector," she told a court packed with doctors.

The government has offered the striking doctors a 40 per cent pay rise which the union rejected.

The Law Society of Kenya and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, who appeared as interested parties, were ordered to mediate the dispute and report back to the court.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga said the strike had dragged for too long and blamed the government for the impasse.

"So many innocent Kenyans have died in hospitals for lack of treatment," he told reporters outside the court.

Doctors in private hospitals had agreed to stop work for 48 hours from midnight Tuesday in solidarity with the officials of the Kenya Medical Practitioners Pharmacists and Dentists' Union, which represents workers in state hospitals.

Reuters visited three private hospitals on Wednesday which were fully operational, with doctors at work.

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

Syrian opposition wants Geneva talks on political transition

BEIRUT — The Syrian opposition wants face-to-face negotiations with the government about a political transition at peace talks that are due to begin in Geneva next week, a leading Syrian opposition politician said on Wednesday.

Salim al-Muslit, spokesman for the High Negotiations Committee (HNC), said there could be no role for President Bashar al-Assad in the transition, saying "the heavy price paid by the Syrian people" would have been wasted if he remained.

Muslit also said the HNC had yet to receive an agenda for the negotiations that are due to begin on 23 February after initial consultations beginning on 20 February. He said the negotiations should start with discussion of the transition.

"We want direct negotiations, we want to save time, we want a quick end to the suffering of the Syrian people," he said.

"We now want to get into the essence of the political process — the discussion of the political transition — and what the Geneva 1 communique stipulated about the formation of a transitional body with full powers," he said.

He was referring to the Geneva communique of 2012 calling for the establishment of a transitional governing body with full executive powers that could include members of the present government, the opposition, and other groups. The communique said it should be formed on the basis of mutual consent.

The HNC, which includes rebel groups and political opponents of Assad, has named a 22-member delegation to the Geneva talks.

Diplomacy has repeatedly failed to make any headway towards ending the war that has killed hundreds of thousands of people.

The latest diplomacy effort was launched with Russian and Turkish support after government forces, helped by the Russian air force and Iranian-backed militia, defeated rebels in eastern Aleppo in December — their biggest setback of the war.—*Reuters*

Suicide bomber kills five outside government office in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a government office in Pakistan on Wednesday, killing five people, the army said, the latest attack in a new surge in militant violence.

A faction of the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in the town of Ghalanai in the Mohmand Agency, a northwestern region on the border with Afghanistan.

The attack took place outside the office of the political agent, the most senior government officer in the region.

"One suicide bomber blew himself up once spotted and challenged by security agencies," the army said in a statement, adding that guards shot dead a second bomber.

The Jamaat-ur-Ahrar faction of the Pakistani Taliban, which claimed responsibility in a statement emailed to journalists, also claimed an attack in the city of Lahore on Monday in which 13 people, five of them policemen, were killed.

The group said the Lahore attack was the beginning of a new campaign against the government, security forces, the judiciary and secular political parties.

Security in Pakistan has improved in recent years but Islamist groups still pose a threat and have carried out attacks despite an army offensive launched in 2014 to push them out of their northwestern strongholds.

Last year, the same militant faction claimed an Easter Day bombing that killed more than 70 people in a park in Lahore." —*Reuters*

Germany raids apartments of four Turkish imams suspected of spying

BERLIN — German police on Wednesday raided the apartments of four imams suspected of conducting espionage on behalf of the Turkish government against followers of US-based cleric Fetullah Gulen, accused by Ankara of organising a failed coup last July.

The raids, in the states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate, could further strain relations between the two NATO allies, which need each other to tackle issues ranging from militant Islamist attacks to Europe's migrant crisis.

The Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (GBA) said in a statement that the imams had acted on an order issued on 20 September last year by the Turkey-based Diyanet religious authority which said the Gulen movement was behind the putsch attempt.

German Justice Minister Heiko Maas said the four imams were members of Ditib, Germany's largest association of mosques which brings imams from Turkey to serve the community of some three million people with a Turkish background who live here.

"It is very clear that the influence of the Turkish state on Ditib is big. The association must plausibly disengage itself from Ankara," Maas said in a statement.

Last month the GBA launched an investigation into Turkish intelligence operations on German soil after a lawmaker filed a criminal complaint. Austria is also investigating whether Turkey has been operating an informer network targeting Gulen followers on its soil, via its embassy in Vienna.

Turkey has accused Germany of harbouring militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) and far-leftists of the DHKP-C, which has carried out attacks in Turkey. German officials reject the accusation.

The GBA said Wednesday's searches were aimed at finding more evidence to link the suspects to espionage activities.

"The suspects are suspected of having collected information about members of the so-called Gulen movement and passed it on to the general consulate in Cologne," the GBA said.

Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan accuses Gulen of masterminding the abortive coup, in which at least 240 people were killed, and wants the United States to extradite him. Gulen denies any involvement in the coup attempt.

Since July Turkey has arrested tens of thousands of people over suspected ties to Gulen in a wide-ranging crackdown criticised by Germany and other European Union nations. —*Reuters*

Latin America urges UN members to "actively" join nuke ban talks

MEXICO CITY — Latin American countries called on all UN member states to "actively" join talks for a treaty outlawing nuclear arms when they met on Tuesday to mark the 50th anniversary of a regional nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty.

The call was enshrined in a declaration adopted at a meeting in Mexico City of parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which opened for signature in February 1967 and established the following year a nuclear-weapon-free zone that grew to cover all 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the gathering, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto said the Treaty of Tlatelolco has been the most powerful and vital contributor to the maintenance of peace and stability in the world.

The meeting came just ahead of the start of a UN conference in March to negotiate a first-ever treaty to ban nuclear weapons, with nuclear and non-nuclear weapons states still divided over the issue.

Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto (C) speaks during a conference of parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco in Mexico City on 14 February, 2017, to mark the 50th anniversary of the regional nuclear-weapon-free zone treaty. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

In the declaration, Latin American and Caribbean nations slammed the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons as a violation of the UN Charter and international law and as a crime against humanity. They also said that "a world free of nuclear weapons is indispensable" for peace, security and development, while calling for "immediate action" by all UN member states to "actively participate in the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination." The declaration appears to be aimed at adding pressure on five traditional nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — in the hope they will also support the nuclear ban treaty negotiations.

Mexico has been among the countries that have strongly pursued the start of the negotiations. The UN General Assembly adopted a landmark resolution in December calling for the start of talks to prohibit nuclear weapons.

The resolution drew support from 113 countries, while 35 — including the United States, Britain, France, Russia and Japan — voted against it, with 13 countries, including China, abstaining. Japan remains vague about whether it will join the talks, reflecting its reliance on US nuclear deterrence for protection. Tokyo nonetheless professes to aspire to a nuclear-weapon-free world as the only country to have been attacked with atomic bombs.

The first round of negotiations will take place from 27 to 31 March, followed by a second round of talks from 15 June through 7 July, both in New York.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco was the world's first agreement to prohibit nuclear weapons in a populated area, a move that emerged against the backdrop of the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. It came into effect in April 1968.—*Kyodo News*

Alpha Jet trainer pilot seriously injured after ejecting himself off in northeastern Thailand

BANGKOK — A Thai air force pilot was seriously injured after he jettisoned himself from an Alpha Jet trainer plane in northeastern Thailand on Wednesday.

Air force spokesman Pongsak Semachai identified the pilot as Sukhothai Srisomsai, who was found lying on open ground in Loei province, about 520 kilometres northeast of Bangkok. Local villagers scrambled to send the injured pilot to hospital.

Sukhothai, who was flying as the second pilot, instantly ejected himself from the two-seater Alpha Jet plane as he was helping the first pilot, identified as Flying Officer Puri Chulapallop, with a flying exercise aboard the French/German-built trainer aircraft.

However, the trainee pilot stayed aboard and managed to fly the Alpha Jet plane safely back to Air Wing 23 in Udorn Thani province, where both air force officers are based, according to the air force spokesman.

Air force officers at the northeastern air wing are yet to investigate the possible cause which immediately made the trainer pilot jettison himself off, Pongsak said.

Last month, an air force pilot was killed when a JAS-39 Gripen jet fighter crashlanded at Hat Yai airport in southern Thailand during an air show watched by hundreds of children on the National Children's Day.

The pilot, identified as Dilokrit Pathavi, did not jettison himself from the Swedish-made fighter which had immediately swooped down seconds before the crash.—*Xinhua*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC JAVA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC JAVA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV IUA VOY. NO (1614)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IUA VOY. NO (1614) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV X PRESS YAMUNA VOY. NO (006)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV X PRESS YAMUNA VOY. NO (006) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Russia tells White House it will not return Crimea to Ukraine

MOSCOW — Russia said on Wednesday it would not hand back Crimea to Ukraine or discuss the matter with foreign partners after the White House said US President Donald Trump expected the annexed Black Sea peninsula to be returned.

Moscow says an overwhelming majority of Crimeans voted to become part of Russia in a 2014 referendum wanting protection from what the Kremlin cast as an illegal coup in Kiev.

Ukraine says the referendum was a sham held at gunpoint after Russian troops illegally annexed the peninsula, that Russia-friendly president Viktor Yanukovych was ousted by people power, and that Moscow should return Crimea.

The Rostov-On-Don submarine sails past the guided missile cruiser Moskva during the Navy Day celebrations in Sevastopol, Crimea on 31 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We don't give back our own territory. Crimea is territory belonging to the Russian Federation," Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, told a news briefing on Wednesday.

The 2014 annexation prompted the United States and the European Union to impose sanctions on Russia, plunging Western relations with the Kremlin to their worst level since the Cold War.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said on Tuesday that Trump expected and wanted to get along with Russia, but was expecting Moscow to hand Crimea back.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, when asked about Spicer's comments, said President Vladimir Putin had already explained why Crimeans had turned to Russia.

"The theme of returning Crimea will not be discussed ... Russia does not discuss its territorial integrity with foreign partners," Peskov told a conference call with reporters.

Trump had not raised the Crimean issue in a 28 January phone call with Putin, Peskov noted, saying the Kremlin would try to make contacts with the Trump administration to try to improve ties which he said were in "a lamentable state."

Vyacheslav Volodin, speaker of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, told MPs any talk of Crimea's status amounted to a challenge to Russia's territorial integrity.

Volodin, a close Putin ally, told the Interfax news agency Trump had promised in his election campaign to work to improve relations with Russia.

"Let's wait for some first-hand words from the US president," said Volodin.

"When people get elected by voters it's not merely for warm words and the ability to speak, but for concrete promises ... that will be fulfilled."—*Reuters*

France's Fillon under renewed fire ahead of Sarkozy talks

PARIS — France's scandal-hit presidential candidate Francois Fillon came under renewed attack from within his conservative camp on Wednesday ahead of planned talks with former president Nicolas Sarkozy that Fillon hopes will restore party unity. Rebel conservative lawmaker Georges Fenech said his The Republicans party faced defeat in the April-May election unless it ditched Fillon.

Fenech has been one of the strongest anti-Fillon voices since an official inquiry into fake work allegations knocked the ex-prime minister's campaign off track three weeks ago.

"I'd love to be wrong but I can't believe any more because I can see on the ground the reaction of the voters. They don't want to vote for us any more," Fenech told Radio Classique. He was speaking a day after leading a failed bid to force a meeting of the party's executive that could have challenged Fillon's decision to continue his presidential bid. Fenech referred to a meeting this week between Fillon and his camp as one of "mutual congratulation" in which "nobody wants to tell him the truth — or very few people".

Francois Fillon, former French prime minister, member of The Republicans political party and 2017 presidential candidate of the French centre-right, attends a political rally in Saint-Pierre as he campaigns on the French Indian Ocean island of the Reunion on 12 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"With that as a starting point we are going to the wall," he said. "There are other people in our party who are respectable, young and have the capacity to run the country." Fillon had been favourite to win the presidency until allegations in a newspaper three weeks ago that his wife Penelope had been paid hundreds of thousands of euros in taxpayers' money for work she may not have done. An official inquiry has been launched and the scandal has damaged Fillon's campaign. With 10 weeks to go until the presidential election, Fillon's place as favourite has been taken by centrist Emmanuel Macron, while far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen has also gained ground.

Fillon was due to have a lunch meeting later on Wednesday with Sarkozy, whom he beat to the party ticket in a primary in November. Fillon served as prime minister during the Sarkozy presidency of 2007-2012. An opinion poll published on Wednesday by Ifop-Fiducial for Paris Match showed Fillon's popularity has dropped sharply, with only 26 per cent of people having a good opinion of him compared with 45 per cent a month ago.

The same poll had Macron down by one percentage point at 52 per cent and Le Pen was down two points at 31 per cent.—*Reuters*

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EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) DATE & TIME	- (24-2-2017) (12;00) Noon (27-2-2017) (13;00) After Noon
(b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME	- TEAK LOGS ABOUT (909) TONS - TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT(305)TONS HARD WOOD LOGS - PADAUK ABOUT (17) TONS - PYINKADO / KANYIN / HTAUKKYANT ABOUT (7990)TONS
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OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this invitation to quotations is issued.

DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Ref No	Description of Goods or Services	Quantity	Units
G.52	Copying Movies and Video Part one and two for 47 TOWNSHIPS and REGIONAL OFFICES 2016-2017	31000	Pieces
G.58	Tile Stones Plaques for 47 TOWNSHIPS and REGIONAL OFFICES 2016-2017	14317	Pieces

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below and clearly indicate one or more of the Reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ).Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest the dead line of after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in 2(two) separate contract. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit Expression of Interest and Sealed Quotations to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw.

For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com

For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

2017 MTV Europe Music Awards to be held in 'musical epicenter' London

LONDON—The MTV Europe Music Awards will take place in London this year, more than 20 years since the ceremony was last held in the British capital, channel MTV said on Tuesday.

The awards show is hosted in a different European city each year. Last year's edition took place in Rotterdam.

"London is arguably the world's musical epicenter," David Lynn, chief executive of MTV's parent company Viacom International Media Networks, said in a statement.

"The (awards ceremony) creates an incredible buzz wherever it lands it; that will be amplified tenfold in London."

The awards show was last held in London in 1996. The 2017 edition will take place in November.—*Reuters*

Bruno Mars performs on stage at the 2016 MTV Europe Music Awards at the Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on 6 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Syrian films bring tears and smiles to Berlin Film Festival

BERLIN — One drops you, trapped and powerless, in the middle of a civil war, while the other uses humour to depict what's it like to start a new life in Europe after escaping the same conflict.

"Insyriated" and "The Other Side of Hope" are two films about Syria, and they brought tears and smiles to the Berlin Film Festival.

The former is shot almost entirely inside the walls of an apartment that becomes like a prison for Oum Yazan, a mother determined to survive a war whose brutality is conveyed mostly through the sounds of bombs and sniper gunfire.

"It shocked people in a very smart way. Westerners saw enough images of destruction on their television screens. But few of them know what Syrians are going through or how they feel being trapped in there," Iraqi film critic Kais Kasim said.

The film forces viewers to ask themselves how they would act in the same situation.

Belgian director Philippe Van Leeuw said the silence that followed the screening as well as seeing some of his actors and members of the audience in tears at the end made him think: "Mission accomplished."

"It is hard for me to say I was happy when I saw the film for the first time with the audience," said actress Hiam Abbass, who plays Oum Yazan.

"It brought people close to the Syrian people," she said, adding that she had no idea the film would leave people speechless.

"The Other Side of Hope" by Finnish director Aki Kaurismaki uses humor to depicts the experiences in Helsinki of stowaway Syrian asylum seeker Khaled, who decides to remain in the country illegally after his application is rejected.

Director Aki Kaurismaki arrives for the screening of the movie 'The Other Side of Hope' at the 67th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on 14 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

His fate is to meet the main character in the second story of the film, Finnish salesman Wikstrom, who buys a restaurant in the capital where he gives Khaled a job and a bed. Wikstrom and the other Finns in the film are burlesque characters, the source of most of the light-hearted humor that almost obscures Khaled's ordeal: most of his family died in a bomb in Aleppo and he lost his sister shortly after they arrived in Europe from Turkey.

"It uses comedy to convey tragedy," said film critic Kasim. "It blends the critical with the caricature, leaving people with the question: do we laugh or do we cry?"—*Reuters*

Recovering from memory loss, Kanye West focuses on fashion comeback

NEW YORK — Two months after being hospitalized for exhaustion and still recovering from memory loss, Kanye West is expected to make his first major public appearance at New York Fashion Week, his producer revealed.

West, who was hospitalized after abruptly canceling the remainder of his "Pablo" tour following a week of curtailed concerts and rants about politics, is expected to be at Wednesday's New York presentation of his latest Yeezy collection of high-end athleisure wear for sports brand Adidas.

Music producer Malik Yusef said he has visited with the rapper recently and that West was focused on his recovery and spending time with his two young children with wife, reality star Kim Kardashian.

"His memory's coming back," said Yusef, who worked with West on "The Life of Pablo" album that was nominated for eight Grammy awards.

Yusef's remarks to celebrity news outlet PopSugar at Sunday's Grammy awards were the first details of West's recovery after his sudden hospitalization in November for what was first said to be exhaustion.

Representatives for the 39-year-old rapper did not offer any explanation for West's 10-day hospitalization last year and did not return requests for comment on Tuesday on the remarks about memory loss.

The fashion event is likely to be a family affair for West. Kim Kardashian posted on social media on Tuesday that she was on her way to New York.

Both Kim and Kanye were a no-show at the Grammy Awards. Kardashian's mother, Kris Jenner, told celebrity outlet E! that West did not attend the Grammys because he was working on his fashion presentation.

"He's got a lot of work to do," Jenner said.

People Magazine, citing unnamed sources, said Kardashian was worried that the fashion show would cause West undue stress.

West's previous collections have often been a spectacle and are a popular stop during the New York Fashion Week celebrations. Yeezy collections have regularly sold out.

A year ago, more than 20 million viewers watched online as the rapper debuted his "Pablo" album at Manhattan's Madison Square Garden alongside the presentation of his Yeezy season 4 collection, which featured a diverse group of models dressed in leotards, tops, leggings and parkas in neutral tones.

West has kept a low public profile in recent months, although he did meet with then President-elect Donald Trump in New York in January and posed for photos afterward. —*Reuters*

Kanye West on stage during the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, US, on 28 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Justin Timberlake finds his music explicit for son

LONDON — Signer Justin Timberlake says he can't let his 22-month-old son Silas listen to all his songs as some of them are explicit.

"I can't play Silas a lot of my music yet because it is explicit," Timberlake said.

The singer recalled how he called a parent "terrible" as he let his kid listen to "Sexy Back," reported Digital Spy.

"I had a parent come up to me a couple of years ago and say, my eight-year-old loves SexyBack, and I was like: Youre a terrible parent! SexyBack is not meant for your eight-year-old. You should feel bad about yourself!" the 36-year-old singer said.

One song Silas is allowed to listen to, however, is Timberlakes recent hit "Can't Stop The Feeling".—*PTI*

Asleep in Jesus
Dr. Harry Immanuel Aaron Zaw-Tun
(98 years)

March 25, 1919 – February 6, 2017

Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta,

Former Professor and Head of the Anatomy Department at Rangoon Medical College.

Beloved husband of Dr. Khin Khin Tway, father of Thi Thi Finkemeyer (Harald), Ni Ni (Gerald Prosper), Gordon Zaw-Tun, Yi Yi Datar (Sunil), Aung Zaw-Tun (Teresa), Naing Zaw-Tun (Rebecca), 14 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Passed away peacefully at Edmonton, Alberta. In keeping with his great interest in the study of anatomy, it was his wish that his body be donated to the Anatomy department at the University of Alberta.

Rock singer Debbie Harry crowned Style Icon at Elle Style Awards

Debbie Harry poses on the red carpet a the Billboard Magazine's 11th annual Women in Music luncheon in New York on 9 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Debbie Harry, frontwoman of rock band Blondie, was crowned a fashion icon at London's Elle Style Awards, and she thanked her punk influences for defining her style.

"Coming from the punk point of view, which was very deconstructionist, destructive, and disrespectful, you have to find something in yourself that makes you feel a lot of different ways," she told Reuters at the red carpet event late Monday.

"So you have to feel beautiful, you have to feel comfortable. I have to feel sexy." Harry, who attended the event with Blondie co-founder Chris Stein, playfully wore a crown designed by Vivienne Westwood, while posing for photographers. Harry also wore a Westwood red suit with a black-and-white shirt and shoes.

Blondie, an American punk band famous for hits like "Heart of Glass" and "Call Me" in the late 1970s and early 1980s, is expected to release their 11th studio album, "Pollinator", in May. "It's about the ongoing circle of culture and how we all feed off of each other and I think at this particular time...it's very important to remember that. That we're all so deeply connected," Harry said about the new album. British actress and United Nations Women Global Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson was given the Woman of the Year award in recognition of her acting career and work for gender equality.

Other winners included French singer-songwriter Christine and the Queens, who won Album of the Year, and Christopher Bailey took home British Brand of the Year for Burberry. Erdem Moralioglu won British Designer of the Year.—*Reuters*

Couples marry on Valentine's Day atop a New York City landmark

Krista Owens (L) and Danielle Reno smile after exchanging their vows at their Valentine's Day wedding ceremony on top of the Empire State Building in New York US, on 14 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Love was in the air atop the Empire State Building on Tuesday as two couples got married and one couple renewed their vows on Valentine's Day, the only day of the year when marriages are permitted at the iconic New York City skyscraper.

In back-to-back ceremonies, the couples wed outside on a cold winter day on the 86th floor observation deck, with the Manhattan skyline as a backdrop.

The couples entered an essay contest on why they wanted to be married at the 102-story landmark.

The ceremonies were small, with family and a small group of friends in attendance.

Krista Owens and Danielle Reno thought it made perfect sense to get married at the iconic spot.

"I'm an NYPD officer and I protect the city of New York," Owens said with confidence.

Owens and Reno began as friends nearly a decade ago and years later fell in love at the entertainment and restaurant chain Dave and Buster's.

"We just connected; it wasn't really a conversation," Owens said about the moment she and Reno, now dressed in a floor-length wedding gown, realized that they were meant to be.

Roetta Collins and Patrick Smith met on a dating website and have been together for three years.

Collins said Smith first caught her eye because his profile picture was of him standing in front of a store window display with a big red heart.

For Laura and David DeMusz, their ceremony at the Empire State Building was a chance to renew vows they took 19 years ago.

They fell in love when they were 15 years old.

What is the secret to their long and happy marriage?

"A lot of patience, being kind, listening and having confidence in your partner," Laura DeMusz said. "When people make a commitment, they need to stay in that commitment."

A total of 14 lucky couples were chosen for their big day at the Empire State Building, the city's third-tallest building after One World Trade Center and 432 Park Avenue.

Lights atop the Empire State Building will sparkle red and pink at night to mark the Valentine's Day occasion.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(16-2-2017 07:00am ~ 17-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Herbal Medicine By Thurein (Ta Bin Dine Mya Nan)(Vitis)
07:56	Am	Dances of Myanmar (Pre Kayaw Traditional Dance)
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part - II)
08:48	Am	Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products of Myanmar — Stone of The Heavens
09:51	Am	Kindhearted Pet Lovers
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	…..Changes
10:41	Am	Kambawzathardi Golden Palace — A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
07:45	Pm	Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing
08:44	Pm	A Life In The Ring

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

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

While other designers demur, Herrera offers to dress first lady

NEW YORK — Fashion designer Carolina Herrera, who has dressed five first ladies and made first daughter Ivanka Trump's inaugural ball gown, on Monday said she would happily dress the US first lady.

"I don't have a problem dressing the first lady of this country, whoever it is," Herrera told Reuters without mentioning Melania Trump by name, when asked at the debut of her fall 2017 collection if she would design for her. "I think it's out of respect for the United States," said the Venezuelan-born designer.

The fashion world has been divided on the issue after some couturiers including Tom Ford and Sophie Theallet said they would not work with Trump. Herrera created clothes for former first ladies Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Michelle Obama among others. Trump's inaugural ball gown was designed by former Herrera creative director Herve Pierre. Herrera, whose designs are popular with Manhattan socialites, filed a December lawsuit against the Oscar de la Renta fashion house in a dispute over the departure of another creative talent.—*Reuters*

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Thursday, 16 February 2017

Barca's Busquets blames tactics, fitness for Paris nightmare

PARIS — Barcelona midfielder Sergio Busquets has criticised their tactical and physical frailties after a 4-0 thrashing at Paris St Germain in the last 16 left them on the brink of their earliest Champions League exit in a decade.

The five-times European champions were crushed in every aspect of the first-leg clash by Unai Emery's side, suffering their heaviest defeat in Europe since 2013 and under coach Luis Enrique, who appeared ruffled in front of the media.

"They (PSG) played much better than us and they overwhelmed us physically," Busquets told Catalan television network TV3.

"They pressed us harder, they were much better tactically than us, they had a plan and executed it how they wanted to and they were the better team".

The midfielder also appeared to criticise the team's preparation for the game, adding: "We expected something else but that's what can happen. We hope to be able to turn things around at the Nou Camp but I can't lie, it's very difficult." Luis Enrique cut an uneasy figure in an interview with TV3 which he cut short, saying: "Stop looking for more reasons. This is my responsibility and I hope you use the same tone now we have lost as when we win."

In his news conference, Luis Enrique said his side were utterly outplayed although he rejected suggestions he had not prepared his players properly for the high pressing game PSG carried out to perfection.

"We weren't surprised at all, we had spoken about their pressing before the game but that doesn't mean you can overcome it. We lost so many individual duels. PSG played as we expected and played at their best and we did not," he said.

"It's pretty simple. Our opponents were better than us with and without the ball. They won battles, they were more effective and the result clearly reflects what happened. I don't think I have to give a huge explanation to Barca fans."

Luis Enrique gave midfielder Andres Iniesta his first start for a month after his recovery from an ankle injury alongside Busquets who had also only recently returned from a layoff while Gerard Pique had just come back after a muscle injury.

"We had players that had just recovered but I don't want to individualise, now is not the time. I have every confidence in my players, it's time to talk about coaches and I assume full responsibility for this as always," added Luis Enrique.

"The players are the same ones that have won on other days."—*Reuters*

Barcelona's Sergio Busquets in action with Paris Saint-Germain's Adrien Rabiot during the UEFA Champions League Round of 16 First Leg match between the Paris St Germain and Barcelona at Parc Des Princes in Paris, France on 14 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Southgate implores England to learn from rugby counterparts

LONDON — England's soccer team need to develop and maintain the same ruthless winning mentality as the country's rugby team, manager Gareth Southgate has said.

The England rugby team are in the midst of an unprecedented run of success under Eddie Jones, who replaced Stuart Lancaster following their early exit in the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

"It's clear they don't believe they can be beaten. That plays a huge role," Southgate told British media after Jones' side scored a late converted try to beat Wales 21-16 in Cardiff last Saturday to extend their winning streak to 16 games. "You get a sense of the culture that's there. One of the things I was interested in was that culture," added Southgate, who has been given a similar task to revive the England soccer team after they crashed out of Euro 2016.

"How are they working? How do they deliver? Because that's what we are trying to take into the England team: how do we create an environment that will bring the best out of the players?

"Confidence plays a part. As a coach you're working out how to challenge at every moment. That said, the challenge should also come from the players themselves. Ownership of what they are doing is really important."—*Reuters*

'Professional' Martial impresses Ibrahimovic at Man United

LONDON — Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has heaped praise on team mate Anthony Martial for the professional and mature manner in which the forward has responded to recent criticism from manager Jose Mourinho.

The Portuguese has often singled out Martial following lacklustre displays this campaign but the young Frenchman impressed by scoring one goal and setting up the other in a 2-0 league win over Watford on Saturday.

"When he plays, he is playing well. He isn't a guy that speaks a lot, he is quiet and very professional. He always tries to do his best, trains hard and that is paying off, just like in this match," Ibrahimovic told British media.

Despite making an immediate impact following his high-profile transfer from Monaco in 2015, the 21-year-old Martial has found himself on the fringes of the first team this season, having made just 10 league starts under Mourinho.

"I think it depends on every individual and what kind of person they are and their approach, how open he is. It is different for every person," Ibrahimovic added.

"He is not going around with his head down. He is training hard, he gives a lot of energy and he wants to play, which is normal."

United host French side St Etienne in the first leg of their round-of-32 Europa League clash on Thursday.—*Reuters*

Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sharapova deserves second chance, says Becker

MONACO — Boris Becker believes Maria Sharapova has paid her dues and deserves a second chance when she returns to tennis in April at the end of her 15-month doping ban.

Sharapova, a five-times grand slam champion, failed a dope test for the drug meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open and was suspended for two years by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

The Russian's ban was then cut by nine months by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) last October, meaning the Russian is free to return from 26 April.

Becker, a three-times Wimbledon champion, said it was right that Sharapova was allowed to return to the sport and hopes her comeback will not cause problems in the locker room.

"In principal I am all for a second chance," Becker told Reuters at the Laureus World Sports Awards in Monaco.

"She (Sharapova) paid her dues, she was suspended for quite a long time. I don't know about the reaction of the other players, it's up to them.

"Everyone has their own choice. Hopefully the atmosphere (inside the locker room) will be good. We can move on and have good women's champions."

Sharapova, 29, had called the ITF's original ruling "unfairly harsh" because she had not intentionally violated anti-doping rules.

Meldonium was added to the World Anti-Doping Agency list of banned substances only at the start of 2016 after mounting evidence it boosted blood flow and enhanced performance.—*Reuters*

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