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Chief Minister: Yangon bus line will meet international standards by 2018

Ko Moe

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said the Yangon Bus Service system will be upgraded to an international standard by the beginning of next year.

"The regional government is working on upgrading the system after a new city bus system was changed. We will have a system similar to what is being practiced internationally by January 2018," he said at a press conference yesterday in the Yangon Region Government Office.

As a part of the upgrade, old city buses were replaced with modern vehicles, with GPS systems to be installed that will be operated by the Control Centre. Also, a prepaid card payment system will be practiced. All the buses will also be installed with CCTV.

The government is now bidding a tender to upgrade bus stops, according to the Yangon Region Bus Supervisory Authority.

"We are behind when compared to other countries. We see it as an opportunity to change the city bus system by getting the latest technology. In the card payment system, one card can be used in buses, trains, water transport and purchasing," said U Phyo Min Thein.

The government is now assessing the YBS system for three months and will change to a public bus service in 2017.

"We all know how we will benefit from the bus service, as the demand is so high. I warn the bus owners who breach the rules, they could be terminated," he warned.

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Photo taken on 6 February shows passengers crowding into a YBS bus during rush hour. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President

Notification 23/2017
16th February 2017

Formation of National Committee for Designating Minimum Wage

1. To designate a minimum wage for workers in accordance with Sub-section (A) under Section-3 of the 2013 Minimum Wage Law, the National Committee for Designating Minimum Wage" is formed with the following persons:

(A) U Thein Swe — Chairman
Union Minister
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

(B) U Hla Kyaw — Vice-Chairman (1)
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

(C) U Myo Aung — Vice-Chairman (2)
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

(D) Dr Khin Zaw — Member
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

(E) U Win Khant — Member
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Transport and Communications

(F) U Tun Tun Naing — Member
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Planning and Finance

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5 million euro loan, tax bill discussed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Thura Zaw, Aung Ye Twin, Naing Naing Win

BORROWING 5 million euros from Germany for the Myanmar Diesel Locomotive Factory (Ywartaung) and a Draft Law on the tax bill were the main issues discussed at the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 4th regular session 7th day meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

U Thant Sin Maung, the Union Minister for Transport and Communications, and Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win of the Planning and Finance Ministry presented the President's project to develop the Myanmar Diesel Locomotive Factory in Ywataung with 5 million euros borrowed from German KFW Development Bank.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that Hluttaw representatives wanting to discuss the loan could register their names.

Afterwards, the Drafted 2017 National Tax Law was discussed by Dr Aung Khin of PyinOoLwin constituency, Daw Ei Ei Pyone of Ayeyarwaddy constituency (8), U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency, U Myo Win of Mon constituency (8), U Zone Hlyan Htan of Chin constituency (4), Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency, Dr. Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency, U Win Htut of Pyapon constituency and Daw Wint War Tun of Shartaw constituency.

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5 million euro loan, tax bill discussed ...

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Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency presented reports of foreign exports of raw jade, rubies, sapphires, diamonds, and raw emeralds that are taxed at 15 per cent and 10 per cent under the special trade tax sub code (B). She further stated that increased taxes on raw gems promotes production on high-value merchandise, and income tax on sales of gold products should be modified to 5 per cent, and as the trade tax is paid by the consumer the tax rate on gold merchandise should be reduced from 3 per cent to 1 per cent, since tax has to paid by every citizen from birth till death a explanation is needed on why tax is reduced on gold merchandise purchased for decorative purposes resulting from a wealthy income.

Presented were findings that the Ministry of Planning and Finance could improve the stock market by removing or lowering income taxes on public companies listed in the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX). Though capital and development are needed on the stock market, exemption or lowering of income on listed public companies should not be approved, respective companies wishing to receive exemptions should submit proposals. The calculated income from tax and GDP in the 2016-2017 fiscal year is 8.03 per cent and is predicted to be the lowest in the ASEAN region. Therefore, meeting the annual income tax quota, receiving expected income taxes by the government, and receiving full income tax according to regulations placed on taxes should be prioritised.

The importance of disseminating information on how taxpayer's money is being used to support the country so that citizens shall responsibly pay their taxes and the importance of responsibly in utilising the leveraged taxes in providing good-quality services to the citizens were also discussed.

Dr. Thet Thet Khine of Dagon constituency presented findings that, while from a superficial look rewarding responsible taxpayers and civil workers may seem fair, closer inspection reveals this may create inequality between ministries and that the Union Government has assigned nine ministries to manage the 30 types of income taxes in the country. While a system of reward based on good performance is welcome among civil workers, this should be discussed and approved by all ministries concerned through a separate procedure, he said.

The annual national tax law should not be drafted inconsistently but a specific timeframe should be designated, and under Section 38 of the drafted tax law, Special trade code (22) sub code C, failure to pay tax will incur a penalty. And the system of rewarding 20 per cent of the penalty to the informant and 30 per cent to the prosecutor is the same as considering taxpayers as criminals and handing over the significant procedure of the tax committee's task of examining to the taxpayers, reversing the progress of the current tax system. All laws drafted with good intentions should be carefully analysed and paired with practical procedures for its citizens, therefore the drafted special trade law should be reconsidered, Dr. Thet Thet Khine said.

U Win Htut of Phyapon constituency presented findings showing that the draft law committee's amendment on the taxation of cigars – if sold for Ks10 will be levied 50pyars, if sold for Ks11 will levied Ks1, while compared to selling prices in external market the tax rate is only 5 per cent, therefore it is submitted that on the taxation of cigars – if sold for Ks10 will be levied Ks1, if sold for Ks11 will levied Ks2, because while cigars and cigarettes are termed as health risks they are nevertheless an important special trade merchandise and therefore as a compromise the taxation rate on cigars and cigarettes should be raised, he said.

The draft tax law submittals by the Pyidaungsu Draft Law Committee and discussions between Hluttaw representatives and other Pyidaungsu committees will be continued in the next Hluttaw Meeting, announced the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

The 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th regular session holds its 8th day meeting on February 20.

Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Mr. Hassan bin Mohamed Rafei Al-Emadi in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Qatar Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Htuttaw's Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues, Thura U Shwe Mann received yesterday H.E Mr Hassan bin Mohamed Rafei Al Emadi, the Qatar ambassador to Myanmar at Htuttaw's Hall 1-11 in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the talk, they exchanged views on matters related to the Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues and the relationship between the two countries and their stability, peacefulness and development.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Drug suspect eludes police pursuit and gunfire in northern Yangon

Zaw Gyi (PaNiTa)

A fugitive charged with drug counts and robbery fled a police search force Thursday in Yangon City's Northern New Dagon Township. Police fired shots at the escaping suspect but missed. The suspect remains at large and continues to be actively pursued by police, according to reports by Yangon Region Police Force.

"The suspect rammed into the police expedition's cars and fled, resulting in an armed chase by the police. The police are searching into the suspect's possible hiding places," reported an official from the township's police department.

On Thursday at about 5:25pm, the Yangon Region Head Police Force, Administration Company Criminal Investigation Squadron received news that Nagarlay, also known as Aung Naing Myint, 34, son of U Win Naing of Northern New Dagon Township would be arriving with a grey Mitsubishi Pajero at a car workshop on Hlawga Street in Ward (20) in Northern New Dagon Township. Upon seeing police, the suspect rammed his vehicle into a police car and fled on foot. Police opened fire, but apparently did not strike the suspect.

The grey Pajero of drug suspect before ramming into police cars. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

"I did hear what sounded like three or four gunshots in the evening. We discovered half an hour later that police had come to arrest a suspect, and they did explain that shots were fired in pursuit of the fleeing criminal. I heard the suspect had fled towards the direction of Dagon Harbor. I didn't even dare go out," said a resident.

The suspect Nagarlay is still on the run. The police force is collaborating with police departments in several townships to inquire about possible hiding places of the suspect. Searches will be conducted at the city gates and police checkpoints in an effort to apprehend the suspect.

The suspect has been charged with possession of Drugs and Hypnotic Drugs Code 15/19(A)/21/ Ethic 512 by the Northern New Dagon Police Department-MaYa(Pa) 13/2016 and Penal Code 386/323/114/ Ethic 512 by Lanmadaw Police Depratment – (Pa)9/2016.

Attorney-General urges courts to resolve cases in timely manner

U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney General, addressed the 12th operational meeting where regional and state chief attorneys and judges were in attendance and said that judicial discretion given to the courts were conferred in order to allow independent judgments according to the doctrine of the separation of powers, to gear up rule of law and public trust on courts and to provide fairness to the public.

He said no one can practice their given mandate beyond to the law, and regulation, honesty and truthfulness are absolutely necessary in rendering judgment. The behavior of a judge can mirror the public trust on justice.

The Union Attorney General urged all courts to solve cases in a timely manner and in accordance with rules and regulations. Delays should be minimises to avoid backlogs, as the statistics of The Office of the Attorney General of Myanmar showed that the number of criminal and civil suits in 2016 sharply increased compared to 2015.

There were a total 364,975 criminal suits, 42,789 civil suits, 303 child cases, 32,233 urban-related cases and 134,447 traffic cases solved in 2016, though a few remained unsolved.—*GNLM*

2,000 midwives to be appointed this year

NEARLY 2,000 midwives will be appointed around the nation before the end of this fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Union Health and Sports Minister Dr Myint Htway said the ministry continues to appoint midwives in FY2016-2017 as part of its effort to fulfil the basic requirements of public healthcare, especially in rural areas. There are 12,295 midwives appointed by the ministry, who are currently offering medical care mainly to rural communities. A rural health care branch is often staffed only by a midwife. A total of 1,778 rural health branches and health departments have been established in 63,938 villages across the country.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

TV programme on government's first year to be filmed, broadcast and published

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint addresses the co-ordination meeting for broadcasting and publishing TV programme on new government's first year performance. PHOTO: MNA

A co-ordination meeting for broadcasting and publishing a programme about the performance of the new government during its first year was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

According to a report from the Myanmar News Agency, the performance and transformation during the one-year period of the Office of the President, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, the Office of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Ministries of the Union, the Office of the Union Attorney General, the Union Civil Service Board, Regions, States and Nay Pyi Taw Council will be filmed as of the last week of February and will be broadcast on TV and published in the Kyemon and Myanma Alin daily newspapers in March.

"It will reach the one-year mark since the new government has taken office. As for the government elected by the people, the new government's public-orientated performances in political, economic and social transformations and newly extended performances must be reported to the people. To inform the people about the implementations of the respective pillars and the Ministries, those of Regions and States in the one-year period and future plans to be implemented in the future for the benefit of the people, arrangements to be filmed, published and broadcast were made," said Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister, in his opening address.

At the meeting, U Myint Htwe, Director-General of Myanma Radio & Television, clarified the programmes to be filmed and broadcast, with the programmes to be described in newspapers clarified by U Kyaw Soe, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise.

Representatives from Union-level organisations, Union Ministries and those from Region and State Cabinets were present at the meeting, enquiring and discussing matters unclear and situations to be amended.

Dr Pe Myint gave advice during the discussion and then made a closing address.—*GNLM*

Tatmataw ends area clearance operations in northern Rakhine

FOLLOWING the end of area clearance operations, which had been frequently conducted after the violent attacks on the border outposts in northern Rakhine, the Tatmataw is currently cooperating with the police for continued stability and the rule of law in the area, according to a press release from the State Counsellor's Office yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Advisory Commission on Rakhine led by former UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan, the three Investigation Commissions on Maungtaw separately led by Vice-President U Myint Swe, Lt-Gen Aye Win from the Tatmadaw and Police Brig-Gen Win Tun and coordination committees for security, the rule of law and development in Rakhine State led by Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu have all been probing into the human rights allegations outlined in a recent UN report.

While the area has returned to normalcy, a committee led by Maungtaw District Commissioner U Ye Htut was formed to carry out systematic resettlement of villages destroyed by fire.

The government has delivered aid from home and abroad to both communities in conflict areas in northern Rakhine.

The Tatmataw and police force were conducting clearances as a military operations area after announcing the curfew order, following the surprise attacks on No. 1 border guard headquarter in Maungtaw, the Kotantauk police outpost and the Ngakhuya police outpost in Yathaedaung by hundreds of violent attackers in October 2016, said the press release.

In the attacks on police outposts, 67 guns, 10,930 bullets and 47 bayonets were lost and seven soldiers and 10 policemen were killed. Five soldiers, seven policemen and three civilians were injured.

During area clearance operations from 9 October, 2016 to February 9, 2017, fighting occurred between security forces and violent attackers about 20 times, according to the press release.

During the armed attacks, 69 violent attackers were killed and multiple weapons were seized. The terrorists captured and killed 13 civilians including a village leader, a librarian and a clerk and burnt down 10 houses. Five-hundred and eighty-five attackers have been arrested and some are still under investigation. Among that group 39 are facing trial for killing people, destroying public property and communicating with illegal organization.

The attackers were threatening locals to not cooperate with authorities, not to tell the truth and keep the people fearful, the statement from the State Counsellor's Office said.

The Tatmataw and security forces were trying to maintain peace, security and the rule of law in the Maungtaw Region and recently relaxed the 7pm to 6am curfew to 9pm to 5am.—*GNLM*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office

Order 2/2017
6th Waning of Tabodwe, 1378 ME
17 February, 2017

Appointment of Taninthayi Region Security and Border Affairs Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (a) (2), (b) (e) (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a) Sub-section (2) (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Zaw Lwin, Taninthayi Region Security and Border Affairs Minister, has been returned to unit to perform the original military duties and replaced with Colonel Kyaw Zeya, No 12 Tatmadaw Advanced Training School, who has been appointed as Region Security and Border Affairs Minister.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

U Ko Ko Naing appointed Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ko Ko Naing, Director-General of the Protocol Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Chief Minister: Yangon bus line will meet international standards by 2018

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Today, some city travellers still experience inconvenience in taking the bus, although the government introduced the new bus system on 16 January to reduce the heavy congestion in Yangon.

"The night buses are travelling half of the route because they need more gasoline. I have difficulties when the buses rarely go to my destination,' said Ma Nu Nu Lwin, who lives in Shwe Pyi Thar Township on the outskirts of Yangon and regularly takes No. 65 bus.

There are currently 79 bus lines operated by 3,500 buses in Yangon to transport 2.5 million people daily. After changing to a new bus system, the government received 286 complaint letters in February, mostly about the No. 6 bus line, No. 36 lines and No. 65 bus line. Two-hundred thirty-four complaint letters were received, mostly about the No. 7 bus line, No. 40 bus line and No. 41 bus line.

Pindaya Zone fee to be risen to US$5 as of next FY

AUTHORITIES plan to raise the entrance fee in Pindaya Zone from US$2 to $5 beginning next fiscal year, aiming to promote health and education status of residents.

The authorities decided to increase the admission fees to get more funding for Danu Self-administered Zone in southern Shan State, said Daw Muya Myint, deputy head of the region administrative office (Pindaya).

Profits from the entrance fee will go to the region's development funds to improve the health and education status of residents.

Entrance fees are currently being collected $2 per foreigner. International travellers will have to pay $5 admission fee starting from the coming 2017-2017 FY.

Pindaya is always crowded with visitors from home and abroad. Located in the west of the state in Taunggyi District, Pindaya is a town in southern Shan State. It is also one of the towns that host an itinerant market every fifth day.

The region is famous for its limestone caves called Pindaya Caves, where thousands of Buddha images have been consecrated for worship over the centuries. It is a popular pilgrimage site for Buddhists.—*200*

Dakkhina district court opened

DAKKHINA district court was formally opened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday by Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo.

Nay Pyi Taw council chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Mandalay region's Chief Justice U Soe Thein and Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs Committee chairman U Khin Maung Win formally cut the ribbon to open the new district court building.

Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo unveiled the signboard of the new district court building.

The Union Chief Justice and officials then inspected the new facilities. Dakkhina District Judge U Mya Htay Kyaw and Diamond City Company Chief engineer U Tin Aung presented information concerning the new building and handed over the documents related to the new building to the district judge.

The new building was designed by the Ministry of Construction. It is a two-storey reinforced concrete building that includes six courtrooms, one meeting room, a room to keep case files, two common rooms for law officers and lawyers, a witness lounge, a media room, an information counter, a room in which to accept cases and a temporary police lock-up. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Mandalay Region' Chief Justice and Chaiman of Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs Committee cut the ribbon to unveil new district court building in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Crime NEWS

A fire broke out in Bhamo township

A FIRE broke out in Hante village in Bhamo township in Kachin State at early morning 4 am.

The fire started set by overheating of a water cooler uses in lunch hall of Tatoo Monastery in Hante village. Nine fire engines together with 80 villagers including village head, township police offiers and 24 volunteer-fire fighters were trying to stop the fire and killed it in at 5 am. No casualties were reported. The fire consumed two-storey building, a lunch hall and three apartments near the monastery.—*Bhamo (IPRD)*

Fire destroyed the lunch hall of Tatoo Monastery in Bhamo, Kachin State. PHOTO: BHAMO (IPRD)

7 ton of illegal logs were captured

SEVEN ton of illegal logs carried by trucks were captured at the evening of February 15 in Mong Yu township Tarchilate District in eastern Shan State.

Investigation were led by Mong Yu township administer U Kyaw Swar, Police Offier Hein Wanna Maung, officer of the department of Forestry together with witness and found two six-wheel trucks carrying 7 ton of logs between Dunnwe village and Wanahway village, near south east of police station. The case is figured out as ownerless and file a lawsuit against it.—*Mong Yu (IPRD)*

Two illegal motor vehicles confiscated in Thaton Township

POLICE confiscated two illegal motor vehicles at Kyar Pan village toll gate, Thaton township, Mon State yesterday, said Thudamar police station.

"The police, while conducting a clearance operation, arrested the vehicle owners when they failed to produce any documents related to the vehicles," said Inspector of Police Nay Myo Thant from Thudama Wady police station. The police stopped a Toyota Alphard minivan en route to Thaton from Pha-an driven by Moe Htet Arkar, 26, from Myawady town and a Toyota Wish driven by Aung Zaw Htike, 30, from Thaton town and arrested both drivers when they failed to produce the documents concerning the vehicles.

Local police have taken action against both drivers under section 8 of the export and import law.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Seed bank established in Nay Pyi Taw

A SEED bank has been established in the Agriculture Research Department, Zayyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw in 1990 with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

"The seed bank is established with the aim of maintaining sustainable Myanmar indigenous vegetable seeds, developing of agriculture sectors and ensuring of a sufficient food supply," said Dr. Daw Ohnmar Saw, a research officer.

There are 7,350 species of paddy, 2,220 species of other crops, 1,511 species of bean, 732 species of oilseed, 42 species of industrial raw crops, 175 species of vegetable and 184 species of wild wheat that have been collected in the seed bank.

The crop seeds are kept between 10 °C and -5°C in refrigerated rooms. The crop seeds can be kept for between 20 and 25 years. The seed bank will keep seeds when the seeds are expected to be able to have 90 per cent of plant capacity.

The establishment of the seed bank will benefit seed expertise, researchers, agricultural trainees and farmers and will cooperate with international seed banks.—*200*

Pone Taung-Pone Nyar area expected to be designated as ecotourism site

MEMBERS of the Pyithu Hluttaw submitted a proposal to designate the Pone Taung-Pone Nyar area in Gangaw township, Magwe region as an ecotourism site, it is learnt.

"Pone Taung-Pone Nyar area has great potential to be designated as an ecotourism site because the land is rich in biodiversity and visitors can ride elephants and watch birds of diversified species. Also, the region has fossils 40 million years old. So, the region is an attractive place for the tourists. The three ministries have to co-operate for designation of this area as an ecotourism site. I am in support of the proposal to Hluttaw to put it on record," said U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Resources and Environmental Conservation on eighth day of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's fourth regular meeting on Tuesday.

Experts from the Ministry of Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will conduct a field inspection tour of the site for designation of the area as an ecotourism site.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Measures taken to protect crops against parasites

THE agricultural department of Taungoo Township introduced the integrated crop protection system to prevent summer paddy from parasite infestation.

On 17th February, staff officer U Naing Minn Hlaing and employees from the agricultural department laid 120 cards of Naji-Oo in the paddy field of farmer U Aye Lwin. U San Lin also talked about the protection methods.—*Shwe Win (017)*

Over 30,000 students in Bago join ethnic language classes

MORE THAN 30,000 students across Bago Region are attending ethnic language courses at government schools this academic year, according to Bago Region Karen Ethnic Affairs Ministry.

A total of 34,367 learners in 28 townships join six different ethnic language and literature courses including Karen, Mon, Pa-O, Asho Chin and Shan being taught by over 1,100 ethnic teachers at almost 500 government schools.

About 200,000 Karen people, 26,000 Shan people, over 30,000 Asho Chin people, 20,000 Mon people, 26,000 Kayah people and over 20,000 Pa-O people are living in the region. U Soe Thein, Chairman of Bago Region Mon Literature and Culture Committee, said the committee already submitted a proposal to relevant authorities to allow teaching of ethnic languages to middle school students within school hours.

Currently, ethnic students are taking mother-tongue teaching outside of school hours. Bago Region government plans to support Ks1 million each to ethnic literature and culture groups in the townships before this budget year, said Daw Naw Pwe Sae, region Karen Ethnic Affairs Minister.Different literature and culture groups also conduct language classes for learners in every summer.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Winter beans and pulses sell well in Pyay

WINTER beans and pulses including Mung bean and pigeon peas are selling well in the Pyay bean market in Bago region. However, the supply of Mung beans is lower in the bean market when compared to pigeon peas. To fill this gap, neighbouring villages supplied 200 bags of Mung bean to the Pyay bean market every day. The Mandalay depot bought all available beans in the Pyay bean market.

The new pigeon pea beans were supplied to the local market starting in November. The new pigeon peas are the high-yield variety, and sold well in December and January.

But the yield of pigeon peas was lower this month. Pigeon peas fetch Ks 29,500 per basket. Over 600 bags of Mung bean were supplied every day from Paung Talai, Pauk Kaung, Pandaung and Kanma townships. The price of Mung beans declined to Ks 29,000 per basket because Yangon depots purchase every day. The price of Mung bean were stable in the local market this week. The prices of pigeon peas have also decreased in the local market because of high yield.

The lablab bean entered the market this week, but only a relatively small amount was sold. Buyers bought over 250 bags of lablab bean per day.

The price of Shwe Kyun bean fetches between Ks 29,000 and Ks 30,000 per basket, while Kannar bean fetches Ks 26,500 per basket.

The price of haricot bean sells for Ks 16,000 per basket, while the prices of green peas fetch Ks 24,000 per basket.—*Min Min*

Yangon property prices declined by 25-30% in three years

PROPERTY prices in the commercial capital Yangon declined by 25-30 per cent over the past three years and real estate agents estimate that the prices will continue to fall.

The property market had boomed over the years. Since then, room, house, land and apartment prices have skyrocketed. But in late 2014, the market declined due to low demand.

The real estate market is active again in early 2017, but prices remain low. Some land and properties worth about Ks500 million and some permit lands in Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Seikkan townships are being sold at discount prices, local property agents say. To support the development of a more robust legal structure focused on the property industry, the government enacted the Condominium Law in early 2016. The new law, for the first time, allows foreigners to legally purchase condominiums in the country. Total foreign ownership in any one project, however, is limited to 40 per cent of the total project space.—*200*

Suzuki's carry-branded Japanese minitrucks to export to Laos

SUZUKI Motor Corporation's subsidiary, Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Co., Ltd will continue to export its Carry-branded minitrucks produced at its plant in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to neighbouring Laos.

For the first time, Suzuki (Myanmar) Motor Co on Wednesday sent a new Carry minitruck to Laos by sea, planning to boost the export market based on demand from the Southeast Asian country.

This is the first step for the company to supply its product to Laos's automobile market through KP3G & Nomura Trading, an authorized distributor.

Suzuki produced over 6,000 Carry minitrucks in Myanmar between 1998 and January of this year. Suzuki's Carry is one of the more popular products in the country's small car market. The vehicle is powered by 1.0 L F10 Gasoline Engine —*200*

A worker enloads a bag of rice from a ship at a Botahtaung jetty, Yangon on 31 January 2017. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Myanmar earns over US$12 million from rice exports by sea last month

MYANMAR received over US$12 million from the export of over 40,000 tonnes of rice mainly to China, and some European countries by sea in January, according to Commerce Ministry.

The country sent 40,333 tonnes of rice worth $12.212 million to its partner buyers last month, an increase of more than 17,000 tonnes compared with December of last year, when 22,639 tonnes of rice went to foreign buyers.

From 29 January to 4 February, $3.558 million worth white rice and parboiled rice were sent to neighbouring China and EU member countries.

According to the ministry, some 750 tonnes of Emata rice went to Papua New Guinea, 3,500 tonnes to Emata rice China, 2,090 tonnes of Emata rice and 550 tonnes of Ngasein rice to Sri Lanka, 2,100 tonnes of Emata rice to Singapore, and 1,570 tonnes of Emata rice, 250 tonnes of Ngasein rice and 573 tonnes of parboiled rice to the western nations.

The export of broken rice in January decreased by 11,069 tonnes compared to the previous month. The country earned $10.884 million from the export of broken rice weighing 40,576 tonnes.

Over the first ten months, the country exported 1.15 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to foreign partners. About 1.5 million tonnes of rice and broken rice were sent to those countries in 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Myanmar continues to export rice to over 50 countries, with 70 per cent of rice goes mainly to neighbouring China, the most-populous country in the globe.—*Khine Khant*

Vietnamese firms eye investing in Myanmar

VIETNAMESE small-and medium-sized enterprises are keen to explore investing in Myanmar, according to the Công Thuong (Industry & Trade) newspaper.

Việt Nam is among the top 10 foreign investors in Myanmar, with nearly 80 businesses pouring in investment worth US$1 billion in the host country.

Major companies such as Hoàng Anh Gia Lai, Bank for Investment and Development (BIDV), and Vietel are operating in Myanmar. Myanmar's Minister of Industry and Trade Than Myint said his country has huge opportunities to attract foreign investment.

Myanmar currently enjoys the Generalised System of Preferences for exports to the EU, the US and India, he said, adding that this will benefit foreign investors in the country. The Myanmar government has launched a programme for economic development, focusing on the private sector by modernising infrastructure and promoting global integration via the ASEAN Economic Community.

To attract foreign direct investment, the government has also promulgated a new investment law and reformed the tax system in line with international practices, facilitating the granting of investment licences for overseas businesses to operate in Myanmar.

Two-way trade between Việt Nam and Myanmar reached $536 million in 2016, surpassing the yearly target of $500 million.

Việt Nam exported goods worth more than $450 million to Myanmar in the year. These were mainly iron and steel products, means of transport and equipment spare parts, while it imported rubber material, wood and forest products, farm produce and seafood.

At a meeting with Minister Than Myint in January 2017, his Vietnamese counterpart Trần Tuấn Anh said there is still plenty of room for the two countries to boost trade relations.

Both nations agreed to enhance trade promotion activities and make use of the East-West economic corridor to facilitate bilateral trade and reduce transportation costs.

They also agreed to maintain the meeting of the Việt Nam–Myanmar trade subcommittee, to promote the co-operation mechanism of Cambodia, Laos, Việt Nam and Myanmar, and contribute to the development of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Minister Trần Tuấn Anh proposed Myanmar help Vietnamese businesses export cement and reduce import licences applied to Vietnamese products.—*VNS*

A-bomb survivors' children sue gov't for disqualifying them from aid

HIROSHIMA — Children of Hiroshima atomic-bomb survivors sued the central government on Friday, claiming it has denied them their constitutional right to pursue happiness by failing to provide them with financial support.

In what the plaintiffs say is Japan's first lawsuit over the radiation impact on survivors' children, they are seeking a change to the financial aid programme so that so-called second-generation hibakusha can also be covered under the Atomic Bomb Survivors' Assistance Law.

Arguing that their parents' exposure to radiation from the 1945 US atomic bombing of Hiroshima has affected their own health, the plaintiffs, 22 second-generation hibakusha, are demanding that the government pay them 100,000 yen each in compensation.

The government currently provides qualified survivors with various forms of financial assistance and covers the full cost of their medical expenses. Such aid does not extend to their children.

Children of Hiroshima atomic-bomb survivors head to the Hiroshima District Court in western Japan, on 17 February, 2017, to sue the central government, claiming it has denied them their constitutional right to pursue happiness by failing to provide them with financial support. The plaintiffs say this is Japan's first lawsuit over the radiation impact on survivors' children. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The plaintiffs claim that although the government rejects the hereditary effects of the atomic bombing on the children of survivors, the possibility of such effects cannot be ruled out as some studies do recognize them.

They also claim that the government has a responsibility to qualify them for support as they are living under constant fear that they may someday develop a radiation-linked disease.

"It is a historic first step," Noboru Sakiyama, who heads a national association of second-generation hibakusha groups, said in a press conference after filing the lawsuit.

"Through the trial we will seek support for second-generation hibakusha," he said.

The Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry has declined to comment, saying it has not seen the complaint yet. A similar lawsuit is expected to be filed on Monday by the children of those who survived the US atomic bombing of Nagasaki. —*Kyodo News*

Japan to train staff if Malaysia-Singapore rail project won

KUALA LUMPUR — Japan is ready to train Malaysian and Singaporean staff involved in a high-speed railway project linking the two countries if the shinkansen bullet train system is selected for it, according to a senior Japanese diplomat.

"In addition to offering high-tech trains, indirectly we will also offer human resource development and employment opportunities for the peoples of Malaysia and Singapore," Japanese Ambassador to Malaysia Makio Miyagawa said Thursday during the launch of "Project Shinkansen Exhibition" at a department store of the Isetan Mitsukoshi retail group in Kuala Lumpur.

The exhibition, running until 9 March, will allow visitors to take a close look at the shinkansen's design, technology and history in the hope of informing the public about the Japanese railway system.

"After more than 50 years of operation in Japan, there has never been a fatal accident involving a shinkansen," Miyagawa said. "We are excited to offer Malaysians and Singaporeans the most secure transportation system advanced through the shinkansen project."

In July last year, Malaysia and Singapore signed a memorandum of understanding on the 350-kilometer railway linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

In addition to Japanese companies, firms in China, South Korea and some European countries are interested in winning the project, worth 60 billion to 65 billion ringgit ($13 billion to $14 billion). —*Kyodo News*

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India still keen to buy Westinghouse reactors despite Toshiba meltdown

NEW DELHI — India does not expect fallout from the financial meltdown at Toshiba Corp to halt plans to buy six nuclear reactors from the Japanese company's US nuclear unit Westinghouse, a senior government official told Reuters on Friday.

Toshiba this week booked a $6.3 billion charge related to huge cost overruns at Westinghouse, forcing it to put its flash-memory chip business up for sale to stay solvent and pull out of nuclear power plant construction overseas.

India has been in talks to locate half a dozen Westinghouse AP1000 reactors in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh under its drive to expand nuclear generation and wean the economy off polluting fuels like coal.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former US President Barack Obama made nuclear cooperation a cornerstone of their friendship, announcing at a summit last year that a Westinghouse deal should be finalised this June.

Sea waves hit the rocks as Kudankulam nuclear power project plant is seen in the background in Tamil Nadu in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

"As for the technical execution of the project, I do not see many problems," Sekhar Basu, secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy that reports directly to Modi, told Reuters in a short telephone interview.

Negotiations on the technical and commercial terms of the reactor deal have reached an advanced stage and India is dealing with Westinghouse — and not Toshiba — so that process is not directly affected by the Japanese company's pullback, he said.

Industry experts said that, if the project is still at all viable, the main logistical challenge would be to reallocate civil engineering work to other contractors while Westinghouse would only provide the reactors.

India has not yet signed a contract with Westinghouse, nor has cash changed hands. That means it does not face financial losses, but a delay or cancellation would make it harder to hit its already ambitious target of tripling its nuclear generating capacity by 2024.

Basu said that talks on financing had not yet begun in earnest and the state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) had yet to be updated by Westinghouse on recent developments.

"The financial dialogue has yet to open over the new situation," Basu said, adding, "I don't see much of a problem" if Westinghouse can offer a solution that ensures unit costs for power are comparable to other sources of energy.

It was not immediately clear when Westinghouse would send a team to brief the Indian side after Toshiba said on Tuesday it would send nuclear boss Daniel Roderick back to the US firm, where he was previously chief executive, to tackle the crisis there.

Westinghouse and NPCIL did not respond to requests for comment. —*Reuters*

Samsung chief Lee arrested as South Korean corruption probe deepens

SEOUL — Samsung Group chief Jay Y. Lee was arrested on Friday over his alleged role in a corruption scandal rocking the highest levels of power in South Korea, dealing a fresh blow to the technology giant and standard-bearer for Asia's fourth-largest economy.

The special prosecutor's office accuses Lee of bribing a close friend of President Park Geun-hye to gain government favours related to leadership succession at the conglomerate. It said on Friday it will indict him on charges including bribery, embezzlement, hiding assets overseas and perjury. The 48-year-old Lee, scion of the country's richest family, was taken into custody at the Seoul Detention Centre early on Friday after waiting there overnight for the decision. He was being held in a single cell with a TV and desk, a jail official said.

Lee is a suspect in an influence-peddling scandal that led parliament to impeach Park in December, a decision that if upheld by the Constitutional Court would make her the country's first democratically elected leader forced from office.

Samsung Group chief, Jay Y. Lee, leaves the Seoul Central District Court in Seoul, South Korea, on 16 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Samsung and Lee have denied wrongdoing in the case.

Prosecutors have up to 10 days to indict Lee, Samsung's third-generation leader, although they can seek an extension. After indictment, a court would be required to make its first ruling within three months.

Prosecutors plan to question Lee again on Saturday.

No decision had been made on whether Lee's arrest would be contested or whether bail would be sought, a spokeswoman for Samsung Group [SARG.UL] said.

"We will do our best to ensure that the truth is revealed in future court proceedings," the Samsung Group said in a brief statement after Lee's arrest.

The same court had rejected a request last month to arrest Lee, but prosecutors this week brought additional accusations against him.

"We acknowledge the cause and necessity of the arrest," a judge said in his ruling.

The judge rejected the prosecution's request to also arrest Samsung Electronics (005930.KS) president Park Sang-jin.

Shares in Samsung Electronics ended Friday down 0.42 per cent in a flat wider market .KS11.

Ratings agencies did not expect any impact on the flagship firm's credit ratings, and said Lee's arrest would accelerate improvements in management transparency and corporate governance.

While Lee's detention is not expected to hamper day-to-day operations at Samsung firms, which are run by professional managers, experts said it could hinder strategic decision-making at South Korea's biggest conglomerate, or chaebol.

Samsung is going through a restructuring to clear a succession path for Lee to assume control after his father was incapacitated by a heart attack in 2014.

Decisions that could be complicated by Lee's arrest include deliberations over whether to reorganize the group under a holding company structure, as well as its plan to abandon its future strategy office, a central decision-making body that came in for criticism during the scandal.

Staff moves have also been in limbo. Samsung, which employs around half a million people, has yet to announce annual personnel promotions and changes, which it typically does in December. —*Reuters*

Viet Nam beefs up efforts to prevent A/H7N9 bird flu

HANOI — Viet Nam has recorded no infections of human A/H7N9 bird flu so far, however, the country is promoting efforts to prevent the entry of virus from neighbouring China.

According to the Preventive Medicine Department under the Ministry of Health (MoH) on Friday, Viet Nam's long shared border with China and busy cross-border trade activities between the two countries pose a high risk of H7N9 virus to be transmitted into Viet Nam.

In order to prevent the disease, the MoH recommended people not use poultry or poultry products with unknown origins, and ensure food hygiene.

Vietnamese people are told to immediately notify local authorities and veterinary units if they detect any sick or dead poultry. —*Xinhua*

India may cut potash subsidy in potential blow to demand

MUMBAI — An Indian government ministry has proposed slashing potash subsidies by 17 per cent in the next financial year to reduce the fiscal deficit, officials said, a move that would hit demand in one of the world's largest importers of the fertiliser.

Although global prices have been falling, a reduction in government support in India would make potash relatively expensive for the companies that import it.

Some officials at those companies said that were the proposal to be adopted, they would seek lower prices when negotiating annual contracts with global suppliers and also raise retail prices charged to farmers, dampening demand.

Global producers including Uralkali (URKA.MM), Potash Corp of Saskatchewan (POT.TO), Agrium Inc (AGU.TO), Mosaic (MOS.N), K+S (SDFGn.DE), Arab Potash APOT.AM and Israel Chemicals (ICL.TA) have been hoping for robust demand to help counter weak prices.

Asian import prices have fallen around 10 per cent in the last 12 months.

India's fertiliser ministry has proposed fixing the potash subsidy at 7,669 rupees ($114.61) a tonne for the 2017-18 fiscal year beginning in April, down from 9,280 rupees per tonne this year, said a senior government official.

He did not wish to be identified, because he was not authorised to talk to the media.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet has to decide on the proposal, said the official, who is directly involved in the decision making process.

If India were to import 4 million tonnes of potash in 2017-18, the savings from the proposed subsidy cut would equate to almost $100 million.

Two other industry officials confirmed the plan.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers declined to comment on the proposed changes.

India relies on imports to meet its annual potash demand of about 4 million tonnes, but higher prices are expected to limit how much its 263 million farmers use.—*Reuters*

A shopkeeper speaks on his mobile phone next to a sack filled with potash for sale in Kolkata, on 17 February 2016. PHOTO: 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.

Find out to remove subversive elements around us!

Khin Maung Oo

Sexagenarians, Septuagenarians and those above this age-group in our country have all experienced various kinds of governments in the past. Accordingly, we have lived under good and evil deeds of those governments. As youths, during those days, we were undeniably happy and we did enjoy a happy and easy going life. Adults and youths who completed higher education had to join government departments and corporations to earn a living. Some joined the army, whereas some eked out their living by running private businesses. In this way, some became rich and some remained poor, but most managed to live on their meager salaries. Generally speaking, it can be said that we did not find it difficult to support our families with our small salary. It will be a ridiculous thing if we say that the least salary—82 kyats per month was sufficient for a family with 3 family members for the whole month. That was attributed to the infinitesimal inflation rate in those days. The days are gone when a frugal family with 500 kyats per month could buy one tical of gold monthly.

Power can ruin a person and absolute power can absolutely destroy him, his society and his world. On account of those who misappropriated power and authority conferred upon them, as if it were inherited property, our country had been deteriorating in every place. Bribery and corruption were everywhere on the move. People in power exercised nepotism and cronyism for their benefits, and concurrently imposed a glass-ceiling for their eternal survival. As a result, most people became morally bankrupt. Inflation rates are dreadfully skyrocketing. Crimes are increasing. We have had enough living under those kinds of governments that could not bring about any goodness for us, for our children and for our country. Being influenced by fear and anxiety, we lived for years, to be exact, since gaining our Independence, under the kind of government we deserved. Now the incomparably well-qualified and broad-minded leader who can lead us to our edifice of hope has been given to us. A good leader needs good followers. Here, a handful of good followers are not enough. All people who love truth and want to build a better society should try to become good followers, if possible. It may take time to change our society to the state we want. We should not forget that today's youths will become the leaders of tomorrow. So, they are required to equip themselves with good qualities such as integrity and good character. Our broad-minded leaders are making efforts to fulfill these needs.

Veterans mean persons who have a lot of experience in a particular area or activity. Our youths can study all they need to know from these persons. Here, I deeply want to say that youths must be careful to assess their deeds and make self-criticism. Because, some veterans are excellent in their respective fields but their deep-rooted bad habits can cause a contagious disease in the minds of our youths. It is necessary for our youths to approach veterans who have good character and good qualifications.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor often says that the government and its ministers must be always at the service of the people, and need to try to be well-qualified to lead the country and to know the requirements of the people. At the time when we are all greatly desirous of a clean government and good governance, there are some who do not wish to see peace and prosperity in Myanmar. Attackers from outside can be seen easily, but subversive elements inside are difficult to be seen. While the government is performing its responsibilities, we also must take the responsibility to watch the dangers of these subversive elements.

Citizen journalists should learn code of ethics in journalism

Tommy Pauk

Nowadays, the global people attain the tremendous benefits from the ICT. Every day events or occurrences around the world can be seen or read on the screens of T.V, smart phones and i-phones vividly. Even then, all the live TV broadcasts of some events or occasions or celebrations can be viewed by the global viewers. Due to advance technology and the noble contribution of the ordinary people, we can learn both foreign and local news on the internet and social media websites timely and freely. Actually, there are no specific codes of ethics for the citizen journalists and they are not paid to contribute to the all forms of media, showing sincere goodwill to the public who wish to learn good news or bad news both locally and internationally. In fact, they contribute voluntary service in citizen journalism. Due to the development of ICT, mass communications are much easier than before and the information can be accessed to the desired destination in the world. The citizen journalists need to win the public trust and should abide by the code of ethics in journalism indeed. There are not only news but also bank of knowledge is available on the internet. The global people heartily welcome the citizen journalists who normally reveal the true and unbiased news and information to the general public. The citizen journalists usually collect true news, valuable news items and knowledgeable information in good faith of the general public.

As for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, media freedom has been granted in the country by abolishing press censorship, permitting the publication of private daily newspapers and enacting new media law in line with international norms and practices. This reform is highly appreciated by the general public. Due to affordable prices of hand phones and sim-cards (Subscriber Identification Module), the citizens of Myanmar can share or spread information or news or messages to the fellow citizens or press or media groups. Myanmar citizens can have chances to participate in citizen journalism for the interest of the general public. They are proud to be citizen journalists or voluntary correspondents. They have goodwill intention to contribute to all sorts of media or to assist the ordinary journalists in collecting confirmed and reliable news precisely. The social media network is a huge source of collecting latest news with the related photos. The citizen journalists ought not to spread any false news or fabricated news or rumors. This can be regarded as an ethical conduct. No matter they do not know the journalism ethics precisely, they must behave nicely to the public by conveying information or updated or latest news. If they are behaving correctly and sincerely, they can be recognized as good citizen journalists. They need to contribute with the reliable news to the ordinary journalists, aiming to convey the true news to the general public timely. ICT has been introduced in Myanmar recently, but Myanmar citizen journalists are smart enough to use electronic telecommunication devices. Therefore both urban and rural people can find or see the news brought to them by citizen journalists. In fact, the social media net work has to rely on the efforts of the citizen journalists as well. Media is regarded as the fourth pillar in establishing a genuine democratic state. Myanmar citizens are already given rights to enjoy media freedom and can participate in Citizen Journalism independently. However, the way the citizen journalists write and comment on the news must be decent. They should avoid using harsh language in their writing or criticism on certain topics. Those who involved in citizen journalism must be very helpful for social media and even for the law enforcement. Recently, in Myanmar, the citizen journalists have cooperated with police forces in investigating or inquiring criminals at large. The police force requested the citizens to spot the whereabouts of criminals on face book, a social media net work. Then, the citizen journalists could have given the correct and precise information about the whereabouts of culprits. Thus, the criminals had been brought down to justice with the cooperation of citizen journalists. There was a record that the police could have arrested the culprits with the help of citizen journalists. Such praiseworthy and dutiful citizens should be honored and recognized officially. Myanmar Police force has honored and commended the citizen journalists. Nobody can ignore the work of citizen journalism as their work is beneficial to the society and community. In addition, Myanmar people are very fond of giving information and directing the way to those who are in need of such things. For example; When the strangers or foreign tourists looking for the directions to get to their desired destination, the local Myanmar people direct or show the right way to reach the right destination. This is Myanmar innate character which is always willing to help the travelers or globetrotters.

All Myanmar citizen journalists are needed to abide by the ethics of media. Normally, shoddy journalism or substandard journalism undermines the public trust. Nevertheless, the goodwill and contribution of the citizen journalists toward media or ordinary journalism must be honored and recognized as volunteers in the fourth pillar of nation building tasks. Therefore the role of citizen journalists is important as they make efforts in searching reliable news and sharing knowledge. While performing the voluntary service, they should learn ethics of journalism so that they will be awarded a greater credit by the general public.

Public Contribute Students Democracy Party presents policies and programmes

U Htay Aung, Chairman of Public Contribute Students Democracy Party.

U Htay Aung alias U Htay Hlaing, Vice Chairman of Public Contribute Students Democracy Party, presented policies, attitudes and programmes of his party on 17 February 2017, on radio and TV programmes. The translation of his presentation is given below:

Esteemed voters,

I wish all of you health and happiness. I am Vice Chairman U Htay Aung alias U Htay Hlaing of Public Contribute Students Democracy Party.

Esteemed voters,

Our party was formed on 28 April 2015. Let me present the background history of our party. Members of our party are the seasoned ones active in 1988 uprising. In accord with the Party Registration Law of 2010, they took responsibilities other parties but now they, students and people, are reorganized to form a unified party. As members of our party, people and students have also experienced a single party system, we know the feelings and emotions of the people. So, we vow to serve the interests of the people.

We are the ones who believe in the 2008 constitution, which allowed pursuit of multiparty democracy system. Therefore, we have established Public Contribute Students Democracy Party to serve the interests of the people.

As our party is formed with people and students, the logo of the party portrays a fighting peacock surrounded by 14 white stars representing the 14 states.

Normally, the colour of the fighting peacock is red, but our party's fighting peacock is white. It means good faith and being clean. In the past students had fought against the oppressive rule of foreigners with the spirit of peacock that has a nature of repulsing the enemy with perseverance, fortitude and daring spirit. According to the situation of this age, all our brothers born in the Union are engaged in the executive, legislative and judicial affairs of the country. Thus we will contribute and cooperate with them in accord with our party's cleanliness.

Esteemed voters,

We support the following activities:

(1) We support the cooperation among government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, political parties and the people.

(2) We welcome and support the meeting for national reconciliation which is the national cause.

(3) We support the request of all political parties to participate in the 21st century Panglong Conference to meet its success for national reconciliation.

Esteemed voters,

The objective of our party is for genuine democracy to flourish in a well-disciplined manner.

The policies of our party is as follows:

1. Our party believes in a political system which practices multiparty democracy system.
2. Within and without our party, we respect the fulfilment of the wish of the majority and acknowledge the desire of the minority.
3. Our party always upholds and prioritize the national cause.
4. Our party will treat all the parties based on equality.
5. Our party will cooperate with other parties whose objectives and attitudes are common with us.
6. We will compete with other parties with political goodwill.

Esteemed voters,

Our party believes in the constitution. As national cause is the priority our country of today is enjoying the essence of the 2008 constitution. In accord with the constitution, the three Hlutaws namely Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw have been formed. A government led by the president emerged and it has taken responsibilities of the State through practicing democracy.

Party Logo.

Similarly, region and state Hluttaws have emerged and the governments led by prime ministers and ministers have managed the administration based on federal system. Hluttaws make laws and executive bodies are running the routines in accord with the laws. It is safe to say that activities accomplished by region and state Hluttaws are the results of the 2008 constitution based on the federal system. Our party welcomes it.

Our party totally condemns the acts of fighting among national brethren sowing discords among them in the time of upholding the national cause of 135 groups of nationalities. Our party is the party which accepts the cause of the 135 nationalities as our party's cause. Today's situations show that the Tatmadaw, sacrificing the lives and limbs, is protecting the country for perpetuation of the sovereignty and national integrity. Our party always accepts the fact that the Tatmadaw is for the country and the people are the strength of the Tatmadaw. If there may be harmful effects on one of the 135 nationalities, our party will prevent this together with the people for non-disintegration of the national solidarity.

Esteemed voters,

Our party will contest the bye election to be held on 1 April 2017. We want to serve the people hands held together with the existing winning party. We wish to emphasize political activities in Hluttaw more than outside political activities. In this way, we can serve the people with might and main, and we want to contribute to the Hluttaw which is carrying out its works randomly. We hope wishfully the assignment to be given by the people.

Esteemed voters,

We would like to request you to seal on our untainted white peacock of good faith and cleanliness which is the symbol of our Public Contribute Students Democracy Party. Our party's little white peacock is waiting for the duty to be assigned by people with simple heart.

I would like to conclude my speech by saying "Support the white peacock" by putting a seal on it without hesitation.

May all of you health and happiness.

(Unofficial Translation)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Chairman of Nippon Foundation

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by H.E. Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation in Japan, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for National Reconciliation in Myanmar, at 10:30 am yesterday at the Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to promotion of relations and cooperation between the two armed forces of the countries, sending trainees and delegations to Japan, implementation of the Myanmar peace process and providing of assistance by the Nippon Foundation.

—Myanmar News Agency

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and a delegation led by Mr. Yohei Sasakawa pose for a documentary photo at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Formation of National Committee for Designating Minimum Wage

>> FROM PAGE 1

(G) U Yi Mon — Member
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Hotels and Tourism

(H) Daw Aye Aye Win — Member
Director-General
Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection
Ministry of Industry

(I) U Aung Naing Oo — Member
Director-General
Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration
Ministry of Planning and Finance

(J) U Aung Thwin Oo — Member
Director
Consumers Affairs Department
Ministry of Commerce

(K) U Win Zaw — Trader
Representative of labour organizations
All-Myanmar Labour Federations

(L) U Naw Aung — Member
Manufacturer
Representative of labour organisations
Myanmar Industry and Services
The Myanmar Industries Crafts and Services Trade Union Federation

(M) Daw Khaing Zar Aung — Member
Service provider
Representative of labour organizations
All Myanmar Labour Affairs Organisation

(N) U Naing Thein Aung — Member
Agricultural Business
Representative of Labour organisations
Federation of Myanmar Farmers, Agriculture Farmers and Foodstuff Labour Unions

(O) U Tin Myint — Member
Livestock Business
Representative of labour organisations
Fishermen Organisation
Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region

(P) Daw Yin Yin Win — Member
Trading
Representative of the employers
Myanmar Retailers Association

(Q) Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe — Member
Manufacturer
Representative of employers organisations
Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs' Association

(R) Daw Wah Wah Min — Member
Service Provider
Representative of employers organisations
Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association

(S) U Lu Maw Myint Maung — Member
Agricultural Business
Representative of employers organisations
Myanmar Rice Merchants Association

(T) Dr Khin Hlaing — Member
Livestock business
Representative of employers organisations
Myanmar Livestock Federation

(U) Dr Zaw Oo — Member
Myanmar Development Resource Institute

(V) Dr Than Win — Member
Director (Rtd)
Labour Relations Department

(W) U Khin Maung Nyo (Economics) — Member
Economic Research

(X) Dr Myo Myo Myint — Member
Center for Economy, Environment and Society Myanmar

(Y) Director-General — Secretary
Directorate of Labour
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

(Z) U Win Shein — Joint-Secretary
Director-General
Factories and Labour Law Inspection Department
Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

2. Duties and rights of the national committee on fixing minimum wage are as follows:

(A) For laying down national-level policies for fixing minimum wage, determine what facts these policies should be based on,

(B) fixing duties and assignments for Union Area Committee, Region or State Committees comprising representatives from government departments and organisations, representatives of employers and employees and professionals, to submit suggestions after studying, assessing and calculating carefully over research work and report for fixing minimum wage,

(C) giving instructions to the Union Area Committee, Region or State Committees in accord with the national level policies laid down concerning submission of suggestions after studying, assessing and calculating carefully over research work and report for fixing minimum wage,

(D) assessing, calculating and laying down projects and plans, after making research work and collecting data concerning facts that should be based on in fixing minimum wage,

(E) declaring proposed minimum wage rates that should be fixed in accord with the prescriptions included in the chapter 6 of Minimum Wage Law, 2013 and issuing notification after fixing minimum wage rates with the approval of the Union Government after studying and assessing the suggestions of Union Area Committee and Region or State Committee, concerning fixing minimum wage for the whole nation, Regions and States, trade and commerce businesses, production and services, agricultural and livestock breeding businesses,

(F) including and describing wages per hour, day, week, month or wages for part-time jobs according to their skills, in proposed minimum wage rates to be issued under sub-section E, after studying and assessing risks on the job,

(G) If there are objection over the proposed minimum wage rates of the national committee, ask the tripartite representatives comprising respective Union Area Committee, Region or State Committees to discuss and coordinate, and re-submit the minimum wage rates that should be fixed, to the Union government after scrutiny of the tripartite committees of the national committee for fixing minimum wage rates.

(H) Announcing revised notification with the approval of the Union Government for at least one time every two years after scrutinising in accord with changing situations after distinguishing working skills and risks on the job in sectors of trade and commerce, production and services, agriculture and livestock breeding businesses, regions,

(I) fixing duties for implementing the working process after forming working committees needed concerning fixing minimum wage and revision,

(J) holding regular and special meetings of the national committee in accord with the prescribed rules and regulations.

(K) submitting the working performances of the national committee to the State Government, occasionally,

3. Notification 91/2013 dated on 20th December 2013 issued by the Office of the President of the State is governed and abolished by this notification.

(sd) Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
(Unoffical Translation)

Humanitarian Assistance after 9/10 Attacks (October 9 Attacks) in Rakhine State
(From 27-1-2017 to 17-2-2017)

Date -17-2-2017

Sr. No.	Supporting consumer goods, household goods and business materials	Department / Organization					Total
		Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Ministry of Border Affairs	International Organizations (including WFP)	Rakhine State Government	Local Donors	
1	Cash(kyats in million)	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Rice (bag)	-	-	2169.44	-	-	2169.44
3	Dried fish (viss)	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	Motor fuel (Gal.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Cooking oil (viss)	-	-	620.765	-	-	620.765
6	Salt (viss)	-	-	181.252	-	-	181.252
7	Peas(viss)	3690	8212	1741.512	-	-	1741.512
8	Tin of fish (can)	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Variety fruit(bag)	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Biscuits (box)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	(can)	-	-	16.134	-	-	16.134
11	Onion (viss)	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Instant noodle(box)	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Clothes (bag)	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	Chili powder(pack)	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Monosodium glutamate (pack)	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Potato (bag)	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	Dried cabbage (bag)	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	Fish paste (bag)	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	Dried chili (viss)	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Egg (No.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Mosquito net (No.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Paddyharvester (No.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Generator (No.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Blended food (ton)	-	-	57.293	-	-	57.293
25	Wheat(bag)	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Tent (No.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Radio (No.)	-	3000	-	-	-	3000
28	Solar Light (Set)	-	465	-	-	-	465
29	Motor Car(No.)	-	1	-	-	-	1

Humanitarian Assistance after 9/10 Attacks (October 9 Attacks) in Rakhine State
(From 4-11-2016 to 17-2-2017)

Date – 17-2-2017

Sr. No.	Supporting consumer goods,household goods and business materials	Department / Organization					Total
		Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Ministry of Border Affairs	International Organizations (including WFP)	Rakhine State Government	Local Donors	
1	Cash(kyats in million)	146.22	-	5.355	4.95	142.909	297.474
2	Rice (bag)	3351	4569	122.70 .55	4300	2827.50	27548.5
3	Dried fish(viss)	4194	400	550	1000	1225	7669
4	Motor fuel (Gal.)	6250	-	-	9488	-	14757
5	Cooking oil (viss)	2868	8212	7985 .67	50	1994	21330.426
6	Salt (viss)	3213	8212	1417 .12	-	798	13349.332
7	Peas(viss)	6470	8212	11874 .39	1350	11109	41457.102
8	Tin of fish (can)	14880	-	-	-	-	14880
9	Variety fruit(bag)	-	-	411	-	-	411
10	Biscuits (box)	-	-	1048	-	-	1048
	(tin)			16.137			16.137
11	Onion (viss)	-	-	-	-	968	968
12	Instant noodle(box)	-	-	5579	-	80	5659
13	Clothes(bag)	-	-	71	-	3	77
14	Chili powder(pack)	-	-	-	-	322	322
15	Monosodium glutamate (pack)	-	-	-	-	142	142
16	Potato (bag)	-	-	-	-	56	56
17	Dried cabbage (bag)	-	-	-	-	3	3
18	Fish paste (bag)	-	-	-	-	12	12
19	Dried chili (viss)	-	-	-	-	165	165
20	Egg(No.)	-	-	-	-	500	500
21	Mosquito net(No.)	-	-	-	-	80	80
22	Paddy Harvester(No.)	-	-	-	30	-	30
23	Generator (No.)	-	-	-	5	-	5
24	Blended food (ton)	-	-	57.713	-	-	57.713
25	Wheat(bag)	-	-	2222	-	-	2222
26	Tent(No.)	-	-	12	-	-	12
27	Radio (No.)	-	3000	-	-	-	3000
28	Solar Light (Set)	-	465	-	-	-	465
29	Motor Car(No.)	-	1	-	-	-	1

Ridership on circular trains continues to rise

THE number of prepaid tickets for railway passengers has topped 8,000 soon after the Yangon Bus Line Service (YBS) was introduced in Yangon city, said an official from Myanma Railways.

There were only about 3,000 prepaid users per day at the beginning of the prepaid ticket system. The daily average commuters totaled 5,000 by the end of 2016. But the number of train passengers started to substantially increase in January and has reached over 8,000 in February.

"Yangon city travellers have found it not convenient to take the bus, as the YBS system was introduced without enough buses. So the travelers rely more on the circular trains," the Myanma Railways official said.—*200*

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:50	21:45	Daily
PG-706	6:00	8:15	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:30	17:25	Daily
PG-704	18:20	20:15	Daily
8M-335	7:30	9:15	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	17:45	19:15	Daily
UB-019	8:00	9:30	3,5,7
UB-019	8:55	10:25	1,6

BANGKOK TO YANGON

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-303	8:00	8:45	Daily
TG-301	13:15	14:00	Daily
TG-305	18:05	18:50	Daily
PG-701	8:45	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-336	10:15	11:00	Daily
8M-332	19:20	20:05	Daily
UB-020	10:35	11:10	3,5
UB-018	21:05	21:35	Daily
UB-020	11:30	12:05	1,6

YGN TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:20	Daily
FD-256	12:55	14:40	Daily
FD-254	17:35	19:25	Daily
FD-258	21:40	23:30	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:45	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:55	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:35	Daily
SL-207	19:45	21:45	Daily

DMK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	11:35	12:25	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:05	Daily
FD-257	20:15	21:10	Daily
DD-4234	10:30	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
DD-4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
SL-200	08:45	10:00	Daily
SL-206	17:10	18:35	Daily

YGN TO CAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-713	20;25	01:00+1	1
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ-3056	11:35	15:50	3,6
CZ-3056	17:40	22:20	1,5

CAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-714	2:05	3:40	2
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ-3055	8:40	10:35	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:40	1,5

YGN TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ-997	10:25	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,3,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	16:20	20:50	4,6
MI-533	13:35	20:50	2
3k-584	19:40	00:10	Daily
3K-582	11:35	16:05	Daily
TR-2823	9:25	13:55	1,2,4,5,7
UB-001	7:15	11:45	Daily

SIN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-232	13:45	15:15	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:30	15:30	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,3,5
MI-533	11:30	12:45	2
3K-583	17:30	19:00	Daily
3k-581	09:10	10:40	Daily
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	1,2,4,5,7
UB-002	13:00	14:30	Daily

YGN TO NRT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	22:10	06:45	Daily

NRT TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YGN TO ICN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

ICN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:30	22:30	Daily

YGN TO KUL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:10	23:30	Daily
8M-501	16:10	20:10	2
8M-501	11:45	15:45	1
MH-741	11:15	15:40	Daily
MH-743	16:00	20:15	1,4,6,7

KUL TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-504	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:20	18:30	Daily
8M-502	16:45	17:45	1
8M-502	21:10	22:10	2
MH-742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
MH-740	09:10	10:15	Daily

YGN TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:30	16:00	Daily
MU-2032	15:30	18:50	Daily
MU-2012	12:55	19:55	3

KMG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:50	11:30	Daily
MU-2031	13:50	14:30	Daily
MU-2011	08:20	11:55	3

YGN TO TPE

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:50	16:10	Daily

TPE TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

YGN TO PEK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	1,3,5,7

PEK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5,7

YGN TO HAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	Daily

HAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:40	18:10	Daily

YGN TO SGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	14:55	2,3,4,5,7

SGN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:25	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA -251	1:05	5:25	Daily
UB-8027	09:00	13:30	1,3,5,7

HKG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:50	23:45	1,3,5,7
KA-252	22:20	00:10	2,4,6
UB-8028	14:50	16:20	1,3,5,7

YGN TO DOH

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:05	11:30	1,3,4,6,7

DOH TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:10	5:20	1,3,4,6,7

YGN TO CNX

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG -724	13:40	15:35	Daily

CNX TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	12:00	12:55	Daily

YGN TO DAC

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:45	18:30	1,3,6

DAC TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-060	13:30	16:00	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:55	15:15	Daily

DMK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	11:10	12:25	Daily

MDL TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:45	20:50	2
MI-522	14:15	20:15	4,6

SIN TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-522	11:30	13:20	4,6
MI-533	11:30	14:50	2

MDL TO BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:10	16:35	Daily

BKK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

MDL TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:25	17:15	Daily

KMG TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

NYT to BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	19:50	22:50	1,3,4,5,6,7

BKK TO NYT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-721	17:20	19:20	1,3,4,5,6,7

AIRLINE CODES

8M	= Myanmar Airways International		
BG	= Biman Bangladesh Airlines		
MH	= Malaysia Airlines		
MU	= China Eastern Airlines		
NH	= All Nippon Airways		
SQ	= Singapore Airways		
PG	= Bangkok Airways		
UB	= Myanmar National Airlines		
VN	= Vietnam Airline		
3K	= Jet Star	AK	= Air Asia
AI	= Air India	CA	= Air China
CI	= China Airlines	CZ	= China Southern
DD	= Nok Airline	FD	= Air Asia
KA	= Dragonair	KE	= Korea Airlines
MI	= Silk Air	QR	= Qatar Airways
TG	= Thai Airways	TR	= Tiger Airline

DAY			
1	= Monday	4	= Thursday
2	= Tuesday	5	= Friday
3	= Wednesday	6	= Saturday
		7	= Sunday

UN must take lead in resolving Syria crisis — Gabriel

BONN, (Germany) — Countries opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, including the United States, back efforts by the United Nations to broker a political solution to the civil war in Syria, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said on Friday.

"It is clear that all who met want a political solution... and that this political solution must be achieved in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations and that there cannot be any parallel negotiations," Gabriel told reporters after a meeting that included the United States, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, France and Britain.

Gabriel said US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had played an active role in the discussions about how to end the war in Syria, which took place on the sidelines of a meeting of G20 foreign ministers.

All eyes have been on the United States and its approach to ending the violence in Syria, given promises by US President Donald Trump to build closer ties to Russia, which has supported the Syrian government under Assad.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (R), Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu (2nd R) and other diplomats listen to German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel (3rd L) speaking during a meeting on Syria at the World Conference Centre in Bonn, western Germany, on 17 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Speaking alongside Gabriel, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said Geneva would ultimately fail if Russia did not use its influence on the Syrian government and Iran to stop labelling all those opposed to Assad as "terrorists."

On Thursday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the United States supported Russian-sponsored parallel peace talks on Syria in the Kazakh capital of Astana. Those talks ended on Thursday with no joint communique and opposing Syrian groups exchanging angry tirades.

Russia proposed a series of parallel intra-Syrian negotiations in coordination with Turkey and Iran last year in Astana to reinforce a shaky ceasefire.

It has tried to expand the scope to cover political aspects, a move that has been criticised by Western and Arab states, who argue that UN efforts are the only credible track for a political solution.

The United Nations special envoy on Syria, Staffan de Mistura, is convening a new round of peace talks among Syrian factions in Geneva on 23 February after negotiations collapsed almost nine months ago.

A spokesman for de Mistura said he was still finalising who would come to the Geneva talks but there were already positive responses to invitations that had gone out. —*Reuters*

German Social Democrat candidate would beat Merkel in chancellor vote

BERLIN — Martin Schulz, the German Social Democrats' candidate for federal elections in September, would beat Chancellor Angela Merkel if balloting was based on a direct leadership vote, a poll showed on Friday.

The poll carried out by Forschungsgruppe Wahlen for broadcaster ZDF showed 49 percent of Germans wanted former European Parliament President Schulz to be their chancellor while 38 percent would prefer Merkel to stay in office.

That marks a turnaround compared with the end of January, when the same poll showed Merkel had 44 percent support compared to Schulz's 40 percent, ZDF said.

Earlier this month another poll also showed Schulz had overtaken Merkel.

The SPD, junior partner in Merkel's ruling coalition, has trailed her conservative bloc for years in opinion polls until the nomination of Schulz sparked a revival in support for the party, which last won an election under Gerhard Schroeder in 2002.

By party, the poll showed the SPD up 6 percentage points at 30 percent — its highest level of the current parliament in that survey.

New Social Democratic Party (SPD) leader Martin Schulz addresses a news conference at their party headquarters in Berlin, Germany, on 30 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Merkel's conservatives — comprising her Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU) — shed 2 points to 34 per cent.

The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) weakened by one percentage point but was in third place on 10 percent. Its fortunes have been boosted by worries about security and the integration of more than 1 million migrants who have arrived in Germany in the last two years.

The AfD was followed by the Greens on 9 per cent and the far-left Linke on 7 per cent. The pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) were on 6 per cent - enough to cross the 5-per cent threshold needed to enter parliament.

Some 30 per cent would like to see a left-leaning alliance of the SPD, Linke and Greens take power while 44 per cent were against such a coalition, the poll showed.

The survey of 1,231 people was conducted between 14 February and 16 February. —*Reuters*

Europe must not bow to US spending demands on NATO — EU's Juncker

MUNICH — European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said on Thursday that Europe must not cave in to US demands to raise military spending, arguing that development and humanitarian aid could also count as security.

US President Donald Trump has raised questions about his commitment to the NATO defence alliance if European countries do not raise defence spending to 2 per cent of economic output. The United States puts up 70 per cent of alliance funds.

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis warned North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies on Wednesday that they must honour military spending pledges to make sure the United States does not moderate its support.

"It has been the American message for many, many years. I am very much against letting ourselves be pushed into this," Juncker said in a speech on the sidelines of the international Munich Security Conference.

He said he knew that Germany would no longer have a budget surplus if it increased defence spending to 2 per cent of GDP from 1.22 per cent.

"I don't like our American friends narrowing down this concept of security to the military," he said, arguing it would be sensible to look at a "modern stability policy" made up of several components.

"If you look at what Europe is doing in defence, plus development aid, plus humanitarian aid, the comparison with the United States looks rather different. Modern politics cannot just be about raising defence spending," he said.

"Europeans must bundle their defence spending better and spend the money more efficiently," he added.—*Reuters*

Cyprus peace talks interrupted by old plebiscite row

ATHENS — Face-to-face talks between both sides of divided Cyprus broke off on Thursday, sources at the meeting said, after the Greek Cypriot parliament angered Turkish Cypriots by honouring a 1950 plebiscite seeking union with Greece.

The meeting between Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades and his Turkish Cypriot counterpart, Mustafa Akinci, ended abruptly about an hour after it started, after which a go-between had to shuttle between the two to keep the peace process on track.

"Both leaders very strongly said they are committed to this process, and nobody sees this process as over, or terminated, or suspended," said Espen Barth Eide, the United Nations special envoy who is overseeing the peace negotiations which have been ongoing for almost two years.

The talks aim to end the division of the island, for decades a source of tension between NATO allies Greece and Turkey and an obstacle to Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

Cyprus's parliament, comprised solely of Greek Cypriots, adopted a resolution on 9 February commemorating a 1950 unofficial referendum where more than 95 per cent of that community voted for "enosis", or union, with Greece.

Two men walk next to a fence dividing the Greek and Turkish Cypriots area, on the Turkish Cypriot northern part of the divided city of Nicosia, Cyprus, on 16 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The anger that caused among Turkish Cypriots reflects the historic sensitivities on the island which was split in a Turkish invasion in 1974 triggered by a brief Greek Cypriot coup by elements of the military seeking union with Greece.

The two sides gave differing accounts of what happened on Thursday.

Anastasiades said he took a short break and returned to find Akinci gone. Akinci said Anastasiades walked out, slamming the door.

"Enosis" has always been a deep source of resentment among Turkish Cypriots, and was partly the cause of inter-communal clashes in the 1960s shortly after the island gained independence from Britain.

The notion of unification with Greece has, officially at least, been abandoned as a concept for decades. The Mediterranean island has been a member state of the EU since 2004.

Last week's vote was proposed by a small nationalist party. Anastasiades's conservatives abstained and the left-wing party voted against it.—*Reuters*

Some 500 migrants cross border into Spanish enclave of Ceuta

MADRID — Around 500 sub-Saharan African migrants crossed the fenced border surrounding Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta from Morocco early on Friday, emergency services said.

Dozens of migrants, many with wounds from climbing over the 6-metre barbed wire fence, celebrated in the streets in the early hours of the day with some shouting "freedom", TV footage showed.

Police and local government officials in Ceuta were not immediately available to give further details.

The Red Cross was treating some 400 migrants at its centre there and had dispatched five ambulances to help, Ceuta's emergency service said on its Twitter page.

Spain's two enclaves in Morocco, Ceuta and Melilla, are often used as entry points into Europe for African migrants, who either climb over their border fences or try to swim along the coast.

In January, around 1,100 migrants tried to cross into Ceuta although most were eventually turned back.—*Reuters*

Scientists explore the impact of global warming on Japan's sea life

LONDON — British and Japanese scientists are conducting innovative research to discover how Japan's marine ecosystem could be affected by global warming.

They are looking into the potential side effects of rising acidity in Japan's seas caused by increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Previous studies in the Mediterranean have shown increased acidification can disrupt the growth of some sea organisms and this, in turn, could have long-term implications for the marine food chain.

Researchers are hoping their findings will inform politicians about the importance of cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Scientists believe the heating up of the world's oceans will impact on marine ecology, but less is known about a second by-product of global warming: acidification.

The world's oceans are absorbing higher levels of CO2. This dissolves into the seawater and reacts with the water to produce a weak carbonic acid.

This lowers the pH, and the ocean gradually becomes less alkaline and the level of carbonate is reduced. However, this calcium carbonate is required by organisms, such as corals and shellfish, to build skeletons and shells.

Although the oceans will never become acid and drop below pH7, some estimates suggest they have become 30 per cent more acidic since the Industrial Revolution. And if CO2 continues to be emitted at the same rate by 2100, acidity will increase by about 150 per cent.

Photo taken in 2016 shows Jason Hall-Spencer who is helping to lead a joint Anglo-Japanese research project into the effects of global warming on Japan's marine life. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

In order to examine the effects of CO2, the team has sent divers to a spot off Shimoda, Shizuoka Prefecture, where there are several underwater volcanoes that pump out CO2 from vents.

Jason Hall-Spencer, a professor of marine biology at Plymouth University who is working with a team from the University of Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, said similar studies in Europe showed the "corrosive" effects of CO2.

Around the vents at high levels of the gas, the diversity in marine organisms declines with none exhibiting the usual array of bright colors due to lower levels of carbonate in the seawater. Instead, there are fewer species and they tend to be brown or green.

In addition, corals, which can be an important component in the marine food chain, are not present around the vents because there is not enough carbonate to build their skeletons. As the diversity of plankton and organisms declines, so does the diversity of fish higher up the food chain, scientists believe. Studies have also shown that shellfish tend to get smaller at higher CO2 levels. However, some marine life actually prospers, including: seaweed, anemones, jellyfish, algae and seagrass.

Hall-Spencer said the seawater chemistry is changing in Japan, as elsewhere, but little work has been done on the effects to the biology.

Colder and deeper waters naturally have lower levels of carbonate than shallow, warmer waters (home to the tropical coral reefs, for example) so experts believe they will be impacted first as a result of increased acidification. Hall-Spencer said one of Japan's main concerns should be the possible effects on coral reefs around Okinawa in southwestern Japan where already there is some evidence to suggest the combination of warming and acidification is damaging the corals.

He said this could hurt tourism and lead to coastal erosion as the reefs act as a barrier against strong tides.

However, scientists are keen to stress the sea will remain productive for the marine industry in the future, albeit in a different way than before. Japan's seaweed harvesters may benefit from larger yields, for example.

The team is expected to publish its findings later this year but preliminary observations appear to show corals do not grow well close to the vents. Surprisingly, scientists found algae growth appears to be affected by the warming of the sea, even at high CO2 levels.

In an interview with Kyodo News, Hall-Spencer said, "I don't want to be too dramatic but I think that in the future you may see a simplification of the marine biodiversity around Japan.

"At high CO2 areas in the Mediterranean, there's a descent towards slimy organisms such as jellyfish and bacteria. But corals and the fish that rely on them are easily impacted.

"There is sufficient concern amongst Japan's marine scientists about this issue. We don't know what it's going to do to coastal livelihoods. The changes in seawater chemistry have never happened this way before."

Kazuo Inaba, director of the Shimoda Marine Research Center which is part of the University of Tsukuba, said, "I really want politicians to know about ocean acidification and what we think will happen in the future. However, it's important not to be alarmist and spread any misinformation. A lot of people in Japan rely on the fishing industry. "One of our major concerns is that increased acidification could disturb some aspects of the marine food chain and impact on fish and mollusks, for example."—*Kyodo News*

Smartphone photos of x-rays provide diagnosis as effective as original film: Aust'n study

SYDNEY — Smartphone photos of x-ray images can help medical professionals diagnose lung problems as effectively as the original films, Australian research has found.

The study, published by Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital on Friday, examined how standard films of babies suffering from a suspected collapsed lung compared to photos of the films taken on a smartphone.

Jennifer Dawson, the lead researcher of the study, said that the research would have significant implications for patients in rural Australia who would be able to be diagnosed quickly and accurately with the new method.

"The findings give doctors confidence to quickly send X-rays images to specialists based in another location, and receive a quick diagnosis, advice on treatment and recommendations to transfer babies to specialist care if needed," Dawson told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Friday. The study found that there was no difference in the accuracy of detecting collapsed lungs between the photo and the films with the smartphone images even resulting in a slightly higher rate of accurate diagnosis than the traditional films.

Doctors involved in the research focused on pneumothorax, a condition where air leaks into the space between the lung and the chest wall. Marta Thio, a consultant neonatologist, said without an x-ray, pneumothorax could easily be misdiagnosed and treated incorrectly, causing the condition to worsen."This research shows we can make a diagnosis far more quickly while maintaining accuracy, simply by using smartphone images in conjunction with speaking to the doctor," Thio said.—*Xinhua*

Storm Dineo kills at least seven people in Mozambique —government

MAPUTO — Tropical storm Dineo has killed seven people in Mozambique since it hit the eastern coast on Wednesday, the government's disaster centre said on Thursday.

The storm, has brought heavy rain and winds of up to 160 km an hour (100 mph), raising the risk of flooding and crop damage in the impoverished southern African country.

Mozambique's emergency operational centre said in a statement about 130,000 people living in the Inhambane province, 500 km north of the capital Maputo, had been affected by the storm. About 20,000 homes were destroyed by heavy rains and fierce winds.

One of the world's poorest countries and also in the throes of a financial crisis, Mozambique is prone to flooding. It is especially vulnerable after a major drought last year as soils degraded or hardened by dry spells do not easily absorb water.

"The system will pose a great risk for the next 36 to 48 hours, particularly in terms of further exceptionally heavy rainfall and resultant flooding," the South African Weather Service said in a statement.

The Mozambican government said the situation was less severe in Gaza, which has the popular resort town of Xai-Xai as its capital and is near the border with South Africa.

Government said however that it feared flooding in the area due to the torrential downpour.—*Reuters*

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Australian rock band Midnight Oil to play first world tour in 20 years

SYDNEY — Australian rock band Midnight Oil said on Friday they will play their first world tour in 20 years, vowing to continue their political activism during the six-month, fifty-show world tour.

The tour, scheduled to begin in mid-April, will take the band to 14 countries, including the United States, Canada, New Zealand and to countries in Europe and South America.

The band's frontman Peter Garrett — a former Australian government minister between 2007 and 2013 — said the group would not shy away from speaking their mind, taking a swipe at new US President Donald Trump.

"Healthy democracies sometimes need to react against craziness and ugliness and selfishness and stupidity," said Garrett.

"You've got that in ample abundance in President Trump," said the Midnight Oil frontman.

The band is no stranger to controversy.

An impromptu lunchtime protest performance in front of Exxon Mobile Corp's New York offices criticized the company for the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1990.

Australia's Environment Minister Peter Garrett performs with his band Midnight Oil during the Sound Relief bushfire benefit concert in Melbourne in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

In 2000, when playing at the official Sydney Olympics closing ceremony, the band performed while wearing clothes emblazoned with "sorry", a direct reference to the then Australian prime minister John Howard's refusal to apologize to indigenous Australians for their historic mistreatment.

In 2008, then Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd issued an apology to the country's marginalized indigenous people, which aimed to herald a new era in race relations.

Midnight Oil has released 17 albums, with sales of more than 10 million worldwide. —*Reuters*

It's important to stay real to work on true stories: Pannu

NEW DELHI — Taapsee Pannu believes that the reason her acting has been considered "natural" and "believable" so far is because she makes a "conscious effort" to stay connected to the real world.

"It's extremely important to be disconnected and stay real and get outside because if all the time you are going to live around the industry people, how are you going to know what reality is or the real people, whose story you are going to tell on the big screen," Taapsee told PTI.

"That is why it has always been a conscious effort on my part. I can count on my fingers the number of friends I have.

It's all because I really want to keep it real on screen and the fact that people find me very real and natural and believable on screen is because I'm connected to the real world," she adds.

The actress rose to prominence with her role in Neeraj Pandey's "Baby" but it was "Pink" which earned her critical acclaim in Bollywood and she says the Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury-directed thriller "was my biggest pay back to Delhi girls."

PHOTO: PTI

Taapsee, a Delhiite herself, says there has always been a big misconception about Delhi girls that they are loud, abusive and sometimes fake which is not true.

"We always have a typical notion about a Delhi girl like this is how she dresses up, very loud all the time. She always has this wannabe accent. She'll always be abusive. No, I'm a hardcore Delhi girl and I'm not ill mannered that way.

"There's always a certain kind of fierceness that comes with us because we're supposedly more street smart. We know the realities of life. We've walked the path, from DTC buses to auto walas. We have done it all," she says.—*PTI*

Book to chronicle Dream Girl's journey

NEW DELHI — Dream Girl Hema Malini's incredible journey from an actor, a danseuse and filmmaker to a politician is being chronicled in a new book which will hit stores on her 69th birthday this October.

Billed as an authorised biography, "Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl" is penned by author-columnist Ram Kamal Mukherjee.

"In an industry where the male star has always driven the commercial success of films, Hema Malini was an exception, with her name alone sufficing to ensure a film's box-office glory," publisher HarperCollins India said.

A truly multi-faceted personality, Hema Malini has been a filmmaker and producer, directing films and television serials, a Member of Parliament from Mathura, and has also performed the classical dance ballets Draupadi, Radha Krishna and Durga.

This year she will be seen in Ramesh Sippy's unusual love story "Shimla Mirch" with Rajkumar Rao.

The book will be published on her birthday on 16 October.—*PTI*

Pink Floyd's Waters, Mason hope to delight fans, honor crews in new exhibit

LONDON — Pink Floyd co-founders Roger Waters and Nick Mason hope an exhibition in May documenting the rock band's 50 years in music will give fans a sense of their live work as well as honor those who helped fulfill their artistic vision.

"The Pink Floyd Exhibition: Their Mortal Remains" opens at London's Victoria and Albert Museum in May, the same venue which previously hosted a David Bowie retrospective.

On display will be more than 350 artifacts, including letters, sketches, handwritten lyrics as well as footage of the band's live performances.

"I think what (fans) will get...is a real sense of the scale of some of the live work that we did, some of theatrics that we developed over the years," Waters told Reuters on Thursday.

"Hopefully there's personal memorabilia that people are interested in because they're interested in the history of it."

Band members Nick Mason (L) and Roger Waters. PHOTO: REUTERS

The exhibition comes 50 years since the release of Pink Floyd's first single "Arnold Layne". Known for its experimental music, the band went on enjoy worldwide acclaim, namely with "Dark Side of the Moon" and "The Wall".

"What you realize is that it's literally hundreds and hundreds of people who've worked with us as sound engineers or road crew, technicians, inventors or graphics or whatever," Mason said. "And to go 'we got through a lot of work by getting help from these people' - that's a really nice aspect of it."

Released in 1979, "The Wall" is one of the most successful albums of all time. Asked about US President Donald Trump's proposal to build a wall on the border with Mexico, Waters said: "The building of walls between nations and between religions and between races and between different groups of people with different beliefs is invariably counterproductive."

"We should be past a time when we're wanting to make enemies of the other. Unfortunately we're not."—*Reuters*

Mark Peranson (R-L), actress Kim Minhee, director Hong Sangsoo and director of photography Park Hongyeol pose during a photocall to promote the movie 'On the Beach at Night Alone' at the 67th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin, on 16 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Actress who had heart broken by filmmaker portrayed in Berlinale movie

BERLIN — A young actress flees across the world trying to get over her affair with a married movie maker - the plot of a Korean film in competition at the Berlin Film Festival whose director says is one of his most personal, if not autobiographical.

Hong Sang-soo's "On the Beach at Night Alone", which was screened at on Thursday, shows the female protagonist wandering through the parks of Hamburg, trying to make sense of her feelings, before returning to Korea where she drinks with old friends and vents her anger about men and love.

"Compared to other directors' films it's quite personal," Hong told reporters after the screening. "Maybe with the 'Right Now, Wrong Then' I made a few years ago, maybe the most (personal), yes."

"Right Now, Wrong Then", also about a relationship between a film director and a young woman, won the Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival in Switzerland in 2015.

"On the Beach at Night Alone" involves a lot of self-criticism in its portrayal of flawed manhood, Hong said, adding that he always draws on his own experiences in his movies.

"I try to use the material which I see in an honest lens. But I had to be honest about myself, too. I always put some material from myself when I use the material from others."

The film is one of 18 competing for the Golden and Silver Bears at the 'Berlinale' festival. The winners will be announced on Saturday.—*Reuters*

Washington's National Zoo fetes giant panda Bao Bao with special sendoff

Panda Bao Bao eats bamboo during a farewell event at the National Zoo in Washington, DC, US, on 16 February 2017. Bao Bao will soon be moved to China. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Washington's National Zoo will lavish its giant panda Bao Bao with exotic treats and mementos of her time in the nation's capital before she departs for China next week, as part of a breeding programme to diversify the gene pool of the vulnerable species.

The 3-year-old panda, the first surviving cub born at the zoo since 2005, will leave the National Zoo on Tuesday, in keeping an agreement with the Chinese Wildlife Conservation Association, the zoo said in a statement on Thursday.

The programme calls for panda cubs born at the zoo to be sent to China before they reach the age of four. Bao Bao is the first to make the trip under the current agreement, signed in 2015.

Giant pandas, which are native to China, are classified as a vulnerable species. There are about 1,800 of them living in the wild and another 300 in captivity.

Bao Bao achieved international fame as the star of the zoo's "panda cam," which documented her birth and childhood for millions of fans worldwide. Michelle Obama, the former first lady, sent a video message to Bao Bao on 23 August, 2013, the panda's birthday.

Before Bao Bao's departure, her handlers will treat her to an assortment of special snacks that range from dumplings to a heart-shaped ice cake. She'll also receive a cache of mementos from zoo officials to remind the panda of her birthplace.

The National Zoo received its first pair of giant pandas in 1972 as a gift from the Chinese government to commemorate President Richard Nixon's landmark visit to China, the zoo said on its website.

Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing lived at the National Zoo for more than 20 years and produced five cubs, none of which survived.

Bao Bao is the offspring of Mei Xiang and Tian Tian, the National Zoo's second pair of giant pandas, loaned from China in 2000.

The couple produced the zoo's first surviving cub on 9 July, 2005, named Tai Shan, who left for China's Wolong Nature Reserve some four years later.

The National Zoo's agreement with China to exchange giant pandas for research and breeding will run until December 2020.

In addition to watching Bao Bao enjoy her treats, fans of the panda will be able to view live videos from the sendoff party.

The videos will include footage of the panda's handlers packing for Bao Bao's trip, as well as a training session in which the panda is taught how to behave during veterinary exams.—*Reuters*

At New York Fashion Week, it's all about breaking the rules

NEW YORK — New York Fashion Week ended with a flourish on Thursday after a parade of innovative shows that gave an affectionate nod to the 1980's, with designers mixing power suits, chunky furs and metallic fabrics into lavish new looks for both day and night.

During the February rendition of the twice-annual fashion week, embellished fabrics, deconstructed shirts and sparkly tops were prominent on the runway, with a palette that ranged from muted tones to bold colors, including fuchsia and cobalt blue.

Models present creations from the Marc Jacobs Fall/Winter 2017 collection during New York Fashion Week in the Manhattan borough of New York, US, on 16 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"It can never be too shinny or too glittery," said Avril Graham, executive fashion and beauty editor for Harper's Bazaar. "It is the major story of this season in New York."

Designer Marc Jacobs closed the week with his fall 2017 collection of fur-trimmed tweed jackets, mini skirts, shimmery tops and oversized hats at the Park Avenue Armory, where the runway show extended from inside to outside the building.

After the show as the audience left, the models, still standing or seated on the closed-off sidewalk, pulled out their cellphones and took photos. —*Reuters*

Japanese delicacies promoted on Thai TV food show

TOKYO — Japanese delicacies are being promoted on a popular TV food show in Thailand as part of a Japanese government-backed export promoter's partnership with a local TV network aimed at boosting demand for Japanese food.

The food show, called "Dish of Fate" in Thai, features various ingredients, such as seafood and Wagyu beef. Guests on the show can eat a dish served by a top-rated local chef if they correctly guess which dish the audience likes the most.

The dishes showcased on the program are also offered at a restaurant in the Isetan department store in Bangkok. The 13-episode show, which began airing in January, is set to run through April.

For the promotional campaign, the Japan External Trade Organization has teamed up with Kantana Japan Corp., a Tokyo-based joint venture owned by movie distributor Nikkatsu Corp., Nippon Television Network Corp. and Thailand's Kantana Group Public Co., which has a major TV production firm in the Southeast Asian country.—*Kyodo News*

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(18-2-2017 07:00am ~ 19-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Great Shwedagon — Charitable Associations
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Manuha Temple Festivities
08:45	Am	YUFL
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Young Lady Musician Nge Nge Lay
09:43	Am	Cosplayer
09:49	Am	Wet Markets of Yangon: Thirimingalar Market
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	NEXGEN: Next Generation (Saw Yu Nandar)
10:37	Am	Family of Toys
10:57	Am	Moe La Win's Piano Melody 2 (Sonata by Mozart)

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:43	Pm	Guiding Star of Song Birds
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar: CBT in Kampetlet Township
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Myanmar Music Icon Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-1)
08:50	Pm	Next Weekend

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

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

MRTV
Programme Schedule (18-2-2017, Saturday)

6:00 Am
- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 Am
- Breakfast News

7:30 Am
- Hyper Sport

8:35 Am
- Documentary

9:10 Am
- Documentary

9:30 Am
- Business News

10:30 Am
- Poem for Children

10:45 Am
- Health and Vegetable

11:00 Am
- 2017 Matriculation Examination Lessons (Mathematics)

11:35 Am
- Game for Children

12:30 Pm
- TV Drama Series

1:50 Pm
- Weekly Entertainment News

2:20 Pm
- Teleplay

3:15 Pm
- Myanmar National League MNL(1) (2017) (Live) (Shan United FC Vs Yadanarbon United FC)

5:30 Pm
- ASEAN Programme

5:45 Pm
- NHK Programme " Quiz Me ! Science" (Dissolving in Water)

6:35 Pm
- Tasty Trip

7:15 Pm
- TV Drama Series

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

8:35 Pm
- Political Parties Campaign Speeches
- Towards All Sector Development
- Musician's Talk
- Thailand Phiharmonic Orchestra

9:00 Pm

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

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Hat-tricks for United's Ibrahimovic, Roma's Dzeko

LONDON — The goals continued to flow for Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic and AS Roma's Edin Dzeko as they bagged hat-tricks to help their teams take commanding leads in the first legs of their Europa League last 32 ties on Thursday.

United swept aside St Etienne 3-0 at Old Trafford and Roma made light work of last season's semi-finalists Villarreal with a 4-0 win in Spain, leaving their sides with little work to do in next week's return encounters.

Tottenham Hotspur's Europa League campaign, however, got off to a frustrating start as they were beaten 1-0 at mid-table Belgian outfit Gent, while Olympique Lyonnais beat AZ Alkmaar 4-1 away and Fiorentina edged Borussia Moenchengladbach 1-0.

St Etienne will be totally sick of the sight of Ibrahimovic as the Swede took his tally against the Ligue 1 side to 17 goals in 14 games, having terrorised Les Verts during his four years at Paris St Germain.

"Every time I've played against St Etienne, with hard work there has been a couple of goals. I've scored a couple of goals tonight and hopefully I can do the same next week," Ibrahimovic told BT Sport.

He opened the scoring with a deflected free kick in the first half and added two more — a tap-in and a late penalty — after the break as United quelled the visitors' early enthusiasm.

Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic scores their third goal from the penalty spot to complete his hat trick during UEFA Europa League Round of 32 First Leg at Old Trafford, Manchester, England, on 16 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The match was billed as a battle of the Pogba brothers with younger sibling Paul facing St Etienne's Florentin for the first time in a competitive encounter.

It was the 35-year-old Ibrahimovic who stole the show, however, grabbing his first United hat-trick and taking his tally in a remarkable maiden season at Old Trafford to 23.

Dzeko is in a similarly rich vein of form at Roma, who swatted aside a Villarreal team who are in freefall having now won just one of their last 10 games in all competitions.

Emerson Palmieri gave Roma the lead after 32 minutes and then Dzeko took over after the break, netting for the seventh straight game to double the lead in the 65th minute before adding two more goals to take his tally for the campaign to 28.

Spurs, who have dropped into the competition from the Champions League, were off colour throughout in Belgium and were undone in the second half when journeyman French striker Jeremy Perbet stroked home at the second attempt on the hour.

Spurs had arrived looking to restore pride in north London football after Arsenal were thrashed 5-1 by Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Wednesday but were stifled in a poor performance and were lucky to escape with a one-goal deficit.

After Perbet scored, Gent, eighth in the Belgian league, had a golden chance to double their lead but Danijel Milicevic's effort was tipped onto the post by keeper Hugo Lloris.

Gladbach came into their encounter with Fiorentina on a hot streak having won their last four games and they dominated possession and made several chances against the Italians.

The Serie A side were resilient at the back, however, and grabbed the only goal when Federico Bernardeschi fired home a fine free kick in the dying seconds of the first half.

Lyon will take a commanding lead into their second leg against AZ Alkmaar after teenager Lucas Tousart scored his first senior goal and Jordan Ferri rounded off the scoring in stoppage time either side of Alexandre Lacazette's double.

Alireza Jahanbakhsh had reduced the deficit for AZ with a 68th-minute penalty.

Schalke 04's Klaas-Jan Huntelaar netted his 50th European goal to round off a 3-0 win at PAOK Salonika while Anderlecht overcame a sluggish Zenit St Petersburg, playing their first competitive game in 10 weeks, to win 2-0 in Belgium.

Elsewhere, Shakhtar Donetsk won 1-0 at Celta Vigo with a 27th-minute goal from Gustavo Blanco Leschuk, while Sparta Prague were thrashed 4-0 at Rostov and FC Krasnodar beat visitors Fenerbahce 1-0. —*Reuters*

Asian Games: Japanese try to grit their teeth for Asian 'challenge'

SAPPORO — Having achieved its main objective of the season by qualifying for next year's Olympics, the women's national ice hockey team, Smile Japan, turns its attention to the Asian Winter Games.

On Sunday, the women completed a clean sweep of their final Olympic qualifying pool by beating Austria, France and Germany on home ice, to book a spot in next year's Pyeongchang Olympics. But having climbed that mountain by defeating the previously higher-ranked Germans (No. 8) in a winner-take-all finale, could a letdown be in the cards in Sapporo?

Here the highest-ranked opponents world No. 7 Japan will face are No. 18 Kazakhstan, the defending Asian Games gold medalists, and No. 23 South Korea. So where is Japan's motivation?

"We are here to win a gold medal, since we've never won," captain Chiho Osawa told reporters after practicing on Friday — a day ahead of the team's tournament opener against Kazakhstan.

"We assembled yesterday and are refocused on this. It's never about whether our opponents are lower ranked or not but about our ice hockey: Doing what we have to do and being focused." In Olympic qualifying, Smile Japan's defense was tough, its passing precise and the team received high marks for communication on the ice, but to give them an extra challenge in Sapporo, head coach Takeshi Yamanaka is mixing up the members of his forwards lines a little.

"We're changing lines to get stronger as we look toward the world championship (starting 31 March)," Yamanaka said. "We have to go with the same group we had (in Olympic qualifying) because there's not enough time to add anyone here. But I want to see different combinations."

"Our task here is to grow, everyday and with every game, grow by a centimeter or even a millimeter. I'll be watching to see and if they grow, I'll be ready with praise. We have these games and we have to make good use of them." Osawa said that switching the lines is highly irregular.

"This is a good thing for us in the big picture, because you never switch your sets three days before the start of a tournament," she said. "Part of our strength is how well we communicate, and this is going to be a good challenge for us to develop our communication skills even further."

Hanae Kubo, who led the qualifying tourney in points with five goals and one assist, said there was a lot of work ahead.

"Recently we could convert our scoring opportunities, and the work we've put in on playing defense has come to fruition," Kubo said. "But now we are in the buildup to the Olympics, where we'll face the world's best, and there are many things we need to address."—*Kyodo News*

Wenger to decide on Arsenal future with in two months

LONDON — Arsene Wenger said he will decide whether to extend his 20-year spell at Arsenal in March or April but that whatever he decides he will be managing a team next season.

The pressure on Wenger is mounting as Arsenal look certain to exit the Champions League at the first knockout stage for the seventh season in a row after the 5-1 demolition by Bayern Munich in the round of 16 first-leg game on Wednesday.

When asked if his future at the club will be decided before end of the season Wenger told reporters: "Yes, I will decide (my) future in March or April, but I don't know when.

"I speak to the board but I don't want to speak about how they view my future. What's important is the club, not my future. No matter what happens, I will manage next season. Whether it is here or not, that is for sure." —*Reuters*

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. PHOTO: REUTERS

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