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Government settling 38 cases reported by entrepreneurs to develop private sector businesses

THE Union Government's Private Sector Development Committee and entrepreneurs held their third regular meeting in Yangon yesterday, discussing on how improvements can be made to make it easier for entrepreneurs to do business, how to streamline application processes and for speedier private sector development in the country.

A total of 38 cases, which were identified in the previous two meetings, are being reviewed for solutions with support from ministries and organizations concerned and progress reports have been submitted to the UMFCCI with emphasis on the private sector, said Vice-President U Myint Swe in his opening speech at the meeting held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) Head office in Yangon.

"On the government side certain laws and regulations need to be amended while more participation is needed from the private sector.

"Private-Public Dialogue is needed if the Private Sector Development Committee wants to swiftly and effectively address the issues presented by private business owners and strengthen both government departments and private businesses," said Vice-President U Myint Swe.

"On the government side certain laws and regulations need to be amended while more participation is needed from the private sector. This is why it is urgent that each sector/group be as transparent as possible about the difficulties they are facing and take active participation in resolving them," he added.

In his remarks, Vice President U Myint Swe also said that the purpose of the regular meeting between the government and entrepreneurs was to discuss on how improvements can be made for smoother business transactions by dealing with requirements/shortcomings with support from different sectors.

This is the third time the Vice President has held a forum with businessmen for developing the private sector. The Private Sector Development Committee was established to effectively solve the difficulties businesses discussed they faced at the forums. In addition, 5 subcommittees were formed under the main committee. The subcommittees being: (1) Committee for Development of Law and Regulations, (2) Committee for Securing Capital/Cash, (3) Committee for Supporting Trade and Investment, (4) Committee for redefining businesses and service providers in the national context, (5) Committee for developing Human Resources.

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Gems, jade to be sold in Kyat at emporium from 19 to 24 March

RAW gems and uncut jade will be sold only in Myanmar kyat at the emporium in Nay Pyi Taw from 19 to 24 March, said Myanmar Gem Emporium Central Committee.

The emporium will be held at Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Nay Pyi Taw under the supervision of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Receiving, negotiation for setting basic price and places for showcasing the gems and jades will be performed with the sellers from 23 February till 9 March, according to the statement issued by the central committee yesterday.

The citizen gems and jewelry entrepreneurs including those carrying out mining and those producing finished products of gems and jade with licenses and permission in accordance with the rules and policies of Myanmar's gems and members of the Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs' Association are allowed to attend the emporium, according to the statement.

They are entitled to buy these gems and jewelry displayed at the emporium by paying the nominated amount of deposit plus entrance fees, said the s tatement.

Starting on 13 March 2017, application forms for admission to Emporium will be available for download on the website of Ministry of Mines; www.mining.gov.mm and website of Myanma Gems Enterprise; www.mge.gov.mm in order to be filled up ahead, and if desired, submitted through the Online Preregistration System featured by MGE's Website.

Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee announced to contact and ask for further detailed information to Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee, Myanmar Gems Enterprise(Nay Pyi Taw), Museum of Gems and Jewelry (Yangon), jade mining department in Lone Khin, Myitkyina, Khamti and Mohnyin , Gems and jewelry mining department in Mandalay, Mogoke and Mongshu. — *Myanmar News Agency*

A trader evaluates a jade stone at the 53rd Gems and Jade Sales in Nay Pyi Taw in 2015. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint gives Lifelong Literary Award to Dr. Thaw Kaung. PHOTO: MNA

Tun Foundation holds its eleventh literatary award presentation

THE 11th Tun Foundation literary award presentation ceremony was held yesterday at the Myanmar Banks Association in Yankin Township.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said at the ceremony that he was pleased with the awarded authors and thanked the authors who participated in the presentation and foundation.

While it was criticized that there was few readers in the past, many young readers can be seen today. Many kinds of books, writers, book sellers and publishers were being proliferated for which he was pleased, the minister said by adding that the literary awarding supports the interest of reading and is necessary to be a better awarding and those awarded should make more effort to create even better quality books, said the Union Minister.

Afterwards, Chairman Dr Thaw Kaung, Vice Chairman Dr Khin Aye of the Tun Foundation literatary selection committee presented the remark of the selection by committee before the awards were given to the winners.

The winners were Professor Dr Tin Aung Aye for the book of Constitutional Courts of the Nations, U Hla Maung for World finance and economic crisis, Khin Maung Tin (Mahar Weikzar) for Myanmar Japan diplomatic for 60 years, History Professor Dr Kyaw Win (retired) for The last days of Naungyan prince, Dr Win Htike Kyi for The knowledge about ears, nose, throat and neck, Kan Hla (Nganzun) for The History of Myanmar land management, Khin Than Phyu for The biography of Myanmar's oldest author and classic painter U San Hlaing, Junior Win for A memory of my grandparents, Shweyo for Palace before King Mindon establishment, Kyaw Thu Rein for World painting from 13 century to 19 century, Hlaing Htun Naing for About Mahar Hmine, Maung Zayar for 100 outstanding monks, Thit Yaing for Myanmar timber economy after colonialism , Science Soe Myint Naing for Sleeping time for baby, Zayyathu for Black goose and grasshopper.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Import, export targets for fiscal 2017-2018 will be issued in March

THE Ministry of Commerce will issue the import/export targets for fiscal 2017-2018 in March, it is learnt.

The trade value was expected to be over US$ 31 billion for fiscal 2016-2017. But the trade value as of the first week of February reached only US$ 23 billion.

"We have already targeted import/export trade for fiscal 2017-2018. But, we cannot say the exact amount because the targets have not been approved yet. We will issue the exact targets in the first week of March," said U Win Myint, director of the Ministry of Commerce.

The trade exports from April till the first week of February amounted to US$ 9.5 billion while the total imports reached US$ 13.5 billion in 2016-2017 fiscal year. The trade exports have increased by 625 million while the imports have decreased by US$ 450 million compared with the same period last year.

The export values in this fiscal year were US$ 2,324 million from agriculture, US$ 8 million from animal products, US$ 458 million from fisheries products, US$ 812 million from minerals, US$ 201 million from forest products, US$ 4,430 million from industrial finished goods and US$ 1,293 million from other products respectively.

Moreover, the import values were US$ 5,420 million in investment sector, US$ 4,857 million in industrial goods sector and US$ 3,262 million in toilet industry and luxury items sector. The Ministry of Commerce has planned to promote export three times within the five-year period of the new government. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Fire destroys makeshift home in Maungtaw

A fire broke out in Kyikanpyin (middle) Village in Maungtaw Township in northern Rakhine on Friday, destroying a makeshift house where no man is living. Husaung Ahmed, who owns the house, is currently living in Kyikanpyin (south) village. A file is opened at a local police station to take action against those who involved in setting the home on fire. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Armed clash happened at Myanmar-Bangladesh border

AN armed clash between the government security forces and an unidentified armed men in black uniforms at the border with Bangladesh on Friday.

The forces providing security to workers preparing border fence between the Mile Post 56 and 57 were attacked by about 30 unidentified armed men in black uniforms positioned on hills in Bangladeshi side around 3 pm on Friday.

The armed men withdrew after the security forces returned fire.

The two government troopers were wounded in the fighting.

The security forces are still gathering more information to verify how many members of the unidentified group were injured or died in the cash.—*Myanmar News Agency*

More than 190,000 Amphetamine pills seized in Sittway

MORE than 190,000 stimulant pills were seized from a house in Ohn Taw Gyi village, Sittway Township on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off that Zari Tu Saung brought a suspected bag to Haru Larmi and Shaungchi Dar Bay Khaung, the police searched the house Shaungchi Darbay Khaung and discovered 196,380 tablets worth of K590 million in the bag. The house owner managed to escape. The three suspects are being charged under the Anti Narcotic law.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Map shows the location where stimulant tablets were seized.

Forestry management workshop held in Mandalay

A forest management workshop was held on Thursday at Hotel Marvel , Chanayethasan township, Mandalay. During the workshop, matters concerning legal trading of forest products were also discussed.

The workshop jointly held by Myanmar and EU was attended by Mandalay chief minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung and regional government ministers, Regional Hluttaw deputy speaker Dr. Khin Maung Htay and regional Hluttaw representatives, officials from forestry department, Dry Zones Greening and environmental conservation department and Police force.

At the workshop, Mandalay chief minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung discussed forest resources conservation. Next FLEGT Facilitator U Kyaw Tun explained the purpose of the workshop while U Soe Hein explained the progress of work in forest resources conservation.

Myanmar's forest coverage shrank to 47 per cent in 2010 from 61 per cent in 1975. Myanmar's loss of forest converage between 1990 and 2010 was 0.95 per cent. Illegal timber extraction was done and exported in different ways.

Illegal timber extraction harms the environment, has social impact and reduces the country's revenue.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Government settling 38 cases ...

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In establishing a committee and economic committee, to have an effective impact, the members comprise individuals from commerce departments and representatives from the private sector and two committee meetings and seven economic committee meetings have been conducted on improving the private sector. Officials from the 5 subcommittees were in attendance to better handle the issues presented in the present meeting, and if necessary to discuss with departments concerned for finding solutions.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe and Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein delivered individual speeches.

Later, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Vice-Chairman U Thein Han gave the opening speech.

Union of Myanmar Oil Merchants and Businesses, Union of Myanmar Oil Machine Owners, Union of Myanmar Consumable Goods Production and Distribution, Union of Myanmar Industrial Productions, Union of Myanmar Textile Manufacturers, and Representatives of Unions dealing with FDA proceeded to discuss on their respective sectors.

Afterwards regional and state merchants and industrial business owners discussed on implementing strategies for developing the private sector and export sector, and on cases requiring a service license for commercial enterprises. Union Ministers, Yangon Region Chief Minister, and officials in attendance resolved all cases immediately solvable and the Vice-President discussed on each sector before delivering a closing speech.

The third meeting was attended by Deputy Ministers, Yangon Regional Ministers, Department Heads, the Vice-Chairman of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and officials from other Unions, and various business owners.

Because the private sector consists of 90% of the nation's economy, the government is working with special emphasis for faster and smoother processing in the critical trading and investment sectors.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice-President U Myint Swe addresses participants of the third meeting at UMFCCI. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Vice-President U Henry Van Thio attends opening ceremony of Myanmar Engineer Council Building and Technological Library

VICE President U Henry Van Thio attended the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Engineer Council Building and Technological Library in Lanmadaw township yesterday.

Also present at the occasion were Pyithu Htuttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Union Ministers, Yangon Region Ministers, Ambassadors, patrons, President and members of the Myanmar Engineer Council, the Myanmar Engineering Society, the Myanmar Architect Council and responsible persons, registered professional engineers and senior engineers and other invited guests.

Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing, Patron of the Myanmar Engineer Council Dr Win Myint, Chairman Dr Charlie Than, Main donor U Yan Ho, U Ko Ko Htwe and U Nay Aung cut the ribbon for opening the new building.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Pyithu Htuttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Union Minister U Win Khaing, U Ohn Maung and Myanmar Engineer Council Chairman Dr Charlie Than planted star flower plants.

The Vice President and the Pyithu Hlutttaw Speaker also pressed the switch to unveil the name plate of the Myanmar Engineering Council and cut the ribbon for the Technological Library before Union Minister U Win Khaing and Dr Charlie Than delivered a speech.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the new e library in Lanmadaw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

The eight and half-storey Myanmar Engineer Council Building (MEC) built on a 1.34 acre plot in Lanmadaw township costs seven thousand million kyat donated by U Yan Ho of Mottama Social and Education Foundation, U Ko Ko Htwe of Taw Win Family Co., Ltd, U Nay Aung of IGE Group of Companies, government ministries and well-wishers.

During the past three years, the Myanmar Engineering Council has conferred 6646 Apprentice Engineer Certificates, 3,218 Registered Engineer Certificates, 1,579 Registered Senior Engineer Certificates and 616 Professional Engineer Certificates of which 227 were recognized as ASEAN Chartered Professional Engineers under the program of Mutual Recognition Agreement with ten ASEAN countries.

The Myanmar Engineer Council is also working to give recognition to the engineering companies and certified 32 companies by giving grading.

The Myanmar Engineer Council has established a modern Library which comprises 2000 reference books, an online e-library and 1000 latest journals. In the near future, the MEC will recognize foreign engineer as Registered Limited Engineer (RLE) and Registered Limited Professional Engineer (RLPE) to enable them to work in Myanmar with registration and permission to work.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Coordination meeting held for publishing updated Myanmar encyclopedia, for paper reading for translation literature

A COORDINATION meeting for holding a paper reading for translation literature and publishing the up-to-date Myanmar encyclopedia was held yesterday at the hall of Printing and Publishing Enterprise in Yangon.

The meeting was opened with an address made by Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information. Ministry of Information and the Tun Foundation is working on publishing up to date Myanmar encyclopedia.

U Thein Htun, Chairman of the Tun Foundation, and U Aung Than, Chief Editor of the Sarpay Beikman reported on preparation for publishing the updated Myanmar Encyclopedia

Fifteen series of Myanmar Encyclopedia had being published from 1954 to 1976 and a collection of Encyclopedia has being published annually starting from 1978. The original 15 series will be updated to publish the upcoming Encyclopedia.

At the meeting, the Union Minister said plans are underway to hold paper reading sessions for translation literature and books sales every three or four months. He also called for making arrangements for holding the paper reading session so that the resource persons can discuss with freedom. At the meeting, a committee was formed with 21 members to hold the paper reading session systematically from 29 April to 1 May. U Tin Hlaing,(ledwinthar Saw Chit) is selected as the chairman of the committee, U Aung Shin (Mon Ywa Aung Shin) as Vice Chairman-1 and U Maung Maung Oo (Hein Latt) as Vice Chairman-2 and the committee was formed with 21 members.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint at the coordination meeting for reading and translation literature. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Myanmar workers in Thailand holding temporary worker's permit to receive passports

THE Myanmar Embassy in Thailand will issue temporary passports to Myanmar Workers holding Temporary Work Permits issued by the Thai government (BhatCard also known as TR-38) if they are able to provide National Registration Cards and Household Registrations.

Furthermore Myanmar workers unable to provide NRC cards and household registrations will be issued Certificate of Identity (CI) for workers in Thailand's Samusakun (Maha-Chine) (1) & (2), Samuparakan, Measine, Maesott and Renaung starting March 3rd and can submit cash in places with counter services like 7 Eleven starting March 1st.

Regular passports for workers will cost 1050 Baht and Certificate of Identity (CI) will cost 300 Baht.

To avoid unnecessary costs workers should go directly to the departments issuing Certificate of Identity rather than through a broker

For further information workers can visit the Ministry of Immigration Labor website www.mol.gov.mm or call the Labor Administration Head Department's Complaint Mechanism – 067 430184, 067 430284, Department of Immigrant Workers – 067 430183, 067 430185, or Official of Worker's Union in Thailand U Moe Aung Khaing - +66 633141992 or Official of Worker's Union in Thailand U Aung Ko Than - +66 634426204. —*Myanmar News Agency*

3-Mile Thiri Myine beach in Kawthoung extended

Work on construction is being carried out to extend 3-Mile Thiri Myine beach. PHOTO: KYAW SOE

3-Mile Thiri Myine beach is being extended in Kawthoang commencing form the beginning of January, and it is completed 60 per cent now.

The beach is made 150 feet wide by road department under the ministry of construction with the use of 2016-2017 fiscal year Regional Hluttaw Fund.

Upon completion, the beach will become a resort for the city-dwellers and if can be used to hold the parties and charities.

The beach will attract the tourists. – *Kyaw Soe*

Jade miners earning good price

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation granted the jade mining companies to do mining depending on their abidance of mining rules to have the least impact on environment in Phakant and Lone Khin township in Kachin State and in Kani in Sagaing region starting from 2016-2017 fiscal year. The jade mining has declined because of the ethnic army troops. So, Jade supply is lower in the Mandalay gems market. The gems companies which are connected with jade mining companies sell the jade stones in US dollar at the Myanmar jewellery exhibition.

More and more traders from foreign countries come and buy the jade lot at the Myanmar jewellery exhibition because authorities seized gems traded via border illeally. The jade mining companies are selling the jade stones because there is Chinese Yuan appreciation against US dollars and euros. — *Maung Pyithu (Mandalay)*

Cigarettes and betel quids to be sold with health warnings

THE Taninthayi Region Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will take action against those who sell cigarettes and betel quids without a health warning clause and signs beginning next month, it is learnt.

The FDA will first conduct awareness promotion talks before taking legal action, FDA officials said.

"The authorities will conduct awareness talks across the country at the same time. After giving these awareness programmes, we will take action against those who are selling cigarettes and betel quids without warning signs," said Dr. Kyaw Zayar, the FDA chairman.

"Although we planned to take action starting in September 2016, some of the products still remained in the market. So, we suspended for six months and decided to start to take action only this year."

The FDA will fine those violating this rule between Ks10,000 and Ks30,000 for first offenses and then impose a fine between Ks30,000 and Ks100,000 and one-year imprisonment for the second offense under the Cigarettes and Tobacco Products Consumption Control Law.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Yadanar Hninzi housing apartment mostly bought by Myanmar citizens in Singapore

MYANMAR citizens living in Singapore are buying the apartments of Yadanar Hninzi real estate in Dagon Seikkan township, Yangon Region, according to the Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction.

The apartments were designed by the Surbana Jurong company from Singapore and constructed by the Ministry of Construction. The department of Urban and Housing Development are selling the apartments, and Myanmar citizens from Singapore are the major buyers of the apartments. The price of an apartment is between Ks60 million and Ks120 million, depending on the square footage of the apartment.

People can buy the apartments outright or with an instalment system after contacting the construction and housing development bank. The Yadarnar Hninzi real estate complex will include shops, a fitness centre, badminton courts, playgrounds and parks. —*200*

Plans underway to build shopping mall made out of bamboo

THE MYANMAR Bamboo Growers Association plans to use bamboo as a natural building material in constructing a new shopping center in Yangon with the purpose of conserving the natural environment.

This will be the first shopping facility constructed with bamboo in Myanmar. The new structure will be built on a 150-feet-wide space. It will be equipped with a coffee bar and shops to sell orchid plants.

Negotiations have been made between the association and a local construction company to implement the project.

Almost all parts of the structure will be built with bamboo instead of wood and concrete, said U Kyaw Win, chairman of the association. The association is now collecting data to determine exactly how much quality bamboo is needed. The association plans to spend approximately Ks100 million on the shopping mall project.

Bamboo is non-polluting and does not have crusts or parts that can be considered waste.

The advantages of building with bamboo is that it is a natural and renewable resource, capable of rapid growth that can avoid future deforestation of precious tropical rainforests.—*200*

Farmer call centre to launch in capital on Peasants' Day

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation plans to open a new farmer call centre in the capital Nay Pyi Taw on Peasants' Day, which falls on 2 March, with the aim of providing real-time information to local growers.

The key purpose of the new call centre is to respond to queries related to agriculture and allied sectors raised by growers, said U Myo Tint Tun, deputy permanent secretary of the ministry.

In cooperation with Blue Ocean Co, the ministry is now conducting technical training to 50 members of staff between 15 and 17 February. Those young staff will help solve farming-related technical problems, including how to use agricultural machinery and fertilizer.

Services will be provided to growers through the centre within office hours, with the authorities planning to deliver extension services to the farming community in the future. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Fire destroys 14 houses in Pyigyidagun

Fire destroys 14 houses in Pyigyidagun. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

AN outbreak of fire caused by overheated phone charger destroyed 14 houses between Yan Pyay road and Yan Naing streets, Thin Pan Gone ward, Pyigyidagun township, Mandalay yesterday.

The fire took thirty-three engines with nearly 200 firemen to put out the blaze. The fire destroyed 14 houses, affecting 18 families but nobody was injured in the accident.

The house owner named as Daw Khin Yin was charged under Section 285 of the Penal Code for negligence.— *Than Zaw Min (IPRD)*

Historic Cape Canaveral launchpad returns to action with SpaceX

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket (in center, in a horizontal position), is readied for launch on a supply mission to the International Space Station on historic launch pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, US, on 17 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

CAPE CANAVERAL (Fla.) — The seaside Florida launchpad from which astronauts once blasted off for the moon comes back to life this weekend thanks to the commercial space venture founded by tech entrepreneur Elon Musk.

Space Exploration Technologies Corp is preparing for liftoff at 10:01 am EST (1501 GMT) on Saturday from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, which was the starting point for 82 space shuttle missions. A backup opportunity is at 9:38 am EST (1438 GMT) on Sunday.

The launchpad, originally built for the 1960s-era Apollo moon program, has not been used since the final space shuttle blasted off in July 2011. NASA leased the pad to SpaceX, as Musk's company is known, in 2014.

"We are honored to be allowed to use it," Musk said in a tweet noting its historic significance.

The nearby Cape Canaveral Air Force Station pad where SpaceX had been launching its Falcon 9 rockets was damaged during a fueling accident in September. The company expects to return the pad to service later this year after repairs.

For its Kennedy Space Centre debut, SpaceX will launch a Dragon cargo ship to the International Space Station for NASA, followed by several commercial satellite flights through the spring. The company is owned and operated by Musk, who also is chief executive of Tesla Inc, and has a backlog of more than 70 missions worth more than $10 billion.

Within about two years, SpaceX expects to add human spaceflight to its launch services. NASA, the US space agency, has hired SpaceX and Boeing Co to ferry astronauts to the space station, breaking a Russian monopoly in effect since the shuttles were retired.

For human spaceflight, SpaceX will need to build up 39A's launch tower and hang a new walkway so astronauts can access the Crew Dragon spaceship, said Stephen Payne, NASA's launch integration manager for the Commercial Crew programme.

"It's kind of neat to go outside and look at the pad changing and see how what was once the future is becoming the present," Payne said in an interview.

The privately owned firm has not said how much it spent to refurbish the complex. Its transformation is the most visible of dozens of changes at Kennedy Space Center since the end of the shuttle programme.

Boeing has taken over all three of the orbiter processing hangers, including one for its CST-100 Starliner commercial space taxi.

Just beyond the center's gates, Jeff Bezos' space company Blue Origin is building a factory to manufacture its New Glenn rockets, which will fly satellites and eventually people from a new nearby launchpad. NASA is keeping the second shuttle launchpad, 39B, and the massive Vehicle Assembly Building for its own crewed Orion spaceships and heavy-lift Space Launch System rockets.

"In the entire history of human spaceflight, there have only been three countries that have ever flown in space, and here we're going to have four separate and distinct programs at the centre," said Kennedy Space Centre planning director Tom Engler.

"It's just amazing when you think about it," he said.—*Reuters*

Mistakes at US lab force hundreds of Zika tests to be repeated

CHICAGO — Officials in Washington, DC's public health laboratory had to repeat Zika tests for nearly 300 pregnant women, including two women who were mistakenly told they tested negative for the mosquito-borne virus that has been shown to cause birth defects.

A routine check of lab practices in December revealed that all of the lab's Zika tests were coming back negative, raising concerns about their accuracy, a spokeswoman for the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said on Thursday.

CDC experts, who have been working with the lab since mid-January, discovered that technicians doing Zika testing were skipping a step, causing all of the test results to be negative, said Dr Wendi Kuhnert-Tallman, who co-leads the CDC's Zika lab task force. The faulty tests were performed between 14 July and 14 December of 2016, the lab said in a statement on its website.

A total of 409 specimens were sent for re-testing, including samples from 294 pregnant women. CDC is re-testing all 294 of the samples from pregnant women, and the remaining 115 tests from men and non-pregnant women were sent to other CDC-approved public health labs.

A general view of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia on 30 September 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

So far, the DC lab said it has received 62 test results from pregnant women back from the CDC. Of these, 60 tested negative and two tested positive. Confirmatory tests were only able to determine that the women had been recently infected with a flavivirus, a family of viruses that includes Zika, dengue and yellow fever.

"What that means is that we did see evidence of past infection, but we can't say for sure it's Zika," Kuhnert-Tallman said.

Zika has been shown to cause a range of birth defects when pregnant women are infected, including vision and hearing problems, developmental delays and microcephaly or small head size, a sign that the brain had not developed properly.

Kuhnert-Tallman said CDC has completed about 100 more tests, and results are being sent back to the lab and the doctors who ordered them. Another 129 are still pending.

"We anticipate those will be finalized within two to three weeks," Kuhnert-Tallman said.

The District of Columbia Department of Forensic Sciences Public Health Laboratory has ceased Zika testing and will not resume until it demonstrates to the CDC that it is performing the tests correctly, Kuhnert-Tallman said. --*Reuters*

Tai chi tied to reduced fall risk in older adults

AUSTIN — Seniors who practice tai chi — a Chinese meditation practice that combines deep breathing and slow, fluid movements — may be less likely to fall than their peers who don't do this type of exercise, a recent study suggests.

Researchers examined data from 18 previously published trials of tai chi for fall prevention with a combined 3,824 participants aged 65 and older.

Tai chi was associated with a 20 per cent lower risk of falling at least once and a 31 per cent drop in the number of falls, the analysis found.

"This is a fairly significant finding because tai chi is an activity that can be easily taught and that people can do independently at home or at their workplace or at the retirement center on their own or in a group," said Jean-Michel Brismee, a physical therapy researcher at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Centre and University Medical Centre in Lubbock.

"So in regard to cost and preserving independence and health it is significant because people do not have to go to the gym or a special facility as they can do it anywhere," Brismee, who wasn't involved in the study, added by email. Worldwide, up to 40 per cent of people over 65 and about half of people over 80 fall each year, researchers note in BMJ Open. Falls are often associated with considerable decline in mobility, independence and quality of life and are a leading cause of death in older adults.

For the study, Zhi-Guan Huang of Guangzhou Sport University in China and colleagues analyzed data from published trials that randomly assigned older adults to either receive tai chi lessons or join a control group that didn't get this intervention.

Overall, 10 seniors would need to practice tai chi in order to avoid one fall, Huang and colleagues estimated.

When researchers accounted for how often seniors practiced tai chi, how much time they spent at it, the style of tai chi and the falling risk for individual patients, they still found these exercises associated with a lower risk of falling. Sometimes the fall risk appeared smaller but the difference between the tai chi groups and control groups was too small to rule out the possibility that it was due to chance, however.

Increasing the frequency of tai chi sessions from once a week to more than three times weekly was associated with a dramatic improvement in risk reduction, from 5 per cent to 64 per cent. —*Reuters*

Malaysia arrests North Korean man as row over Kim Jong Nam's death escalates

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian police said on Saturday they had arrested a North Korean man in connection with the murder of the estranged half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, as a diplomatic spat over his body escalated.

Kim Jong Nam died this week after being assaulted at Kuala Lumpur International Airport with what was thought to be a fast-acting poison. South Korean and US officials have said he was assassinated by North Korean agents.

Malaysian police said the latest arrest connected with the murder was made on Friday night, and the suspect was identified as Ri Jong Chol, born on 6 May, 1970. He was in possession of a Malaysian i-Kad, which is an identification card given to foreign workers, they added.

"He is suspected to be involved in the death of a North Korean male," read a statement.

The police chief for Selangor state, Abdul Samah Mat, said the suspect had been remanded in police custody.

Two female suspects, one an Indonesian and the other carrying Vietnamese travel documents, have already been arrested, while a Malaysian man has been detained. At least three more suspects are at large, government sources have said.

Kim Jong Nam, the eldest son of the late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, had spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic control of isolated, nuclear-armed North Korea.

South Korea's intelligence agency told lawmakers in Seoul that Kim had been living with his second wife in the Chinese territory of Macau, under China's protection.

He had been at the Kuala Lumpur airport to catch a flight to Macau when he was killed. An autopsy is being performed at a hospital in the capital city.

Selangor state police chief Abdul Samah told Reuters that the autopsy report was not complete yet. He dismissed media reports that a second autopsy would have to conducted.

North Korea said in the early hours of Saturday that it would categorically reject Malaysia's autopsy report on the death of Kim Jong Nam, and accused Malaysia of "colluding with outside forces", in a veiled reference to rival nation South Korea.

Malaysia hit back by saying the country's rules must be followed.

The foreign ministry has yet to make any comment.

Health minister Dr S Subramaniam told state news agency Bernama that Malaysia was waiting for the toxicology report to complete the autopsy.

He said the autopsy report would hopefully be released "within this week".

The case threatens to weaken North Korea's ties with Malaysia, one of the few countries that has maintained good diplomatic relations with Pyongyang.

Kim Jong Nam was assaulted at the low cost terminal of Kuala Lumpur International Airport on Monday with what is believed to be fast acting poison before he could board a flight to Macau. He sought help but died on the way to the hospital.

North Korea demanded on Friday night that Kim Jong Nam's body be released immediately. It had earlier tried to persuade Malaysian authorities not to carry out an autopsy.

"The Malaysian side forced the post-mortem without our permission and witnessing," the North Korean ambassador Kang Chol told reporters outside the hospital where the body of Kim Jong Nam is being kept.

"We will categorically reject the result of the post mortem ... "

He said Kim Jong Nam had a diplomatic passport and was under the consular protection of North Korea.—*Reuters*

A reporter holds up a local newspaper during his report in front of the morgue at Kuala Lumpur General Hospital where Kim Jong Nam's body is held for autopsy in Malaysia on 18 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Thousands of Filipino Catholics march against death penalty, war on drugs

MANILA — Thousands of Roman Catholics marched in the Philippines capital Manila on Saturday in the biggest gathering denouncing extra-judicial killings and a government plan to reimpose the death penalty for criminals.

Dubbed a "Walk for Life" prayer rally and endorsed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), the gathering came just days after the church launched its strongest attack against President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs.

Organizers claimed as many as 50,000 people took part in the march toward Manila's Rizal Park, while about 10,000 based on police estimates stayed to hear speeches.

More than 7,600 people have been killed since Duterte launched his anti-drugs campaign seven months ago. More than 2,500 died in shootouts during raids and sting operations, according to the police.

Amid mounting criticism about a surge in killings, Duterte said on Saturday that the campaign was "by and large successful".

Speaking at the Philippine Military Academy's alumni homecoming in Baguio City, he said the drug problem was more complex than he initially thought, prompting him to seek military support.

"I need the help of each one, especially the military, not for social control but protection (for) the citizens from the lawless, the reckless, and the selfish," the firebrand leader said.

Both the government and police have denied that extra-judicial killings have taken place. But human rights groups believe many deaths that police had attributed to vigilantes were carried out by assassins likely colluding with police.

"We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing those who kill. It also increases the number of killers," CBCP president Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Socrates Villegas said in a statement.

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, who also joined the rally, called for strengthening and promoting the culture of non-violent movements.—*Reuters*

Participants join a 'procession' against plans to reimpose death penalty, promote contraceptives and intensify drug war during 'Walk for Life' in Luneta park, metro Manila, Philippines on 18 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

After night in cell, Samsung scion taken for questioning

SEOUL — Handcuffed and tied with white rope, the scion of one of the world's biggest conglomerates, Samsung Group, was taken on Saturday for questioning by South Korean authorities after spending a night in a small detention cell.

Samsung Group chief Jay Y Lee was arrested on Friday for his alleged role in a corruption scandal that has led to the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye.

The 48-year-old Lee, who has a net worth of $6.2 billion, heads the technology giant that is the world's biggest manufacturer of smartphones, flat-screen televisions and memory chips.

Lee arrived at the special prosecutor's office at about 2:20 pm (0520 GMT) clean-shaven and expressionless. He was wearing a dark suit, white shirt and no tie as he was escorted by officials from a justice ministry van.

The special prosecutor's office accuses Lee of bribing a close friend of the president 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.

Samsung Group chief, Jay Y Lee arrives at the office of the independent counsel team in Seoul, South Korea on 18 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

He spent the night at the Seoul Detention Centre on the outskirts of the capital in a small single cell with a toilet in the corner behind a partition.

Special prosecution spokesman Lee Kyu-chul said on Friday that officials were working to supplement inadequacies in their investigation into Lee, without elaborating.

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. —*Reuters*

Former N Korean spy says Kim Jong Nam's alleged assassins look to be amateurs — media

TOKYO — Former North Korean spy Kim Hyon-hui said the alleged assassins of the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appeared to be amateurs, the Mainichi newspaper reported on Saturday. Kim Jong Nam, the older half-brother of Kim Jong Un, was killed in an apparent assassination on Monday at Kuala Lumpur international airport in the Malaysian capital. Malaysian police said on Saturday they had arrested a North Korean man in connection with the murder, after detaining two female suspects earlier this week. Kim Hyon-hui, who bombed a Korean Air jet in 1987 after being trained as a North Korean agent, told the Japanese newspaper in a written interview that it was unthinkable that the women received strict training.

"I felt suspicious. They don't seem to have taken strict psychological and physical education and training in North Korea," Kim Hyon-hui told the paper. According to Malaysian media reports, the women told police they had been involved in a prank. "They would not have run away if that was the case," Kim Hyon-hui said. She also emphasised a link with North Korea as the date of the murder was close to the 16 Febraury birthday of the late leader Kim Jong Il, father of Kim Jong Un and Kim Jong Nam, and that Kim Jong Il's nephew Lee Han-young was shot dead on 15 Febraury, 1997. Lee Han-young, a North Korean defector, was shot and killed in South Korea by two assailants who were never caught but were suspected to be North Korean agents. Kim Hyon-hui and another North Korean spy planted a bomb on a Korean Air flight in 1987, the year before South Korea was to host the Olympics. All 115 crew and passengers were killed when the plane exploded in mid-air over the Bay of Bengal. Kim was sentenced to death by a Seoul court but received a presidential pardon in 1990. She won sympathy as someone whom the reclusive North had used as a pawn, but largely dropped out of the public eye after leaving prison.—*Reuters*

Philippines' Duterte says will review minister's decision to close mines

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he will review his minister's order to close more than half the country's mines for environmental violations, following an outcry from affected producers.

"I will review. There's such a thing as exhaustion of administrative remedies," Duterte said in a speech late on Friday.

It was the first time Duterte said he would review the decisions of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez to shut mines and cancel mining contracts.

The firebrand leader, angered by the environmental harm mining has caused, had initially thrown his support behind Lopez's actions, "I will not judge her now. I will see if there's something wrong," Duterte said on the decision to shutter mines.

Lopez on 2 February ordered the closure of 23 of the country's 41 operating mines. Another five mines were suspended.

The Philippines is the world's top supplier of nickel ore and the affected mines account for about half of its annual output.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte delivers a speech during the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumni homecoming in Fort Del Pilar, Baguio city, north of Manila, Philippines on 18 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

A committed environmentalist who describes herself as an eco-warrior, Lopez said the mines were located in watershed zones and have caused siltation of coastal waters and farmlands. This week, she ordered the cancellation of 75 contracts for undeveloped mines she said were located in watershed areas.

Duterte, however, said "We get something like 70 billion pesos a year out of the mining operations in the entire Philippines. We have to also take (that) into consideration."

Miners whose operations were suspended or ordered to close have said they will take legal action to overturn Lopez's ruling.

A mining industry group has said the move to shut and suspend operating mines would affect 1.2 million people.

The first option for affected companies is to appeal to Duterte, and failing that, they could seek relief with the appellate court and later the Supreme Court.

Australian miner OceanaGold Corp, which runs the Philippines' biggest gold mine and was ordered to suspend operations, said earlier this week it had filed an appeal with Duterte's office, putting a stay on the execution of the suspension order.

Marcventures Mining and Development Corp, whose nickel mine was ordered to close, said on Friday it will take legal action to prevent implementation of the order and that it plans to ship out ore next month.—*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.

Who's Who!

Dr. Nu Nu Win

MEN are four : He who knows not and knows that he knows not; he's a child, Teach him.

He who knows and knows not that he knows; he's asleep, Wake him.

He who knows and knows that he knows; he's a wise man, Seek him.

He who knows not and knows not that he knows not, he's a fool, Shun him.

This is how different types of persons are mentioned in an old saying.

If you know who you actually are and if you know the person or persons you have to deal with, it will be easy for you as you will know how to deal with different persons. It will lead you to a successful goal. That is how to deal with different persons

As teachers, we have to deal mostly with the first and second kinds of persons in our career life. Students, both young and old, most of them know themselves that they do not know about the lesson, so they want to learn. They want to study and we teachers have to fulfill their needs .That is Teachers have to teach such kinds of students.

However, there are some lessons which one can see easily in our environment, at home or at school or in our communities. Most of the children are not aware that these things are happening near them. For them we need to motivate them to let them see that these are the things very near and dear to them. So, by motivating them to learn, we awaken them.

Most of the teachers in our schools, should know what they are going to teach and should know that they know. Then only can they become like "wise men" for their students. A teacher with limited knowledge about his subject matter is not the right man to teach that subject. So, teachers should be wise men for their students and for their field of study .If a child is taught by a wise man, there is nothing to lose for the child. The child will benefit greatly from his teacher.

It shows clearly that every teacher should be an expert in the subject matter they are going to teach. We also have a very old saying among Education professionals which said, "To teach John Latin, you must know both Latin and John."

"To know Latin" means a teacher should know about the subject matter he is going to teach, and "To know John" means, a teacher should know about his individual student very well. Only then he can impart what he already knows very well which he had studied and prepared thoroughly ahead for his teaching. He would know what to teach, when to teach, and how to teach his students only if he knows them individually. Then he can choose which method is the best method for his class and for his students and he can handle his class very tactfully.

For that purpose, teachers should train themselves to become wise men for their students, so that they can motivate their students and arouse their curiosity which will make them want to learn more and more.

But, it's a great but, we should not keep the company of fools. There are a lot of fools around us. They think they know very well (that means they know not that they know not) and they use to write and talk aloud as if they were an expert in very many fields. We should take care not to be friends with such kinds of persons. We should shun them.

Sometimes, they think they know a matter very well, although what they think they know is not correct. As these fools are very stubborn and proud of themselves so much, they cannot be taught. They are the persons whom we say " Nga sagar nwar ya" speakers and they are also fond of arguing and fighting for what they think is correct.

So, the best way to deal with such kinds of persons is to shun them.

That's the way, how we should deal with different kinds of persons in our life.

The key point is we should know " Who's Who".

Air pollution linked to 2.7 million premature births a year — scientists

LONDON, — Curbing outdoor air pollution may help prevent 2.7 million premature births a year, a condition that threatens children's lives and increases their risk of long-term physical and neurological problems, scientists said on Thursday.

Fine particles in the air from diesel fumes, fires and other sources, may increase the risk of premature births - alongside other risks including a mother's age and health — according to a study published in the Environment International journal.

"Air pollution may not just harm people who are breathing the air directly — it may also seriously affect a baby in its mother's womb," said Chris Malley, lead author of the study which is based on data for 2010.

The majority of premature births linked to air pollution occur in South and East Asia, the researchers said. India alone accounts for about 1 million premature births, and China for another 500,000.

Diesel vehicles, forest fires, crop burning, and cooking with wood, dung or charcoal, are major contributors to the problem, the researchers said.

A pregnant woman in a city in China or India may inhale more than 10 times as much pollution as she would in rural England or France, the report said.

In Western sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East premature births were mainly linked to exposure to desert dust, the research showed.

Every year, an estimated 15 million babies are born prematurely and nearly 1 million of them die of complications, the World Health Organization says.

Pre-term birth complications are the leading cause of death among children under 5 years old, the UN agency says.

Countries need to work together to address pollution, a cross-border problem, said Johan Kuylenstierna, co-author of the study, and policy director of the Stockholm Environment Institute centre at the University of York.

"In a city, maybe only half the pollution comes from sources within the city itself – the rest will be transported there by the wind from other regions or even other countries," he said.

Woman shows a mobile phone app, Air Matters, in this picture illustration taken in China, on 16 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

(Reporting by Alex Whiting @Alexwhi, Editing by Katie Nguyen.; Reuters)

New Society Party presents policies and programmes

U Nyo Tun, Vice Chairman of New Society Party.

NEW Society Party wishes entire indigenous people fulfillment of their desires. I'm vice chairman U Nyo Tun of the New Society Party.

Concerning the brief history if our party, we were born during the period of 8888 democracy affair to 88 generation students and All-Burma Students' Union(-Ba-Ka-Tha).When our party was first founded , I was the general secretary-cum-chairman (temporary)

Regarding our flag, it is nothing but the one we used in the 88 affair with background colour being red and four golden stars on left top corner of the flag.

The stars represent workers, farmers, working intelligent sia and intellectual. We vow to being benefits to these four strata of people.

The objectives of the establishment of our party are explicitly enshrined in the party constitution. They are; for a democratic system to come into existence for the sake of the public; for people to be in possession of people's power; to form an alliance with parties having the same objectives for a democratic united front to emerge for national cause; and for emergence of a new, firm constitution to keep the democratic system alive for ever.

When it comes to the fundamental principles of our party, we'll always hold bravely and firmly our strong principles for entire indigenous people irrespective of transition from period to period and changes in the political, economic and social conditions. Our fundamental principles are; independence, equality, justice; prosperity and development.

When it comes to our party's objectives as regards current national requirements, our objectives are; democratic cause; human rights, internal peace, national reconciliation and building a federal union.

In regard to our party's policies our policies are oriented towards effectuation of public interests, indigenous people's interests and national interests particularly towards workers , peasants, working intelligentsia and intellectual the four strata our party represents.

Regarding internal peace, our party will exert effort to ensure ending of internal strife and achievement of internal peace. We'll make effort to achieve nation-wide ceasefire, and to reach a practical solution to and the offensives from all sides. The indigenous races in various regions are particularly required to stop the offensives (across the nation) simultaneously. Our policy is for the internal peace process to be all inclusive all political parties, mass and class (organizations) and civil society organizations (CSO) are all required to be included in the peace process.

Concerning national reconciliation, our new society party will ve involved in the national reconciliation process in under that unity among the national races that has been lost for a long period because of national disintegration since 1948 among the political forces, ideological groups, indigenous races, classes, strata and groups of different interest. Our new society party will particu;ate in the national reconciliation process, facing itself from day-dreaming ,seeking only practical approach in a transparent way to deprive all parties of hatred ,grudge and doubt.

Concerning the policy towards the federal union, on regard to our policy toward workers' affairs, our policies are for one and only All-Myanmar Workers' Union federation to emerge, representing the entire mass of workers, to realize fully the eight working hours systems, to precribe Saturdays and Sundays holidays inclusive of all private enterprises, to change the minimum wage rules accordingly to suit the changes prices of commodities to form the worker's unions only with the workers who are elected through with the workers who are elected through secret voting ,to enable all workers to enjoy pension pay and for the state to provide effective social security arrangements, Provide free health care and provide free education for all.

Concerning peasants' policies, our party hs clearly formulated the following polices in the interests of the entire mass of peasants for the emergence of one and only All-Myanmar Peasants' Union Federation to represent the entire mass of peasants to form the peasants unions only with the peasants elected through secret voting; to ensure ownership of land and land guarantee, free cultivation , sale and holding of

Party Logo.

crops and providing of agricultural loans to provide equal rights to the village co-operatives founded through the independent, free will of the peasants and not to discriminate against the said cooperatives ,to form the ministry of rural development as a separate entity and to provide effective free social security arrangements, free health care and free education for the peasants and the rural people.

Regarding the policies towards women's affairs our new society party has formulated the following policies for emergence of one and only All-Myanmar Women's Union, to from the women's unions only with the women who are elected through secret voting system; to protect women effectively against sexual harassment; to effectively suppress the vicious industries exploiting women affairs as separate entity, to suppress trafficking in women through formulation of national level suppression projects; and to formulate national level projects to heighten the women's performance and to provide women with effective social security benefits, education and health care.

Concerning economic policy, our new society party will reduce and or reject budget in relation to unnecessary costs and spend that budget allotment on social security benefits, education and healthcare.

Our party will encourage and promote the state-owned, region-owned, cooperative owned, community-owned and private-owned industries. Efforts will be directed towards development of small and medium enterprises. For the development of industries, agriculture, livestock breeding, food stuff manufacturing, textile industries, construction, energy, education and information and printing industry, discussions will be held with the economists and realize national economic development hand in hand with the national entrepreneurs.

To be able to spend more on social safety net arrangements, education and health, revenue will be collected from hotel and tourism industries, entertainment industries, restaurants and beverages industries, tobacco industries, gold, silver mining, oil drilling, timber industry, gems and forestry products.

Taxes will also be collected from communications industries, transportation industries, banking and financial markets, investment market, stock exchanges and real estate industry.

We'll look at the true situations prevailing in our country and seek ways and means that will suit the situations in formulation of our policies in the light of other developed countries.

This being so, please vote for me, (U) Nyo Tun, who will contest the bye election from the Dagon Myothit East Pyithu Hluttaw constituency. Remember our party logo who you vote.

Vote for New Society Party to be true to the people's voice. Wishing the entire mass of people health and wealth.

(Unofficial Translation)

Tata Steel looking at Myanmar, Bangladesh B2C markets

TATA Steel is looking at building a distribution network and its brands in the Business to Consumer (B2C) markets in Bangladesh and Myanmar, a company official said on Saturday.

Tata Steel is looking at building a distribution network and its brands in the Business to Consumer (B2C) markets in Bangladesh and Myanmar, a company official said on Saturday. "We have great success in developing brands and distribution network in B2C markets in India. Bangladesh and Myanmar are the two B2C markets which have similar profile as India. We are seeing opportunities there to build the brand and distribution network," said company's MD (India and South East Asia) TV Narendran. Speaking at an event 'Metals 2017: Current Dynamics of steel in India' organised by Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry' here, Narendran said the country's steel industry has been spending less towards research and development (R&D) compared to global standards. "Most industries and countries spend about two per cent (of the revenue) towards R&D but as an industry we are under-spending. Indian steel industry is spending less than 0.5 per cent on it. The government is providing incentives to the industry to invest more in R&D," he said. "R&D expenditure is not about spending the money but having the right projects," he added.

The Managing Director also mentioned that steel processing facilities in India have not been keeping up for the high-end requirements of steel products in the automobile sector. "As the steel industry invests to increase the capabilities to service the high-end requirements of the auto industry, the steel processing sector also needs to improve. Largely, steel processing sector is volume play than the value play," he said.—*PTI*

Jade miners earning good price

THE ministry of resources and environmental conservation granted the jade mining companies to do mining depending on their abidance of mining rules to have the least impact on environment in Phakant and Lone Khine regions in Kachin state and in Kani in Sagaing region starting from 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The jade mining has declined because of the ethnic army troops. So, Jade supply is lower in the Mandalay gems market. The gems companies which are connected with jade mining companies sell the jade stones in US dollar at the Myanmar jewellery exhibition.

More and more traders from foreign countries come and buy the jade lot at the Myanmar jewellery exhibition because authorities seized gems traded via border illeally.

The jade mining companies are selling the jade stones because there is Chinese Yuan appreciation against US dollars and euros. – *Maung Pyithu (Mandalay)*

Merkel calls for joint efforts with Russia to battle Islamist terrorism

MUNICH — German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Saturday said Europe's ties with Russia remained challenging, but it was important to work with Russia in the fight against Islamist terrorism.

"The joint fight against Islamic terrorism is one area where we have the same interests and we can work together," Merkel said in a speech to the Munich Security Conference, where US Vice President Mike Pence was in the audience.

Merkel, who has been critical of a US ban on travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, underscored that Islam itself was not the source of terrorism. She said it was critical to include Muslim countries in the fight against Islamist terrorism.

Germany, under increasing pressure by US leaders to increase its military spending, would do "everything possible" meet a NATO target for spending 2 per cent of economic output on defense by 2024, Merkel told the conference.—*Reuters*

German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers her speech during the 53rd Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, on 18 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Former US general Jones: not considered as Trump's security adviser

MUNICH — James Jones, a former Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, said on Saturday he is not under consideration to be US President Donald Trump's new national security adviser.

"My policy is that I never turn down a job that hasn't been offered," Jones, who was attending the Munich Security Conference, told Reuters.

Jones, a former US Marine Corps general and President Barack Obama's first national security adviser, was thought to be one of four people under consideration by Trump to replace Michael Flynn, who resigned over telephone calls he had with Russia's ambassador to the United States before Trump was sworn in to office. —*Reuters*

Cuba says United States has deported 117 Cuban migrants since policy shift

HAVANA — Cuba said on Friday the United States had deported 117 migrants back to the island nation since ending its policy granting automatic residency to almost every Cuban who reached US soil as part of the normalization of relations.

Those deported included two people who were returned on Friday on the first flight chartered specifically for the deportation of Cuban migrants since the policy shift, Cuba's ruling Communist Party newspaper Granma wrote. The earlier deportees were taken back on commercial planes or boat.

Former US President Barack Obama repealed the special immigration policy for Cubans days before turning the White House over to Donald Trump.

Cuban authorities had long sought its end, arguing that the promise of US residency was fuelling people-trafficking and encouraging dangerous journeys.

Cubans stranded in Mexico stand outside the border bridge after Washington repealed a measure granting automatic residency to virtually every Cuban who arrived in the United States, in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico on 25 January, 2017.

The move however dashed the hopes of many who had been hoping to fulfill their American Dream and left hundreds of Cubans seeking a new life stranded halfway on their journey.

Since the policy shift, more than 680 Cuban "irregular migrants" have been deported in total from various countries, Granma wrote, including more than 400 from Mexico, 117 from the Bahamas and 39 from the Cayman Islands.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

McCain says Flynn affair shows Trump administration in "disarray"

MUNICH, Germany — US Senator John McCain said on Friday that the resignation of President Donald Trump's security adviser Michael Flynn over his contacts with the Russian ambassador in Washington showed that Trump's administration was in "disarray".

"I think that the Flynn issue obviously is something that shows that in many respects this administration is in disarray and they've got a lot of work to do," said McCain, a Republican who is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"The president I think makes statements (and) on other occasions contradicts himself. So we've learned to watch what the president does as opposed to what he says," McCain said at the Munich Security Conference.—*Reuters*

Lavrov denies Russian hacking to influence elections

MUNICH — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday he "saw no facts" pointing to hacking by Russia to influence the outcome of elections in other countries, including the United States.

He also told the Munich Security Conference that Russia did not want its citizens to get involved in cyber crimes.—*Reuters*

7-km bridge to connect artificial islet in south China

HAIKOU — Construction started Saturday on a multi-functional bridge that will connect China's southernmost province of Hainan to a nearby man-made islet.

The bridge will be 27.5 metres wide and 5,666 metres long, spanning over sea north of the provincial capital Haikou to link to the Ruyi Islet, a tourism project still under construction, according to the 2nd Engineering Company of the China Railway 18th Bureau Group, a major contractor of the bridge.

The bridge will have six main functions: road, a tramway, and being a corridor for water, electricity, natural gas and optical fiber.

The sea under the bridge has an average depth of 10 to 15 metres, and the construction could be challenged by strong wind, thick fog and tides, according to the company.

He Changsong, project manager at the company, said the bridge was designed to resist super typhoons and earthquakes of more than magnitude 8.

The sail-shaped bridge is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2019.—*Xinhua*

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	

Pence pledges US will stand firm with Europe, NATO

MUNICH — Vice President Mike Pence sought on Saturday to assure Europe that the United States will back NATO even as it looks for new ways to cooperate with Russia, but was greeted by muted applause by European allies unnerved by President Donald Trump.

In Pence's first major foreign policy address for the new Trump administration, the vice president told European leaders and ministers that he spoke for Trump when he promised an "unwavering" commitment to the NATO military alliance.

Trump's contradictory remarks on the value of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, scepticism of the 2015 deal to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions and an apparent disregard for the future of the European Union have left Europe fearful for the seven-decade-old US guardianship of the West.

Pence, citing a trip to Cold War-era West Berlin in his youth, said the new US government would uphold the post-World War Two order.

US Vice President Mike Pence walks with members of his delegation ahead of bilateral talks during the 53rd Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, on 18 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"This is President Trump's promise: we will stand with Europe today and every day, because we are bound together by the same noble ideals — freedom, democracy, justice and the rule of law," Pence told the Munich Security Conference.

While the audience listened intently, Pence received little applause beyond the warm reception he received when he declared his support for NATO.

European officials told Reuters in Munich there was still doubt about the direction of the Trump administration, particularly after US Senator John McCain told the conference on Friday the president's team was "in disarray."

Pence warned allies they must pay their fair share to support NATO, noting many lack "a clear or credible path" to do so. He employed a tougher tone than Trump's defense secretary Jim Mattis, who delivered a similar but more nuanced message to NATO allies in Brussels this week, diplomats said.

Pence also said Russia must honor the Minsk peace accords and deescalate violence in eastern Ukraine.

"Know this: the United States will continue to hold Russia accountable, even as we search for new common ground, which as you know, President Trump believes can be found," Pence said.—*Reuters*

Wilders launches campaign bid to 'de-Islamise' the Netherlands

AMSTERDAM — Geert Wilders kicks off his election campaign on Saturday, promising to ban Muslim immigration and close all the mosques in the Netherlands, hoping a global upsurge in populism will propel him to power.

Security will be tight at the launch as the politician — who has lived in hiding since the 2004 murder by an Islamist of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh — will make a rare public walkabout.

"I want us in government," Wilders said earlier this week, promising to "de-Islamise" the Netherlands with policies that echo, and go further than, those of US President Donald Trump.

His Freedom Party leads in polls with 17 per cent, but the pro-business liberals of Prime Minister Mark Rutte are barely a percentage point behind, having closed the gap on Wilders by matching some of his anti-immigration rhetoric and getting an electoral boost from a surging economy.

But even if he does win, Wilders would struggle to form a government since most major parties have ruled out joining a coalition with him. The next Dutch parliament is unlikely to support policies such as quitting the European Union.

Geert Wilders. PHOTO: REUTERS

The launch of the campaign for the 15 March parliamentary election, is in Spijkenisse, a suburb of the Freedom Party stronghold of Rotterdam, the port city that is the Netherlands' most ethnically diverse area, with a large Muslim population.

A victory for Wilders would boost French ally Marine Le Pen and the right-wing Alternative for Germany, both anti-EU right-wing parties that hope to transform European politics in national elections this year.—*Reuters*

The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km. PHOTO: TASS

New S-400 missile regiment to beef up Moscow's air defence

MOSCOW — The Russian Aerospace Force's new air defence regiment armed with the advanced S-400 Triumf missile systems will go on combat duty on 21 February to defend Moscow and Russia's Central Industrial District, the Defence Ministry's press office reported on Friday.

"After the new S-400 systems assume combat duty, there will be already five antiaircraft missile regiments in the Aerospace Force's air defence units armed with S-400 Triumf complexes that will provide air defence for Moscow and the Central Industrial District of Russia," the ministry said in a statement obtained by TASS.

The preparation of antiaircraft missile complexes and technical positions for combat duty in the Moscow Region has been completed.

The Aerospace Force's antiaircraft missile regiment will go on combat duty on 21 February, the statement said.

The S-400 Triumf is the most advanced long-range antiaircraft missile system that went into service in 2007.

It is designed to destroy aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, including medium-range missiles, and can also be used against ground objectives.

The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km.—*TASS*

Nine people flee US border patrol to seek asylum in Canada

CHAMPLAIN, NY — Nine asylum-seekers, including four children, barely made it across the Canadian border on Friday as a US border patrol officer tried to stop them and a Reuters photographer captured the scene.

As a US Customs and Border Patrol officer seized their passports and questioned a man in the front passenger seat of a taxi that had pulled up to the border in Champlain, New York, four adults and four young children fled the cab and ran to Royal Canadian Mounted Police on the other side.

One by one they scrambled across the snowy gully separating the two countries. RCMP officers watching from the other side helped them up, lifting the younger children and asking a woman, who leaned on her fellow passenger as she walked, if she needed medical care.

The children looked back from where they had come as the US officer held the first man, saying his papers needed to be verified. The man turned to a pile of belongings and heaved pieces of luggage two at a time into the gully — enormous wheeled suitcases, plastic shopping bags, a black backpack. "Nobody cares about us," he told journalists. He said they were all from Sudan and had been living and working in Delaware for two years. The RCMP declined on Friday to confirm the nationalities of the people. A Reuters photo showed that at least one of their passports was Sudanese.

The man then appeared to grab their passports from the US officer before making a run for the border. The officer yelled and gave chase but stopped at the border marker. Canadian police took hold of the man's arm as he crossed. The border patrol officer told his counterpart that the man was in the United States illegally and that he would have detained him.

Officers on both sides momentarily eyed the luggage strewn in the snow before the US officer took it, and a walker left on the road, to the border line. The RCMP carried the articles to their vehicles, and the people piled in to be driven to a nearby border office to be interviewed by police and to make a refugee claim. People seeking refugee status have been pouring over the Canada-US border as the United States looks to tighten its policies on refugees and illegal immigrants. Asylum-seekers sneak across because even if they are caught, they can make a claim in Canada; if they make a claim at a border crossing, they are turned away.—*Reuters*

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers assist a child from a family that claimed to be from Sudan as they walk across the US-Canada border into Hemmingford, Canada, from Champlain in New York, US, on 17 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Yangon Golf Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Yangon Golf Club and Annual-At-Home with Prize Giving ceremony, will be held on Sunday, 26th February, 2017 at the Club House Premises on the following programme.

Annual General Meeting - 10:00 AM
Annual-At-Home - 12:00 Noon

All members cordially with their families are invited to join us on this special occasion of Annual-At-Home.

Contact No: 09 73254835, 09 73230678

Executive Committee
Yangon Golf Club

Germany's Merkel wants to discuss cyber attacks with Russia

MUNICH — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday she would like to discuss cyber attacks and fake news with Russia, but it was questionable whether the problem of fake news could be successfully addressed before European elections this year.

"We know that Russia communicates very openly that it views hybrid warfare as a form of defence," Merkel told the Munich Security Conference when asked about the issue of fake news. "If I could wish for one thing, it would certainly be very good to get this topic, for example, on the agenda in the framework of NATO-Russia talks."—*Reuters*

All Japan regions to have support centre for sexual assault victims

TOKYO — Each of Japan's 47 prefectures is expected to have a support centre where victims of rape and other sexual assaults will be able to receive medical treatment and counseling, due largely to new subsidies from the central government, a Kyodo News survey showed on Saturday.

Eleven prefectures currently without such a facility — Aomori, Iwate, Akita, Toyama, Ishikawa, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nara, Kagawa, Ehime and Kochi — have begun considering setting one up although six of them do not have a concrete timetable at the moment.

The support centres, dubbed "one-stop assistance centers" by the government, serve as a refuge for sexual assault victims, including those who find it hard to report their case to police.

The central government is allocating 160 million yen ($1.42 million) in the budget plan for the fiscal year from April for such centres. The subsidies are designed to partially compensate local governments for the costs of setting up and operating the support centers, and footing victims' medical bills.

Thirty-six prefectures have at least one support center already set up for the victims. In Osaka, for example, the Sexual Assault Crisis Healing Intervention Centre Osaka, located at Hannan Chuo Hospital in Matsubara, provides around-the-clock treatment and counseling for sexual assault victims.

Of the 11 prefectures considering setting up a support centre, Kagawa plans to open one in April, Iwate around this fall, Akita and Ishikawa sometime between this April and March next year, and Toyama no later than April next year, according to the survey.

The central government has set a goal of having at least one support center set up in each prefecture by 2020.

The survey was conducted between January and February.—*Kyodo News*

US wage gap puts rentals out of reach of single women — research

NEW YORK — Single women cannot afford to rent a small apartment in nearly all of the biggest US cities but single men could manage to lease in a third of those locations, a reflection of the gender wage gap, research shows.

The Midwestern cities of Wichita, Kansas and Tulsa, Oklahoma are the only two of the 50 largest cities where the median income of single women can pay for a studio or one-bedroom apartment, according to research by RentCafe.com, an online apartment search company.

Across the United States, women working full time are paid 80 per cent of what men are paid, according to US Census Bureau statistics.

In the 50 largest US cities, a woman makes only 74 cents for every dollar earned by a man, a gender wage gap of 26 per cent, according to RentCafe.com.

In those cities, single men make an average of $32,451 a year, while single women average $24,115, it said.

Globally, the gender wage gap is as small as 6 per cent in New Zealand and as wide as 37 per cent in South Korea among the 35 member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The RentCafe.com research, published this month on its website, used the US industry standard that housing costs should not comprise more than 30 per cent of one's income.

Among the 50 cities, men can afford to rent a studio or one-bedroom apartment on their own in 18, the research found. Those cities include Phoenix, Las Vegas, Oklahoma City, Memphis, Indianapolis, Omaha and Kansas City.

In 14 cities, the median income is not enough to rent a studio or one bedroom by single women or men, it said.

The least affordable spots for singles are Boston and the New York City borough of Manhattan. Eight of the 50 most expensive cities are in California.

The study used Census Bureau income data and analyzed the 50 largest cities excluding St Louis, Missouri where it had incomplete information.

It used median market rent data from Yardi Matrix, which researches and reports on multifamily properties except those covered by affordable housing programs or government subsidies. —*Reuters*

18-year-old boy travels 900 km on stolen bike

AOMORI, (Japan) — An 18-year-old boy has been arrested for allegedly stealing a road bicycle and riding it about 900 kilometres from Osaka Prefecture in western Japan to Aomori Prefecture in the north, police said on Saturday.

The teen, who ran away from home in Yokohama in September, is suspected of stealing the bicycle in Moriguchi, Osaka Prefecture, in mid-December, police said.

His name has been withheld since he is a minor.

Police found him at a rest area along a road in Tsuruta, Aomori Prefecture on Friday evening. A store worker there had reported seeing a suspicious young man.

The boy told police that he has not eaten for around three days. He had only a few yen when he was arrested.

His family had asked police to search for his whereabouts.—*Kyodo News*

T-shirt designer hopes to cash in on North Korean assassination

SAN FRANCISCO — A US-based designer said he hoped to cash in on the assassination of the North Korean leader's half-brother by selling T-shirts emblazoned with "LOL" in the style worn by his alleged assassin.

The designer said "human rights abuses" by North Korea's leaders outweighed any arguments against making such T-shirts.

Police believe a woman captured on video wearing a shirt with the letters "LOL" poisoned Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Malaysian police have made a series of arrests.

"I thought she looked very stylish. I'm also always looking out for newsworthy designs — things that are easily made into memes," the designer, who gave his name as Joel and said he lived in the United States, told Reuters in an online message. He declined to give his full name.

A chief executive of online marketplace Redbubble, where several T-Shirts sporting the LOL (laugh out loud) label are being offered, did not immediately comment. A representative at the company's San Francisco office declined to comment.

The designer said sales were slow so far but that he saw the shirt appealing to feminists, internet "trolls" and anyone who opposed North Korea and other "fascist" regimes.—*Reuters*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SHIBA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIBA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Angelina Jolie launches Khmer Rouge film with premiere in Cambodia

SIEM REAP, Cambodia — Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie said Saturday that her new film about the Khmer Rouge, set to be screened later in the day at the Angkor Wat temple complex, will help the world understand what happened in Cambodia under the regime.

Speaking at a press conference in Siem Reap province, where the temple is located, just hours before the film was to be screened, Jolie said she was "proud" of the film and described it as "wonderful."

She said she wanted to tell the world not only about the "war" in Cambodia's past, but to help people better understand the country's culture, arts, beauty and history.

Directed by Jolie, "First They Killed My Father" is dedicated to all the people who died under the Khmer Rouge regime, and those who survived.

It focuses on the love and dedication of a Cambodian family, and celebrates the beauty, spirit and resilience of the Cambodian people and culture.

"First They Killed My Father" was shot on location in Cambodia between November 2015 and February 2016, and was filmed entirely in the Khmer language and with Cambodian actors.

Cambodian technicians, artisans and craftsmen comprised the largest portion of the crew, along with more than 3,500 local background actors.

Actress Angelina Jolie (L) and Cambodian-born American human-rights activist and lecturer Loung Ung greet as they arrive for a news conference at hotel in Siem Reap province, Cambodia, on 18 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chhang Youk, director of the Documentation Center of Cambodia, which archives the history of the Khmer Rouge, told Kyodo News that there have been three major international productions on the Khmer Rouge since the collapse of the regime, which was blamed for the deaths of at least 1.7 million Cambodians, in 1979.

The productions were "The Killing Fields," "The Hell with Nine Levels," and "First They Killed My Father."

"Each film helps contribute to sustaining dialogue between the inter-generations and between the older and the younger, and that is very important for Cambodia...we have to maintain this, search for the truth," he said.

Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni, government officials and high-profile personalities, together with people from the diplomatic corps, were among the 1,500 people to attend the premiere.

After its premiere in Siem Reap, the film will be screened around the country and to the rest of the world.

When asked if she has plans for her next movie in Cambodia, Jolie said she is relying on her Cambodian partner Rithy Panh to conceptualize a future film.

Jolie, who has adopted a Cambodian son, now aged 15, said Cambodia is like her "second home."—*Kyodo News*

Amid record betting on Oscars, 'La La Land' is seen as a lock

NEW YORK — "La La Land" is set to sweep the Oscars, but the race to be crowned Hollywood's leading man is going down to the wire, say bookmakers who are seeing record bets on the Academy Awards this year.

Casey Affleck, star of "Manchester by the Sea," had been the favourite to win the best actor statue for several months. But his odds tightened as a flood of money flowed to Denzel Washington after he took home the Screen Actors Guild award in January for "Fences."

Ladbrokes favours Affleck with 8/15 odds, compared with 13/8 for a Washington victory, but says it will be close.

"This is without a doubt the most competitive category of 2017," said Ladbrokes spokeswoman Nicola McGeady, who said a rush of bets on Washington in recent weeks had moved the market significantly.

Bookmakers, however, are overwhelmingly confident that "La La Land" will take home the best picture statuette on Sunday, 26 February.

"At 1/7, we reckon there is an 87.5 per cent chance it will win best picture," said Feilim Mac An Iomaire, spokesman for Paddy Power Betfair. The musical starring Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling has faced some recent competition from "Hidden Figures," the tale of black female mathematicians in the 1960s space race. But at 12/1, it's well behind the favourite.

Actress Emma Stone while attending the photocall for the movie 'La La Land' at the 73rd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on 31 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turnover on bets for novelty events such as the Academy Awards and other awards shows has doubled since 2014, said Mac An Iomaire.

"This year, we are expecting to end up 30 per cent over last year, taking some 250,000 Euro ($270,000) in terms of the bets," he added.

Punters are finding several ways to put their money behind "La La Land." Ladbrokes has the film 3/1 to equal the record for most wins — currently 11 — held by "Titanic," "Ben-Hur" and "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King." The odds for "La La Land" to beat the record for most wins is 10/1. Alex, 31, of London, who did not want to give his surname, said he'd backed "La La Land" to win best picture in early December at 4/5.

"I also backed Emma Stone to win best actress at 7/4," he said. "Unfortunately, I was restricted to only 70 pounds ($87) on the latter.

"I was tempted to back Denzel Washington for best actor but decided that would be my emotions making the bet. I try to keep my own feelings on the film well away from my actual bet." —*Reuters*

At 95, playful Bulgarian actress still shines on stage

SOFIA — At 95, Bulgarian actress Stoyanka Mutafova is considered the oldest actress in the world still regularly performing on stage. And she has not lost her sense of adolescent mischief.

The tireless "Queen of Bulgarian comedy" has performed many roles in a career spanning from 1945 — when she played a maidservant in Moliere's Scapin the Schemer — to the present day, receiving numerous accolades.

Mutafova, who effortlessly recalls the words from her debut appearance on stage, inspired generations of Bulgarians to pursue careers in cinema and theatre.

"(Time has passed) so quickly," Mutafova told Reuters in the tiny dressing room of Sofia's Tear and Laugh theatre minutes before going on the scene to play in "Mrs Natural Disaster".

Mutafova, who it is suggested became the oldest stage performer after Russian actor Vladimir Zeldin died in Moscow in October at the age of 102, said she never regretted her choice to become an actress.

"If was 20 again, I still would become an actress," said Mutafova, who shot to fame after appearing in a number of Bulgarian TV comedies and entertainment programmes in past decades.

Despite using a crutch to help herself to the stage, she is still cracking jokes and producing engaging performances four or five times a month, touching the hearts of adoring fans.

"Humour is in me but I still approach each role with fear and suspicion," she said. "(Thankfully), I'm keeping my gamine manner, I cannot breathe without it. I was born gamine and now I'm a gamine granny."

Soon after Zeldin's death, Bulgarian officials submitted an application for Mutafova to be named in Guinness Book of Records. However, she remains indifferent.

"It doesn't flatter me because it is related to my age," Mutafova said with a typical creak in her voice. "Why I should be glad of such a thing?"

Her colleagues were full of praise.

"She is so real and the audience can sense that," said Bulgarian actress Iren Krivoshieva, Mutafova's partner in "Mrs Natural Disaster". "The public just loves her." —*Reuters*

In memoriam

Family shares merits gained

Maha Thayay Sithu

Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us sixteen years ago, we family members have made donations and offered 'soon' and provisions to members of the Sangha today on 19-2-2015. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife	**- Daw Khin Than Nwe**
Sons and daughters	**- U Maung Maung Kyaw**
	+ Daw Cho Leh Oo
	- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
	- Dr Myat Noe+Yin Mar Oo
	- Zaw Tun Oo+ Khin Thida
	- Nay Tun Oo
Grandchildren	**- Hein Htet,**
	Yin Myat Noe,
	- Phu Ngon Kyaw,
	- Thant Thi Han Zaw
	(Po Thila)

After New York, London kicks off fashion week with eyes on creativity

LONDON — Chunky knits and frilly dresses took over the London catwalk on Friday as the British capital kicked off its leg of the autumn/winter womenswear fashion week calendar.

After New York, fashionistas gather for London Fashion Week (LFW) where a mix of established names, highstreet labels and emerging designers will present their latest creations during five days of runway shows and presentations.

While smaller than fellow fashion capitals New York, Milan and Paris, the event in London — which is known for its fashion schools and new creative talent — will host labels including Burberry, Mulberry, Versace's Versus line and Temperley London.

With some brands using the catwalk to make political statements during New York Fashion Week, fashionistas expect London designers could follow suit.

"There seems to be a mood of activism. There seems to be a lot of people finding a voice," accessories designer Anya Hindmarch said when asked what to expect this fashion season.

"I think London is all about creativity."

Among the first to present his autumn/winter 2017 collection was designer Eudon Choi, who dressed models in chunky ribbed jumpers worn like shawls, wide-leg trousers and sports shoes.

Taking inspiration from architect Adolf Loos, London-based Choi, who first trained as a designer for menswear in Seoul, presented a line of "utilitarian designs", adding metallic button-like fastenings on his tailored looks. The collection featured shirts with extended backs, quilted parkas, oversized coats, sweaters adorned with tie details and satin dresses.

London-based Turkish designer Bora Aksu, who took inspiration from prominent British suffragette Princess Sophia Duleep Singh for his line, presented floral as well as frilly dresses in white, pale pink and blue, with black and white checked jacket and skirt combinations also featuring.

Models, some in small hats, wore calf-high black boots on top of tights embroidered with words such as "love" and "freedom".

More than 50 catwalk shows and 30 presentations will be held during LFW, which takes place with the uncertainty of Brexit looming over the industry.

"We don't know what the trade deal is going to be at the moment so there's a lot of scenario planning around it," Caroline Rush, chief executive of the British Fashion Council told Reuters. "The immediate upside ... is that the pound is becoming slightly lower (which) has meant that tourism has increased ... but of course the longer term impact we're yet to see."—*Reuters*

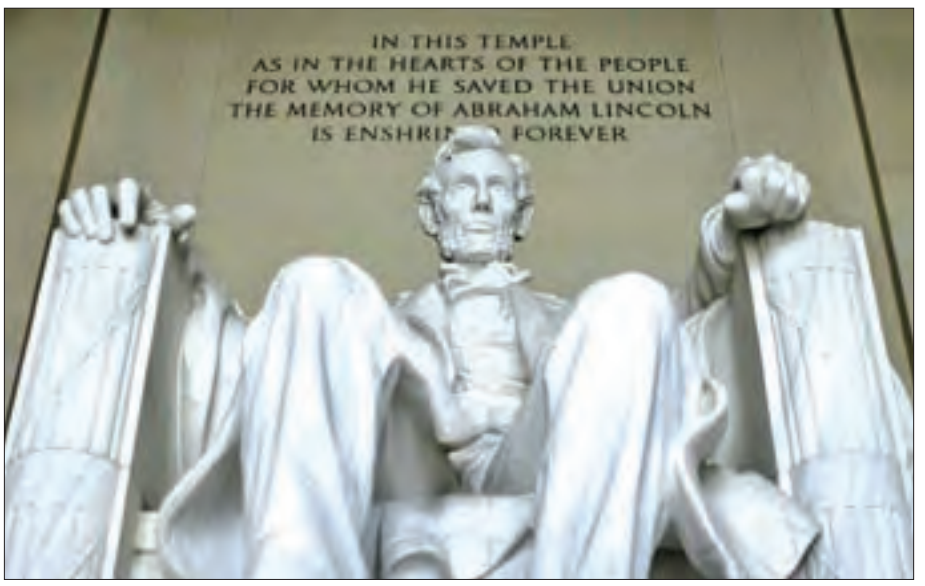
Lincoln, Washington and Roosevelt ranked top three US presidents

LOS ANGELES — Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Franklin D Roosevelt were ranked as the top three US presidents in history respectively while Barack Obama entered the rankings in the 12th spot, based on a survey of historians released on Friday.

Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower rounded out the top five of 43 presidents in US history, a survey of historians' rankings of presidential leadership found.

It was the third such survey released by the C-SPAN television network ahead of the Presidents Day weekend.

"Once again the big three are Lincoln, Washington and FDR — as it should be. That Obama came in at number 12 his first time out is quite impressive," said Douglas Brinkley, a history professor at Rice University, in a statement by C-SPAN.



US President Abraham Lincoln's statue at the Lincoln Memorial is seen in Washington, on 27 March 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The survey, which was held twice before in 2000 and 2009, asked 91 presidential historians to rank the 43 former presidents based on 10 attributes of leadership.

Obama, who left office in January with favourable approval ratings after serving eight years, was ranked third in the "pursued equal justice of all" category and 39th in the "relations with congress" category.

"One would have thought that former President Obama's favourable rating when he left office would have translated into a higher ranking," said Edna Greene Medford, a history professor at Howard University. "But, of course, historians prefer to view the past from a distance, and only time will reveal his legacy."

Andrew Johnson, Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan were ranked as the worst presidents in US history, even lower than William Henry Harrison, who served for only one month.—*Reuters*

Lego builds giant brick house in its home town

COPENHAGEN — Danish toymaker Lego is building a play house in its home town designed to look like 21 giant versions of its bricks stacked on top of each other, the company said on Thursday.

The Lego House is due to open in September near the company's headquarters in Billund, Denmark.

"Lego House will be the only one of its kind in the world and it will remain so, because Billund is the home of Lego and this is where we will always be," its general manager, Jesper Vilstrup, told Reuters.

The 12,000 square metre (130,000 square feet) building, designed by Danish architect Bjarke Ingels, will include three restaurants, a Lego store, four play areas and a gallery displaying the history of Lego and creations made by fans.

Lego House will "display everything the Lego brick can do," Vilstrup said.

Lego, which is vying with Barbie doll maker Mattel to become the world's biggest toy maker, has teamed up with movie franchises such as Star Wars in deals that span Lego sets, video games, and smartphone applications.

The company, founded in 1932 by Ole Kirk Kristiansen and his grandchild Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, aims to bring children back to its core product: the Lego brick, first produced in its current form in 1958. —*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(19-2-2017 07:00am ~ 20-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Reflected Glory
07:50	Am	Excavation At Kawhmu
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Longest Living Siblings (Part-2)
08:48	Am	The 110th Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	The Hills of Phowintaung And Shwebataung
09:45	Am	My Tour Around Hopone City
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Sayit-wyne Girls
10:48	Am	Dhamma School

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:26	Pm	Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
07:46	Pm	Today Myanmar:
08:03	Pm	New
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Music Icon Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-2)
08:51	Pm	Crocodile Keeper

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Australia coach concerned over Kruse's playing time in China

SYDNEY — Australia coach Ange Postecoglou is concerned that Socceroos such as Robbie Kruse might not get enough playing time in the Chinese Super League under news rules restricting the number of foreigners allowed in each team.

CSL clubs will be limited to three foreign players per game for the 2017 season, which begins on 3 March, down from five last year.

Kruse and midfielder James Holland moved to Liaoning FC last month, joining James Troisi at the club and international team mates like Matthew Spiranovic (Hangzhou Greentown) and Apostolos Giannou (Guangzhou R&F) in China.

Winger Kruse's need for gametime is particularly acute as he made only three appearances in cup competitions for Bayer Leverkusen this season before his move.

Australia coach Ange Postecoglou. PHOTO: REUTERS

"You hope he has got a move where he plays regularly. There are new rules for him and Giannou just to play," Postecoglou said.

"There are no guarantees any more. That's a bit of a concern."

Australia's campaign to reach a fourth straight World Cup finals reaches the business end this year and the Socceroos are also featuring in the Confederations Cup in Russia.

With the World Cup following in 2018 and Australia's Asian Cup defence the following year, Postecoglou said this would be a crucial year for 28-year-old Kruse, who has played 48 times for his country.

"He is still in the prime of his career," Postecoglou added.

"Robbie, at his best, is more than capable of playing at the highest level.

He just hasn't had the opportunity because of injuries and game time," he said.

"This next 12 months are big for him. He will either become a key player and take on that experienced role now, or get bypassed by others. That's his challenge.

"I believe he can be a key player in our team, and he needs to be now."—*Reuters*

UEFA act against St Etienne after fans lit flares

LONDON — European soccer body UEFA launched disciplinary proceedings against St Etienne on Friday after the French side's supporters lit flares during their Europa League last-32 first leg match at Manchester United.

UEFA said in a statement that St Etienne, who face a fine, were charged with setting off fireworks, throwing objects and the improper conduct of supporters at Old Trafford on Thursday.

It said its control, ethics and disciplinary body would met to deal with the case on 23 March.

The Ligue 1 side, whose fans lit up the away end with smoky green and red flares, lost the match 3-0 with Zlatan Ibrahimovic scoring a hattrick.

Some Manchester fans questioned afterwards how the visitors had managed to get so many flares through supposedly tight security at the stadium.

"There is heightened security at the moment at United. If you turn up you get searched at the door, you walk up to the turnstile, you get searched," United supporter Keith Bradley told the Manchester Evening News.

"But then you see in the ground at least 20 to 30 flares going off last night."—*Reuters*

Suarez says Barcelona have not given up on Champions League

BARCELONA — Luis Suarez said Barcelona have not given up on the Champions League despite a "difficult and painful" 4-0 drubbing by Paris St Germain in their last 16 tie this week.

"If we want to make history at this club, we have to turn this tie around," Suarez said at a charity event in Barcelona on Friday.

"We are the best team in the world. If there is a team that can overturn this situation, it's Barcelona," added the Uruguayan.

No team has overcome a 4-0 first leg loss to progress to the next round in the knock-out stages of the Champions League.

Barca, who have won the competition five times, have reached the quarterfinals of the Champions League in the last nine years. That run looks likely to be broken when they host PSG in the second leg at the Camp Nou on 8 March.

"To lose in the manner that we did in the last 16 is difficult and painful. It's going to be very difficult but it's a beautiful challenge," said Suarez.

Suarez made it clear that the players were fully behind coach Luis Enrique, under fire after the loss.

"We are all to blame," he said. "We didn't play well and that we all have to take responsibility for what happened."

Suarez was speaking ahead of Sunday's La Liga home game against struggling Leganes.

Barca are second in La Liga one point adrift of Real Madrid, who have two games in hand.—*Reuters*

Bale likely to play for Real Madrid after long injury lay-off

Real Madrid's Gareth Bale in action with Atletico Madrid's Juanfran during the match of La Liga between Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid at Vicente Calderon, in Madrid, Spain on 19 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MADRID — Gareth Bale is expected to play for the first time since November when Real Madrid host Espanyol on Saturday in La Liga, coach Zinedine Zidane said on Friday.

The Welsh forward will fortify Real's attack as they try to go four points clear of Barcelona at the top of the standings. Real have two games in hand.

"Bale will be included in the squad and our idea is that he will be given minutes," Zidane said a news conference. "He has already been training with us this week and he is looking forward to playing."

Bale scored seven goals and set up three in 16 appearances for Real before he hurt his right ankle during a Champions League victory at Sporting Lisbon. He underwent surgery in November.

"We know the quality he has, the speed that he brings when he plays in his position," Zidane said. "We know the damage he can cause to opponents."

Zidane also said that Spanish forward Alvaro Morata would start against Espanyol. Morata has not started since 10 December and has played 90 minutes in the last seven games.

Real have not lost at home this season in La Liga. They host an Espanyol side that won three in a row before last Sunday's home defeat to Real Sociedad.

Real will be without captain Sergio Ramos and Marcelo, who suffered minor knocks on Wednesday, and Fabio Coentrao is still sidelined. All are expected back in training next week.

Zidane, meanwhile, was asked about Barcelona's 4-0 defeat at PSG in midweek and whether that result might make the Catalans more determined to retain the domestic title.

"It's not going to change anything," Zidane said. "We just focus on ourselves. "There's a return leg.

"We know that Barcelona is a very good team and can do things in this competition."—*Reuters*

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