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Tuesday, 7 March 2017

Women entrepreneurs' role in peace process

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged everyone to take the rule of law into consideration when thinking about rights for women, stressing the importance of peace for business.

She also called on female entrepreneurs to discuss how the business sector can help support the peace process.

"Business cannot flourish in a country devoid of peace. The business that we're supporting is inclusive of all people, not for any particular individual, corporation or organization," the State Counsellor said in her opening address at the Women's Week Forum yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

She further stated that business is an important support for a person's physical needs but we also need to recognise that its effects cannot support our emotional and mental needs. In our effort to grow opportunities for Myanmar women, we need to consider the level of equality these opportunities will present.

"We cannot overlook the fact that other countries are more developed in the legal sector; however, we must also consider the effects of these laws as well. Which is why when we think of women's opportunities, we must also consider Rule of Law, without which legislations for gender equality will be nothing more than words on paper," said the State Counsellor.

She also stressed the im-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, right, addresses the opening day of Women's Week Myanmar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

portance of taking responsibility when people take chances, urging businesswomen to work with the spirit of taking responsibility for the country and the world.

On the opening day of Myanmar Women's Week, the State Counsellor voiced her wish for inclusive peace talks conducted monthly among the citizens and

responsible people within various sectors. She pointed out that the business sector can help support the peace process in yesterday's business talk with prominent wom-

en entrepreneurs that was aired live on MRTV and on the Facebook pages of the Myanmar President's Office and the State Counsellor.

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Civilians, police killed in Laukkai attack by MNDAA

At least 30 people were killed, four traffic policemen taken hostage and many injured early yesterday morning after troops from the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) staged multiple early morning attacks in Laukkai in northern

Shan State.

The attacks occurred in the pre-dawn hours with MNDAA armed troops arriving from the East near the Chinese border and raiding and setting fire to homes, police stations, border outposts and hotels.

The attacks continued when a contingent of about 30 MNDAA members disguised in police uniforms entered Yanlonekyine Police Station, Laukkai Township, about 2 am and opened fire, prompting officers of the Tatmadaw-Myanmar Police Joint Security

Force to engage in a gun battle. The Yanlonekyine Police Station is a usual rendezvous point for members of the Tatmadaw and Border Security Force.

A few hours later, about 50 MNDAA armed troops infiltrated the house of U Wai San, a mem-

ber of the Kokang Self-Administered Zone's Leading Committee, and retreated at about 5 am, according to official reports. The insurgents also attacked the Kyintin Hotel and badly damaged four vehicles.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Ks 18.363 billion allotments from reserve fund for natural disasters discussed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session

ALLOTMENTS and expenditures of Ks18.363 billion from the reserve fund of the Union Budget for unexpected natural disasters in 2016 sent by the President was discussed on the 12th day fourth regular session of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Myint Ngwe said that 571 buildings and 24 related facilities totalling 595 structures on 112 regiments and units under the office of the commander-in-chief (Navy), Nay Pyi Taw command, Eastern command, Western command, North-Western command, Central command and regional Control command in Loikaw and Sittway were damaged by the 24 August 2016 earthquake.

The Deputy Minister said the damages were estimated and calculated by Directorate of Military Engineers and Office of the Quartermaster-General and it is expected to cost Ks364.928 million, urging the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to confirm the budget allocation for the Ministry of Defence. Afterward, deputy ministers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and Ministry

of Planning and Finance explained matters related to the activities undertaken by the union minister for construction, the deputy minister for transport and communications, the union minister for labour, immigration and population and Chin State government.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker announced that the proposal was placed on the record. The speaker also announced the appointment of Dr Aye Zan as Mon State Chief Minister sent by the President and put the proposal on record. Then, Secretary of Joint Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe read out the findings by the committee over the National Planning Bill for the 2017-2018 FY. As to the Ks400 million allotments from the reserve fund of the 2016 Union Budget for restoration and conservation of Inle Lake in Southern Shan State sent by the President, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw replied that Bell 250-branded one dredger manufactured by Netherlands-based Bell Co was purchased at a cost of Ks1 billion kyat and Ks600 million was paid by the Shan State development fund and Ks400 million is sched-

uled to be paid from the reserve fund. The socioeconomic status of the local people will be improved as the government is helping to sustain Inle Lake by purchasing the dredger, he added, saying the move will enable development of tourism industry in the region and the Lawpita Hydropower Plant is expected to generate sufficient electricity for the locals.

The deputy minister requested the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to ratify the proposal to confirm the Ks400 million allocations for the dredger. Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win made a detailed explanation. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker asked the parliamentarians to enlist their names if they wished to discuss it.

Member of the Joint Bill Committee U Tun Tun Hein read out the legal review report as to Draft Union Budget Law for 2017 and Member of the Joint Public Accounts Committee U Aung Min, the financial review report. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker announced that the MPs are to enlist their names if they want to discuss basic principles, income and expenditure of the bill. —Myanmar News Agency



Secretary of Joint Bill Committee Dr Myat Nyana Soe. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Myint Ngwe. PHOTO: MNA



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



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar to celebrate accomplishments, capabilities of women this week

WITH the motto "Creating Inclusive Growth," Myanmar Women's Week commenced yesterday morning at Nay Pyi Taw's Kempinski Hotel.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, the chairperson for the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs (MNCWA), stated that in the endeavour to better the livelihoods of women, we to need eliminate inequality, oppose gender-based violence, continue paving the way for the development of opportunities for women, highlight the success of women pioneers, and confer scholarships to women and girls.

Chargé d'affaires for the U.S. Embassy Kristen Bauer said the time for an important transition in Myanmar history is upon us, and there will be numerous opportunities as well as many adversities. There are challenges in the business sector as well as in inclusive peace efforts. The fact that there are more and more female representatives in parliament are a marker of success and she believes that noninvolvement of women in peace efforts is unlikely to be successful.

"The one place where we can all find common ground is that good development in the business sector is necessary on the path to peace," she said.

Prof. Dr. Aung Htun Thet,



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye gives talks at the Myanmar Women's Week Forum. PHOTO: MNA

Chairman for UN Global Compact Network-Myanmar, discussed the UN's Sustainable Development Goals with participation from MNCWA Chief Secretary Dr. San San Aye, Gender Equality Network Local Advisor Daw Pansi Htun Thein, Daw Yu Wai Maung from Kanbawza Group and Miss Tiko Kudo from Growth Industry Cluster Department.

The forum was then divided into smaller groups and discussed individual topics, including talks on policy and the production sector and its effects on accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals by UMFCI Joint-Secretary Daw Khine Khine Nwe, UN Women Myanmar Dr. Jean D'Cunha's topic on 'The Future is Women' which discussed improving the business

sector by lessening discrimination in the workplace and the effects of inequality in society, Founder of Akhaya Women Myanmar Dr. Htar Htar on the topic of 'Linking differences between genders' which highlights gender-based violence in the workplace and overcoming such events.

Afterwards there was a discussion as to what agreements should be made for gender equality. An introduction into gender-based violence and efforts to combat it was shown.

Also in the list of events were a "Whistle for Help" campaign by Akhaya Women Myanmar and the "Safe City" campaign by Action-Aid, after which Prof. Dr. Aung Htun Thet delivered the concluding speech. —Thura Zaw and Group

Myanmar, Viet Nam to cooperate in defence and technical sectors

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was welcomed by Vietnamese Defence Minister GenNgo Xuan Lich with a guard of honour in Hanoi at about 9am yesterday.

The Senior General and Defence Minister GenNgo Xuan Lich took the salute of the guard of honour and inspected it.

They held talks on anti-terrorism matters, exchanges of visits between the two armed forces, cooperation in training and technology, medical seminar, sport sections and other potential areas of cooperation. The delegation led by the Senior General and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla visited Mausoleum for the heroes in Ho Chi Minh

City, and other places.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also paid a courtesy call on the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr. Tran Dai Quang at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi City at 4 pm local standard time yesterday. During the call, they discussed amity and cooperation between the two countries, comprehensive cooperation with Myanmar in the areas of political, economic, social and defence and cooperation in training, sports and healthcare sector between the two armed forces. The Senior General also met with Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Chairwoman of the National Assembly of the Viet Nam at 4:45 pm LST.—Myanmar News Agency



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing lays the wreath at the Mausoleum for Fallen Heroes in Ho Chi Minh City. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with the Vice President of the ADB Mr. Stephen Groff. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with ADB Vice President

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr. Stephen P. Groff, Vice President of the Asian Development Bank, on 6 March 2017 at 3:00 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on cooperation between Myanmar and Asian Development Bank on infrastructure development, including better transportation and electrification, job creation, poverty reduction and agricultural development in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency

President receives ADB Vice President

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw received the Vice-President of the Asian Development Bank for East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Mr. Stephen Groff at the Office of the President at 4 pm yesterday.

Matters relating to development in the areas of infrastructure, transportation, foreign export, investment and agriculture were discussed during the meeting.

Present at the call were Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials.—Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw welcomes ADB Vice-President for East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Mr. Stephen Groff. PHOTO: MNA

Women entrepreneurs' role in peace process

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The State Counsellor said in her speech that participation in NGOs has had a positive effect for women's rights.

"Now, in the United Nations many NGOs are found to have taken active part in the organisation. Last year, I attended the United Nation's General Assembly, finding NGOs and social societies present at the assembly. We had seen that these organisations had influences over UN's decisions.

Women from our country are required to participate in the NGOs and need to take responsibility especially. Some NGOs have been found to go beyond more than the government in the role of influence. Hence, it is impossible to take authority into consideration, with responsibility excluded. It is of great importance to prove that our women have courage to take responsibility with the increasing demand for rights.

By acquiring women's rights, the standard of a country rises up. As for women, they are demanding for rights, and simultaneously they need to show their enthusiasm to perform their duties energetically. Only demanding for rights, without taking responsibility and accountability, which are wholly left to the government, does not comply with democracy standards.

We cannot achieve the progress we deserve only if we take something partially. Now we are in the circle of women entrepreneurs. But we cannot think about the benefits of the circle alone. Some said how they started philanthropic activities. It may be reasonable economy helped so-

cial affairs.

Entrepreneurs need to look forward to the benefits not only for economy and our country but also for the benefits for the world. These cannot be avoided presently. Our country is connected with other countries. We must acknowledge these connections and then we must consider how we shall do for the best for us, for the country and for other countries, so that we can win the genuine spirit.

If a woman wants to expose her country's progress, she needs to be eager to present women's rights and she also needs to do from the perspective that women can help spirited revolution be successful. Women in other countries who are working for women's rights, I assume that women's rights are the freedom of human beings.

Peace is a major matter for the development of human beings. Peace means not only national peace, but also world peace. Peace is a thing that comes from our hearts. Only if we have the spirit of peace will peace be achieved. Unless we really want peace, we cannot help for the achievement of peace. So, I want our women to think carefully which kind of spirit we need to gain our national peace and world peace, and to help these spirits develop while performing our responsibilities," she said.

Following her speech, Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of the Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, clarified the aim of the forum, saying that the forum was held in honour of Myanmar women who are taking



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (Centre) and Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye (5th Left) pose for a documentary photo with prominent women entrepreneurs. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of the Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation speaks at the forum. PHOTO: MNA

part in development of the country keeping abreast of others locally and internationally.

To work for gender equality, to disseminate knowledge and lay down strategies for promoting the capacity of women and girls, the forum is a part of cooperation

with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, she added.

KBZ Group is the main organiser of the event.

Other programs in the lineup are the Creating Inclusive Growth Forum (March 6 in Nay

Pyi Taw), Women Affairs Programs (March 6 to 11 on MRTV 4 and shortwave radios), documentaries (March 7 at Global Shapers Yangon), a women authors and women affairs book fair (March 8 to 12 at City Mart Holdings), and an equality football match (March 12 at the Myanmar Football Federation).

There will also be various women-related campaigns, workshops and seminars at various locations from Wednesday to Saturday.

The opening ceremony of the forum was also attended by Daw Khin Thet Htay, wife of Vice-President U Myint Swe, Dr Shwe Hlwan, wife of Vice-President U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, Dr Myint Htwe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye, U Thein Swe, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and departmental officials.—Myanmar News Agency

15 more blue plaques to be installed in Yangon this year

FIFTEEN more commemorative blue plaques are planned to be installed in Yangon this year by the Yangon Heritage Trust, a non-governmental heritage body conserving historic buildings around the city, its Director Daw Moe Moe Lwin said.

After making negotiations with the Yangon City Development Committee, the YHT will implement its project to place blue plaques on colonial-era buildings in Yangon, which has Asia's largest collection of colonial-era structures.

The Yangon Heritage Trust was established in 2012 by Historian U Thant Myint-U, the grandson of U Thant, the third secretary-general of the United Nations, as a centre of excellence in urban buildings and cultural heritage management. Since then, the YHT has led the conservation effort in the culturally rich city and set the standard for good heritage practice.

The YHT is now observing the collecting data related to the history of Yangon General



Yangon General Hospital, reminiscent of an era long past, standing proud since 1899. It is under consideration for the 18th blue plaque by YHT. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Hospital, a major public hospital constructed in 1899, considering installing the 18th blue plaque at the colonial structure of the hospital still in use for its

original purpose.

The YHT usually imports the blue plaques written in both Myanmar and English languages from Australia to ensure the

quality needed to last for a long time without breaking.

The first blue plaque was installed at Yangon's City Hall. The 17th and the most recent

blue plaque was affixed at St. Paul's Basic Education High School in Botahtaung. Both are situated in downtown Yangon.—200

Mon State to build new information centre to protect endangered birds

MON State authorities will continue to try to build a new information centre in a village in Paung Township as a part of bird conservation plan, said U Tun Htay, Mon State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Transportation.

Educating villagers about a conservation programme to protect endangered species of birds and water resources and is also a major reason why the authorities wish to establish the information centre in Ahlat Village.

According to Ko Than Htike Aung, project manager

of the Gulf of Mottama Project, about 60 species of rare birds can be found in the village. The project is implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation together with Network Activities Group (NAG), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), and funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The new centre will help international bird watchers observe birds in their natural hab-

itat, some of which are now at risk of global extinction.

Negotiations have been made between the local government and Switzerland-based environmental conservation bodies to establish the new project, which is expected to be implemented in 2018, said U Tun Htay.

Plans are underway to cultivate around 42,000 mangrove plants near the village in the early monsoon season with the use of Ks5 million funded by the Swiss government, he added.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar partners with Korea to boost production of hepatitis B vaccines

HEALTHCARE authorities are putting forth much effort to boost manufacturing of hepatitis B vaccines in collaboration with the Republic of Korea beginning next year, according to the Pharmaceutical Factory (Ywathagyi branch).

Located in Malit Village, at the corner of No. 7 Road and Khayaypin Road in Hlaegu Township, Yangon, the Pharmaceutical Factory (Ywathagyi branch) yearly produces between 200,000 and 300,000 single doses of hepatitis B vaccine

for both children and adults.

The Hepatitis B Vaccine Plant hopes to increase its production next year with the assistance of Korean professionals who continue to offer technical aid to respective officials of the plants to smooth manufacturing of quality vaccines.

The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Enterprise under the Ministry of Industry sets a goal to fill 50 per cent of local needs by 2020.

Currently, the state-owned

factories can produce only 10 per cent of domestic consumption, distributing mainly to the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

About 4 million hepatitis B vaccines donated by Chinese government have been distributed by the Ministry of Health and Sports to both state-run and privately-owned hospitals, healthcare centres and clinics.—200

Crime NEWS

20 fires in Yangon last month caused two deaths

THE number of fires that occurred in Yangon Region last month reached 20, destroying over 90 buildings including a poultry house, according to the Yangon Region Fire Services Department.

The majority of fires were caused by negligence, said a department spokesperson, adding that eight out of the 20 cases occurred because of problems in the power transmission cables.

Last month's fires in the city killed two people and damaged

properties worth approximately Ks42.601 million.

Fire authorities continue to educate people not to use stoves and other electronic devices carelessly to decrease the risks of fire and death, urging them to replace old wire cables and power facilities and to turn the power off before they leave their homes.

The Fire Services Department is putting forth continuous efforts to reduce fire-related cases in the region, especially in the summer months.—200

Pedestrian killed by speeding vehicle

A Nissan Diesel truck and killed a pedestrian in Tayawgon Ward, Aunglan in Magwe at 4:45 pm on Sunday.

Shauk Shan, 29, of Mogok Township was crossing the road when the Nissan Diesel driven by Soe Naing, 36, of Gyobingauk, struck him. Police said the driver

couldn't control the speed of his vehicle while en route from Aunglan to Pyay. The man was seriously injured and eventually died from his injuries.

Aunglan Police opened a case against the reckless driver under section 304-A of the Penal Code.—*Myanmar Police Force*

One killed, 15 injured as truck overturns

A blue truck with 15 passengers on board turned over en route from Taunggyi to Aungpan between mileposts 81/3-4 on Taunggyi-Meiktila at 4:45 pm on Saturday when the driver lost control.

One passenger, Kyaw Htay, 17, was injured and later died from his injuries.

The truck was driven by Yin Htwe, 43, of Zawti village in Aungpan Township. Fourteen other passengers were injured in the accident.

Aungpan Police filed charges against the driver under sections 304-A, 338, 337, 279 of the Penal Code.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

7,000 imported cars could be sent back

OVER 7,000 cars imported under a consignment system will be shipped back to their countries of origin if they cannot be sold by the end of June, said an official from the Commerce Ministry.

This action will not have any extension period, he added.

Additionally, the slip price is on the rise, with the prevailing price of about Ks10million, according to the auto market.

Car import permits with

Yangon license expired in March 2016, prompting some dealers to trade with licenses of other towns outside Yangon. The rumour that pickups and light trucks will be granted Yangon licenses turned out to be false.

The slip price is expected to decline with an income tax payment in later April and de-registration of old cars possibly increasing, said those engaged in auto industry.—*Ko Htet*

China investments drastically decline this fiscal year

CHINA's investments in the current fiscal year 2016-2017 show a significant decline of nearly US\$500million when compared to last year, according to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Last year, over US\$3300million worth of investments entered the country from China. However, China is still ranks first overall in the total investment line-up of foreign countries.

This year, Singapore put the most investments into Myanmar

with over US\$3 billion, while massive investments flowed from Viet Nam into the country with an approval of a fourth telecoms operator, which put Viet Nam in second place. Foreign direct investment comes mostly in the transportation, communications, and manufacturing sectors.

The Myanmar Investment Commission approves investment proposals only after verifying sector-specific development, job opportunities, following by environmental impact assessments.—*Ko Khant*



Peppers are being dried under sunshine. PHOTO: MYANMA ALINN

Concerted efforts required for pepper market in Ponnagyun Tsp to improve

CONCERTED efforts need to be exerted by locals and competent authorities so that the once-popular pepper market can raise its head again.

The Tawphyar area in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State is dependent on the trade of its products for its fiscal stability.

Ponnagyun-Yathedaung Road is still under construction, which might help to contribute the socio-development of this area after its completion.

Residents earn a living based

on local products — pepper, betel nut, djenkol beans, mangoes, jack fruits, timber and bamboo. The Tawphyar area was famous for its peppers about 20 years ago. However, the peppers are not being offered a good price. Pepper fetched only Ks35,000 per basket this year, which is down by Ks10,000 from last year. About 2 viss are produced if a basket of peppers is sun-dried, with the market price of Ks15,000 per viss of peppercorns, said a local.—*Thu (PonnaMee)*



Tourists seen at Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon on 29 January 2017. The Myanmar Tourism Federation wants to promote Chinese visitors by twofold. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Myanmar eyes higher Chinese tourists next year

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF) wants to raise the number of tourist arrivals from neighbouring China next year, U Yan Win, the Chairman of the MTF said.

The MTF hopes to double the number of tourists from mainland China, the world's most populous country, in the coming year. According to a global tourism study, more than 130 million Chinese people travel outside their country

each year.

Tourism organisations of both countries are trying to promote the number of Chinese visitors to more than twofold in the future, U Yan Win said at the first China-Myanmar Tourism Cooperation Forum held on 2 March in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss bilateral tourism cooperation and private sector development, apart from promoting Myanmar tourism.

Chinese visitors were the sec-

ond highest number of visitors to Myanmar after Thailand. Chinese tourists mainly visited the country from borders including Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung.

According to the Myanmar Investment Commission, Singapore has topped the tourism investors list, followed by Thailand, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates.—200

Yangon Region Hluttaw encouraging livestock businessmen to abide by the law

Businessmen engaged in livestock farming will be scrutinised if they fail to strictly adhere to their lease agreements, said an official from the Yangon Region Agriculture, Livestock, Electric Power, Mines and Forest committee.

This statement resulted from undisciplined individuals who are utilising the land without seeking approval from the regional government.

"Some are found not to follow the rules stated in the lease. We will scrutinise these unlawful events," said U Tint Shein from the committee.

The government needs to contribute so as to enhance the livestock and fishery business by relaxing some rules, said an official from the fishery association.

"Rural people who are mainly dependent on the agri-

culture and livestock account for seventy per cent of the population, and so the law is needed to support them to upgrade their livelihood," said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of Myanmar Fishery Federation.

Livestock farming and fisheries businesses are conducted under the Freshwater Fisheries Law, Farmland Law and Aquaculture Law.—*Phyo Lwin Aung (AMIA)*

Workers harvest fish with a fishing net at a farm. PHOTO: MYANMA ALINN



**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
National Reconciliation and Peace Centre
Announcement No.1/2017
1378, 9th Waxing Day of Tabaung
(6 March 2017)**

Announcement regarding attacks in Laukkai, Shan State

1. At this time, it is important for the people of Myanmar to contribute their utmost effort with strong determination and unified spirit for the success of the peace process.
2. As the Union Government has given top priority to the task of National Reconciliation and Peace, the Union Government held a coordination meeting with the Delegation for Political Negotiation of the United Nationalities Federal Council. The discussions were held in a frank and cordial manner. We obtained good results that strengthened our hopes that we would have agreement on the Nine Point proposal presented by the UNFC.
3. Furthermore, agreement was reached between the Peace Commission – PC and the Delegation for Political Negotiation – DPN, for the two sides to work hard for the inclusion of organizations which should be included in the peace process, and to

work in coordination for these organizations to be permitted to attend the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong. The ethnic nationalities and Union citizens have welcomed with joy the progress achieved at the meeting as they perceive the red rays of hope for peace.

4. At a time when we have achieved progress in the national reconciliation and peace process which has made us happy and while we are working for broader participation and for the consolidation and vibrancy of the process, the MNDA armed groups conducted offensive attacks starting from about 2am today in Laukkai area, north-east Shan State. According to the preliminary reports, the armed MNDA attacked the town proper and it was reported that some security forces and innocent local residents were killed. The fighting is still continuing till the time of this announcement. Such armed conflicts cannot bring any good benefits and are devoid of any meaning for all the ethnic nationalities and Union citizens residing in the Union. Furthermore, they bring about nothing but direct bad results and make the ethnic tribes and local ethnic nationalities and Union citizens living in the area drown in a sea of sorrow.
5. Therefore, I would like to strongly urge all the armed groups to abandon the armed attacks that can bring about nothing but sorrows and sufferings on the innocent local tribes and races, and to join the dialogue table for national peace and march together with the people on the path of peace with unified strong spirit on the basis of equality.

*Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
Chairperson
N R P C*

(Unofficial Translation)



Corpses of the victims of indiscriminate attacks yesterday are lined up on the ground in Laukkai, Shan State.

One man found dead with cut injuries in Buthidaung Township

ON receipt of the news that a man was found dead with cut injuries near the creek of Ward 1 of Buthidaung township, Rakhine State on March 5, responsible officials went there to inspect the event.

The victim was said to be Zarmartusein, 32, of Hsinohpyin village in Buthidaung township. He was found dead

with a stab injury to his chest, and cuts on the back of the skull, his back, left ear, thigh and right ring finger. The body was sent to the Buthidaung township hospital. A case was opened over the death at the Taung Bazar regional police station. The investigation is still ongoing, it was learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Negligence fire destroys two houses in An, Rakhine State

A fire broke out in a village in An Township, in Rakhine State yesterday, destroying two houses.

The fire started at the kitchen of the home of Daw Mae Yin in Kazu Village at 1:45 am and

spread to a neighbouring home, causing losses in total of K6.5 million.

Daw Mae Yin has been charged for the negligence fire.—*Myanmar News Agency*



PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

75 police receives training

YANGON Region Police Force conducted multiple community policing trainings on Monday.

75 trainees from the Yangon Region Police Force and 4 districts joined the training.

26 Community policing trainings were conducted last year and 282 police officers were trained by the EU to be trainers.

Speaking on the occasion, Police Major Hla Wai of the Yangon Region Police Force said community policing helps the police build good relations

with the public and we get more of their participation.

During the multiple training, service, partnership with the public, problem solving, dividing duties for the public and duties and responsibilities of the police will be included.

Then multiple community policing trainings are being conducted in 44 townships of Yangon Region. Likewise they were also done in Mandalay and Ayeyawaddy Regions.—*GNLM*

Civilians, police killed in Laukkai attack by MNDA

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The MNDA troops earlier raided the cash counter at the Fulilight Hotel around 2:30 am and retreated to the BP-127 border checkpoint by 5:10 am. Tatmadaw forces followed in pursuit.

Simultaneously, MNDA forces attacked Tatmadaw bases and the city of Laukkai between the BP-125 and BP-127 border checkpoints, resulting in several skirmishes.

The fatalities included five civilians and five Kokang traffic policemen. Among the victims was B.E.P.S (LaungAeKyi) primary assistant teacher Daw Pyar Mhi. It could not be determined whether Daw Pyar Hmi was injured or killed. It was also reported that four Kokang traffic police officers were taken hostage.

Other armed groups were also involved with the MNDA in the attack, according

to reports. Security troops discovered 20 charred corpses and 10 pieces of weaponry after the attacks. The Tatmadaw, in its effort to enforce peace and stability, is continuing clearance operations in the area.



Left, an injured police officer; and right, an injured civilian.

PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The attacks occurred hours before State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged female business leaders at the Women's Week event in Nay Pyi Taw to take part in the peace process.—*Myanmar News Agency*



China has the right to 'step in' to Hong Kong election, top official says

HONG KONG/BEIJING — China's third most powerful leader said on Monday that Beijing had the right to "step in" to Hong Kong's leadership contest, according to local politicians who met him, in remarks fuelling fears of meddling from Communist Party leaders. The comments by Zhang Dejiang, the head of China's parliament and its leading official on Hong Kong issues, came after other officials played down rumors that Beijing was interfering in a race pitting China's preferred candidate against a more popular figure. Under laws governing the former British colony since its return to Chinese rule in 1997, autonomous Hong Kong has the right to choose its chief executive via a 1,200-strong election committee stacked with Beijing loyalists.

The committee is due to vote at the end of this month to decide between two former officials and a retired judge to lead the freewheeling city of 7.3 million people. But the independence of the election has been questioned, with several election committee members telling media they had received phone calls from people with

ties to the Chinese government trying to influence their votes. The head of Beijing's representative office in Hong Kong, Zhang Xiaoming, said over the weekend that allegations of intervention were only rumors. Zhang Dejiang, chairman of the National People's Congress, said it was important for the election to proceed smoothly and stressed the significance of the chief executive's role as a link between Beijing and the Asian financial hub, according to the convener of the Hong Kong delegation to the congress, Maria Tam.

"It is a very important role, so the central government has the right to step in," Tam told reporters in her summary of Zhang's comments. Zhang also warned the delegation during the annual parliamentary meetings in Beijing that Hong Kong should not allow politics to dominate life in the city.

He added that it was unfortunate that "street politics" had become a part of everyday life in Hong Kong while the neighboring Shenzhen city was catching up economically. "It is quite possible that Shenzhen can overtake Hong Kong in two years," Tam cited



China's President Xi Jinping and China's Premier Li Keqiang clap as Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Zhang Dejiang (front) speaks during the opening session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on 5 March, 2017. PHOTO: RETUERS

Zhang saying. Calls to the central government's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office seeking comment went unanswered. China's Foreign Ministry, the only department which regularly answers questions from foreign reporters, declined to comment. Hong Kong returned to China under a "one country, two systems" formula that allows freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland. China bristles at

dissent, however, especially over issues such as demands for universal suffrage. This month's election is the first since mass pro-democracy street protests rocked Hong Kong in late 2014. Beijing's support means former Hong Kong civil service head Carrie Lam is tipped as the favorite in the contest despite losing popularity polls to an ex-colleague, former Financial Secretary John Tsang.

Tsang had previous-

ly rejected speculation that Beijing did not trust him despite his almost decade-long tenure as financial secretary.

But during the meeting Zhang stressed "many times" that the next chief executive needs to be "extraordinary, outstanding" and have Beijing's trust, said Hong Kong delegate and election committee member James Tien.

"The implication is that being a secretary for

10 years doesn't necessarily mean the person is qualified as a chief executive," Tien said. Tien added some committee members expected the Beijing leadership to make its final preference known closer to the election. The central government is legally required to officially appoint the winner of the committee's election.

Another delegate, the former head of Hong Kong's legislature, Rita Fan, denied that Beijing was intervening in the race, adding it had the right to voice its opinions.

"As a stakeholder, the central government has a right to express its views, and it hopes people can take its opinions into consideration," Fan said. But critics say Zhang's comments just weeks before the polls would further undermine the "one country, two systems" principle, which has come under strain, especially since the shadowy detention of five Hong Kong booksellers in late 2015. "The central government might as well just tell us directly who to vote for and we all become rubber stamps," said pro-democracy legislator and election committee member Lam Cheuk-ting.—Reuters

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Malaysian PM chides North Korea as 'rude' envoy sent packing

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak rebuked North Korea on Monday as his government prepared to kick out its envoy following his disrespectful comments over the investigation into the murder of the North Korean leader's estranged half brother.

If North Korean agents did kill Kim Jong Nam, as US officials and South Korean intelligence suspect, the decision to assassinate him on Malaysian soil could cost the isolated, nuclear-armed state one of the few friends that it has.

Malaysia's outrage over the incident was heightened by the assassins use of VX nerve agent, a chemical so toxic that it is on a UN list of weapons of mass destruction.

North Korea has refused to accept that the victim of the 13 February

murder at Kuala Lumpur International Airport was leader Kim Jong Un's half brother, and its ambassador accused Najib's government of colluding with external forces and said the investigation could not be trusted.

Najib had branded Ambassador Kang Chol "diplomatically rude" and, angered by the lack of an apology, the Malaysian government on Saturday gave him 48 hours to leave.

"They should have apologized. So based on principles, we have declared him persona non grata," Najib told reporters at the parliament.

"This means that we are firm on the question of our honour... there is no one who can undermine us or disrupt us as they please," he said.

Asked whether Malaysia, which recalled its ambassador to Pyongyang for consultations, would

be reviewing diplomatic ties with North Korea, Najib was noncommittal.

"We will see. We'll take it one step at a time."

The North Korean embassy has maintained silence since the expulsion order and Ambassador Kang has not appeared in public. He is supposed to leave Malaysia by 6 pm on Monday (1000 GMT).

The two country have maintained friendly ties since the 1970s, and until this week Malaysia was one of the few countries that North Koreans could enter visa without a visa. But that privilege has been revoked.

So far, Malaysian prosecutors have charged an Indonesian woman and a Vietnamese woman for the murder.

But police have identified eight North Koreans, including a senior embassy official and state airline employee, wanted for questioning

in the probe.

Police say that four of the North Koreans police they want to interview left Malaysia in the hours after the murder.

Only one North Korean suspect was apprehended, but after a week in custody Ri Jong Chol was deported on Friday after being released due to insufficient evidence.

Speaking to reporters in Beijing on Saturday, Ri accused Malaysia of using coercion to try to extract a confession.

"I realized that this is a conspiracy, plot, to try to damage the status and honor of the republic," Ri said.

Kim Jong Nam, who had been living in the Chinese territory of Macau under Beijing's protection, had spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic control of isolated, nuclear-armed North Korea.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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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.

Keep our traditions and cultures intact

Kyaw Myaing

MYANMAR is a country steeped in culture and traditions. For example, the temples of Bagan built during the 11th Century stand as testimony to the organizational skill of the Myanmar kings, the skills of Myanmar craftsmen and the architectural skills of the architects of those days.

There is a Myanmar saying "shay htone lei me pei hint, zay thone lei me lwei hint"

As Myanmar is a union of different ethnic nationalities, it is the duty of each ethnic nationality to preserve and protect their cultures and traditions. Preserving our culture is like preserving our self-respect, because all our values and beliefs are represented in various ways in our arts and crafts. For once we lose our self-respect, there is nothing else to lose. To maintain our Myanmar cultural identity, it is the duty of every Myanmar citizen to preserve the culture of all our ethnic nationalities.

All the respective nationalities such as Bamar, Shan, Mon, Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Karen, Kayah have their own customs and traditions which they hold dear and which they do their best to preserve. The strength of our Union depends on the strength of each state and division and culture plays

a very important role in fostering Union spirit and economic development.

Modernization does not mean doing away with our traditions and letting go of our culture. We need to be very clear about one thing. To become a modern nation we can study and learn all the latest skill sets, techniques and methodologies of Western countries. However, that does not mean we have to embrace western culture "lock stock and barrel" and try to imitate everything that westerners do. That would indeed be a disaster for us.

When we look at the culture of a society or of an ethnic nationality, we may see that there are two aspects. One is physical and tangible and the other is intangible. Our culture developed in our country over many decades. Culture is handed down from generation to generation by our parents.

For Buddhists, it is ingrained in our culture to pay respects to the Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha, Parents and Teachers. In Burmese culture this is known as the "the Anandaw Ananda Ngaba" or the "Five Infinities". This is one aspect of our culture which we should not forget and which is very valuable for us.

Most of our Myanmar people are Buddhists. If you visit the home of a Buddhist, you will notice that children pay respects to their parents. (This is not to say that children do not

respect their parents in other religions). This helps both the parents in their task of teaching their children how to behave towards elders, teachers, Buddhist monks and Buddhist nuns.

When the children grow up and when the time comes for them to leave their country to study in a foreign country, the son or the daughter will make it a point to kneel down in front of both parents to do the traditional "kadaw". This is done with both palms touching each other and the person who pays respects has to bow down three times with both palms touching the ground. At this moment, it is the duty of the parents to give their blessings and to wish their children good health, happiness and success. This custom of doing the "kadaw" is a sign of humility and respect. During the time of Thadingyut (Festival of Lights) and Tazaungmone, Myanmar families go around visiting their grandparents, uncles and aunties to pay respects by performing the traditional "kadaw".

In Myanmar culture, students organize annual ceremonies to pay respects to their teachers. This wonderful tradition gives a very good opportunity for the students to meet their former teachers who are now retired and advanced in years. On these occasions, the students pay their respects and also present special gifts such

as cash donations, medicines or religious books. From the side of the teachers, it gives them great joy to meet their former students doing so well in life. Some may even be very senior officials in government service or senior executives in the private sector.

Another good tradition in Myanmar culture is the way young people behave in the presence of their teachers and elders. A young person always bows his or her head when walking in front of a teacher, parents or elders. This is also true in the government departments and in the private sector companies as well.

When we speak of culture language, literature, art and crafts, dance and music come to mind. In Myanmar culture we have the "Pan Sae Myo" namely: blacksmith, woodcarving, goldsmith, stucco relief, masonry, stone carving, turnery, painting, lacquerware and bronze casting.

We need to be able to take an objective look at ourselves and get rid of our weaknesses and try to strengthen our strong points. For example, we need to see that the "pan sae myo" or the ten traditional arts and crafts do not vanish because we have failed to give proper encouragement to these artisans and their crafts.

Another delightful tradition that I have found in Myanmar is the custom of offering laphet -pickled tea leaf salad

and Burmese tea when visitors arrive at a house. From the health point of view, the hot tea is a refreshing drink when a visitor enters the shade of the house after being in the hot sun. The pickled tea leaf salad is appetizing as well as nourishing. The dried prawns, the peanuts, fried beans, sliced tomatoes, sliced onions, garlic and sesame seeds are all designed to give different kinds of nutrients.

As we march towards the development of a modern democratic federal Union, we all need to be very clear in our mind's eye what aspects of modernization we are going to embrace and what aspects of our traditions and culture we wish to retain.

In my opinion, I firmly believe that it is the responsibility and duty of each State Government to build cultural museums (if they have not yet been done). These cultural museums could also serve as cultural centers where the traditions and cultures of each state could be preserved and given the encouragement they rightly deserve. Our history, our beliefs and our tastes in art are all reflected in our culture so by preserving our respective cultures and giving them the proper encouragement that is needed, we will in fact be supporting the building of a strong and stable Union rich in culture, traditions and diversity where peace and justice prevails.

India eyes Myanmar's oil, gas in pursuit of expanding beyond borders

Sambit Mohanty

MYANMAR'S dramatic growth in consumption of refined oil products and the inability of its aging refineries to meet that incremental demand have whetted the appetite of Indian oil companies to play a bigger role in the South-east Asian nation's oil and gas sector — from upstream to retail.

Myanmar, one of the oldest oil and gas industries in the region and a country which exported its first crude oil centuries ago, is again emerging as a bright spot for overseas investors after sanctions, which were imposed on the country during a long period of military rule and political unrest, were lifted in 2012.

To deepen ties, India's oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan led a delegation to Myanmar late February looking for opportunities to supply refined oil products to the country, as well as high-

light the interest of Indian upstream companies to take part in the forthcoming bid round in Myanmar's oil and gas blocks.

"They invited India to invest in all stream in oil and gas," Pradhan said in a message following the visit.

Myanmar's demand for oil products has been steadily rising. But its production of oil and gas is expected to be more or less stagnant.

While there have been some upgrades at the refineries in recent years through foreign assistance, including help from India, in the short term rising oil products demand is most likely to be met through higher imports.

"The prospect of deepening Myanmar-India ties are very interesting and could potentially be quite wide," said Michal Meidan, Asia Energy Policy Analyst at Energy Aspects.

"Indian refiners are increasingly looking to sell products to Myanmar in order to tap a grow-

ing market. This makes sense both on the geopolitical level where India is increasingly seeking regional influence -- and Myanmar will be pleased to hedge against China -- and in terms of Indian refiners' corporate needs to deepen their presence in new markets," she added.

AGING REFINERIES

Following the lifting of the sanctions, Myanmar, which lacks advanced road infrastructure, is witnessing a dramatic surge in vehicle imports, triggering massive traffic jams -- similar to the ones seen in Jakarta or Bangkok.

Myanmar's three aging state-owned refineries with a total capacity of around 50,000 b/d, are all running substantially below capacity and are only able to supply a part of the country's daily fuel requirements. According to sources, state-owned Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, which runs the refineries, has operating rates of around 20,000 b/d.

Among other things, the Indian delegation's agenda during the recent visit to Myanmar included exploring markets for Indian downstream companies for supplying petroleum products, LPG, wax and petrochemicals.

B. Ashok, chairman of state-run Indian Oil Corp. has said that the company was exploring options of fuel retailing in Myanmar. In addition, the Numaligarh refinery of India's state-run Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd. is also looking out for opportunities to supply gasoil into Myanmar.

Myanmar imported about 75,000 mt of gasoline per month in 2015, with the main suppliers being Singapore, Thailand and China, according to sources. Domestic demand and import data on Myanmar are sketchy and are still not available for 2016.

Myanmar's crude and liquids output was estimated to be around 12,600 b/d in 2016, and production is expected to remain

more or less flat over the next five years, according to BMI Research, a Fitch Group company. Refined products production was estimated to be around 7,000 b/d in 2016, and is expected to grow to nearly 9,000 b/d by 2021.

"The downstream sector is in dire need of further investment, and we expect the government to pursue positive reforms to attract greater foreign direct investment," BMI Research said.

"The country offers some of the strongest consumption growth potential in the region for both refined fuels and natural gas, on the back of positive economic performance and rapid growth in several energy intensive sectors, such as power, transportation, manufacturing and agriculture," it added.

Nomura has said in an earlier report that it expects Myanmar's oil products demand to reach 200,000 b/d by 2025 and could cross 350,000 b/d by 2035.

SEE PAGE 10 >>

Performance in One-Year Period of MRTV, for the People!

Myanmar Radio & Television (MRTV) have been making its performance during successive governments' periods of rule, with the aims of education, information and entertainment. Now that the country is moving on the democratic way, MRTV is making reformation works. And, it is collecting news by going among the public, standing up for the interest of the people and broadcasting news and information people deserve to know, with the changing time.

With effect from 2016 when the incumbent government took office, MRTV is carrying out the tasks of amending law on television and broadcasting for the development of media sector of the State, implementing the compilation of the laws necessary for changing as PSB, performing transparently for interested persons to launch the five new private media channels which will be expanded by adding to the existing channels being broadcast with the system of DVB-T2 of Multi-Channel Play-out System during the period of amending TV and Broadcasting Law.

Mastery of reporting the news and information for the benefit of the people plays an important role, hence proficiency and education programmes of the department is conducting training on filming, editing and art creations from foreign technicians, and sending its delegations to overseas training and seminars.

According to the analysis of people's interest into the programs being broadcast by MRTV, it is found that people preferred entertainment sector to the other two. So, in order to be able to broadcast the programmes in new forms, respective branches are discussing the matter. Then, after taking the opinions of the Union Minister for Information through respective departmental head, it has decided that MRTV will move on its goal with the ratio of information (45%), education (20%) and entertainment (35%), 3 major responsibilities of MRTV.

As for the information sector, in the first one-year period of the new government, in addition to news on politics, economy and social affairs, political dialogues made at the Union Peace Conference, 21st Century Panglong, on exchange of views between the State Counsellor and youths and peace talks between State Counsellor and ethnic nationals were broadcast live. Women's Week Forum and business talk between State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and prominent women entrepreneurs was also broadcast live by the MRTV. This helped the culture of negotiating between people with different views, media freedom and media development—the essence of the democracy.

Previously, news used to be



A file photo shows the programme of Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra Concert 2016 December broadcast on MRTV. PHOTO: MRTV



A file photo shows a programme of MRTV. PHOTO: MRTV

broadcast in order of hour series. Starting from 15th February 2017, news times were reduced to 8 times a day from 13 times per day, so as to be stronger. Important news and news that people deserve to know urgently are being broadcast as breaking news and update news. Debate programs describing expertise discussions and ideas of scholars and professionals over the current affairs of the country are also being presented. Likewise, people's voices are being also described with a view to standing up for the people. Descriptions of one-day activities of grass root people and a new radio program, "Talk Show" a production by linking with Search for Common Ground (SFCG) were broadcast successfully.

Situations on economic markets including Stock Exchange currency market are being presented and presentation of dialogues on economy between invited professionals and intellectuals were being exhibited.

Educational talks on health

and warning and sharing knowledge on protection of natural disaster, child care services, programs for sharing supportive guides for distant education and matriculation exams are also being presented. For making farming working on agricultural and animal farms improve their knowledge, the department made programs by combining with professional experts from Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Myanmar Radio as well managed to broadcast radio plays and stories, radio magazines, and various kinds of programmes. Besides, so as to get rid of discrimination and not to cause depression among the disabled societies, the program, "Diary of un-withered flowers," was being presented every week. Therefore, Myanmar Athan/ Myanmar Radio won the media prize for 2016 on the ceremony for International day of persons with Disabilities, sponsored by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

For giving relaxation of the

"In building a nation, fair, accurate and unbiased media sector takes part as a grain of sand, and a block of brick."

people, MRTV is filming and producing new songs, performing in the ceremonies of the State, to the accompaniment of the national orchestra by combining with foreign technicians.

MRTV's reporter themselves went to many parts of the country to get news and event footage to be able to present live to the whole nation. Due to their effort, regional news and information sent by 11 national ethnic languages' news branches were presented within one-year period, besides news branches in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

National Races Channels depicting actual situations of national ethnics are broadcasting traditional cultures, regional foods and cultural usages and terms that are nearly extinguishing, for all the audience to be convinced of them.

With the increasing uses of internet today, MRTV's Website and Facebook are also posting news and other programmes for people to know the news with the changing time.

MITV is broadcasting Myanmar's scenic beauty and traditional cultures online in English version, for overseas Myanmar nationals to lessen their homesickness and to make true news

about Myanmar known to the world.

In accord with the changing times and systems, MRTV is transforming the existing system into PSB/ Private Service Broadcasting System. To be able to do so, laws are being amended and installation of Digital DVB T2 transmitters for the process of Analogue Switch Off is being made. For changing Analogue system into Digital system, to have 750 W Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB+) installed in Yangon as a pilot project, a contract to buy machines and equipments is under way.

MRTV had organized audience to form a Radio Fan Club, collecting more than 5800 members across the nation. Gatherings of Myanmar Radio Lovers were observed in Pharbon in Ayeyawady Region, Mudon in Mon State and Shwebo in Sagaing Region during one-year period.

In building a nation, fair, accurate and unbiased media sector takes part as a grain of sand, and a block of brick. Being a state-owned media, it is releasing the statements of the governmental departments and activities. So, MRTV is an effective bridge spanning the government and the people.—MRTV

Interview with a female Myanmar entrepreneur

In honour of "Women's Week-Myanmar"

Interviewer Yarzar , Thenaing-Oo



Daw Tint Tint Lwin

The following is the full text from an interview with Daw Tint Tint Lwin, Honorary Chief Consul of Hungary and Chairman of Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies, in honour of International Women's Day which falls on 8th March 2017.

Interviewer = Let me know your educational attainments and how you started in business.

Interviewee = I graduated with my B.Sc degree in Chemistry from Yangon University in 1998. After graduation, I found it difficult to find a job. I hoped for a teaching career as a demonstrator in Chemistry. To do so, I started learning the German language with a view to studying Chemistry in Germany under the scholarship award programme. Unluckily I missed the scholarship award. Yet, I had a chance to learn about German cultures and traditions of great interest. Accordingly, I tried my best to

study the German language. At that time, we did not have access to systematically study the German language in our country. But I studied it attentively, in the midst of difficulties, choosing a tourist guide career for a Swiss-German company. This was my first-ever job.

Interviewer = Please explain how you experienced difficulties as a woman entrepreneur.

Interviewee = I overcame various kinds of hardships to become a woman entrepreneur from the existence of a tour guide. In the year 1999-2000, I got a tour guide job with favourable remuneration. But I also had a duty to nurture my son's physical and mental development. I tried my best to reach my goals as a single mother, with people with both pessimistic and optimistic views. I accumulated courage and strength by reading a lot, using knowledge gained through books to the best of my ability. I studied and worked hard to run a tourism business. In 2007, I won the best tourist guide award given by Germany. Afterwards, many tour operators across the world made contact with me. But, due to my unwillingness to work for any company as an ordinary salary-person, I started a miniature tour company in Myanmar, with only two staff. By laying down plan A, B & C, I implemented plans that others could not. Remarkably, it was successful in a

year, thus I managed to expand the company with 16 staff. In the second year, it gained success to a large extent. The rivers in Myanmar were rather beautiful and the numbers of ships plying in these rivers were very few. Plus, those travelling on board were well-to-do people. So, I started a plan of providing services in a small boat, for other tourists as well to be able to enjoy the beauty of Myanmar's rivers. The small boat plan was so successful that it gave service for the King of Norway and the Queen during their trip, gaining us tremendous fame.

Interviewer = How about your link with KBZ Bank, please?

Interviewee = The success of that plan inspired me to expand my business. But, at that time, I had scant knowledge about bank loans. It must be likened to a runner who cannot proceed to the destination for lack of supporting group to encourage him, in spite of seeing the goal ahead. Yet, luckily enough, I had a chance to meet knowledgeable bank officials from KBZ. I clarified my ideas and plans to expand my business. Then, a luckier thing came to me again. It was none other than finding a ship that could provide all the services I wanted to give. So, I rushed to the bank, enquiring what I must do about the loan, by submitting my plans. Later, I got the loan I needed from KBZ Bank. My cruise ship business was successful, earning the capital in-

vested into the ship within four months. I am greatly pleased working together with KBZ Bank than I can get the financial aids I need to implement what I want to do.

Interviewer = Please tell me success of your business after linking with KBZ Bank.

Interviewee = I am greatly pleased with the Loan Service of KBZ Bank. So, I continued to make arrangements to repay loans and simultaneously to get more loans to fund my next projects, by linking with KBZ bank. I cannot implement these by myself. With KBZ bank's financial help, I managed to buy more ships, to build hotels to give full services to customers. Now, KBZ bank has been ready to help my works. This is the result of my work's success. And the bank is closely watching over my works, giving professional expertise and advice through the bank's consultants. During these periods when I work by linking with the bank, I really felt that I am working under the surveillance of my parents, not as a customer. I myself searched for advice when I had a problem. The more progress I got, the more satisfaction I had with the bank.

Interviewer = What about your present expanded industry and further plans to be expanded, please!

Interviewee = Presently, we are expanding as Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies, under which there are Hotel & Tourism, River Cruises run by

5 ships on the Ayeyawady river route, hotels in Shan State, Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Yachting in the Myeik Islands, Hotel Uniform Manufacturing Factory and agricultural farming. For operating a Water Taxi company on the Ayeyawady river, the Yangon Region Cabinet granted my tender bid. I will carry out the water taxi company to keep abreast with international standards, with KBZ's aids.

Interviewer = As a successful Myanmar entrepreneur, which words of strength would you like to share with Myanmar women, given your knowledge and experiences?

Interviewee = To put it simply, I experienced many enormous hardships that I never expected to reach this state. As a woman, especially as a Myanmar woman, I found it difficult in managing a business. I always take myself as a leader who is running a business to success, absolutely being influenced by the impression of neither feminism nor masculinity. With this conception, I managed to overcome any difficulties. I always get rid of ideas that I will not be able to do, as I am a woman. Female and male are separated according to gender. It is just a physical difference. I want men to call women together in moving toward a developed nation. And, I want our fellow women to believe in their abilities and expose their abilities if necessary. Last but not least, I wish they can move on to their goals with self-confidence.

India eyes Myanmar's oil, gas in pursuit...

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GAS OUTLOOK

Wood Mackenzie recently said that Myanmar, which holds some of the last remaining frontier acreage in an otherwise mature region and accounts for the bulk of frontier exploration drilling, would be the brightest spot in Asia-Pacific in 2017.

During the visit to Myanmar, Pradhan met U Pe Zin Tun, Myanmar's energy minister, and noted Indian upstream companies' interest to take part in the forthcoming bid round in Myanmar's oil and gas blocks.

Indian state-owned companies, such as ONGC Videsh and GAIL, have invested in offshore gas producing blocks A1 and A3 in Myanmar. These blocks produce about 16 million cu m/d, with 80% of the output exported to China via a pipeline network in which the two Indian companies are partners in a consortium.

"Indian companies are already engaged in upstream gas developments in Myanmar and may now look to tap those resources to supply India," Meidan of Energy As-

pects said.

BMI Research said that despite a healthy pipeline of exploration plays, exploration and production activity in Myanmar would remain muted in the short term as volatile oil prices, limited seismic data and a significant deficiency of oil and gas-related infrastructure drive up project costs.

Firms would also shift attention to focus on lower-cost, shorter-cycle projects, hitting prospects for frontier areas such as Myanmar.

Myanmar exports about 80% of its gas production as per some contracts signed by the previous government with overseas buyers, BMI Research said. Its domestic gas production was estimated at around 18.8 Bcm in 2016, which could fall to around 17.3 Bcm by 2021. But gas consumption is expected to rise from 4.4 Bcm in 2016 to 6.1 Bcm by 2021.

"The country's net gas exports will remain on a structural downward trend, as the need to set aside gas for exports, in light of rising demand, increases the risk of a gas shortfall in Myanmar. This will re-

quire the country to resort to LNG imports to meet export obligations and offset rising domestic demand," it added.

Nomura has said previously that a number of factors stand in the way — management constraints, lower competitiveness of domestic products as against imported cargoes, an inefficient distribution system and doubts around safe and reliable operations.

But analysts are hopeful that the oil and gas sector in Myanmar would see rising inflows of foreign investment in the near to medium term.

"The government remains highly open to attracting greater foreign capital into its oil and gas sector," BMI Research said.

"The passing of the Myanmar Investment Law in November 2016 will support greater private and foreign investment inflow into several energy intensive sectors, including manufacturing, infrastructure and agriculture, posing upside risk to our already optimistic fuels consumption growth outlook," it added.

28 detained for attempted illegal migration



Detained 28 suspects seen in Maungta Township in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Border Guard Police seized an illegal motorboat in the Naf River with 28 people on board Sunday night near Maungta Township in Rakhine State.

Security forces discovered the boat during routine patrol one mile away from the Tone creek and Nwamyettaung creek

southwest of the Naf River at about 9:30 pm and detained 25 men and 3 women who were believed to be going to a neighbouring country illegally.

Security forces handed over the 28 suspects to Maungta Myoma Police Station.—Aye Mya (Mandalay)/Aye Min Thu

US-backed Iraqi forces capture al-Hurriya bridge in Mosul, spokesman says

MOSUL — US-backed Iraqi forces on Monday captured Mosul's al-Hurriya bridge, which leads to the Islamic State-held old city center from the south, a military media officer told Reuters.

The al-Hurriya bridge is the second to be secured by the Iraqi forces in the city, after securing one located further south, in the offensive that started on

the western part of Mosul on 19 February.

"We control the western end of the bridge," said a senior media officer with Rapid Response, the elite unit of the interior ministry leading the charge through the districts alongside the Tigris river.

All of Mosul's five bridges over the Tigris have been destroyed but their capture and repair

would help the offensive against the militants, who have controlled the northern Iraqi city since 2014.

Iraqi forces captured the eastern side of Mosul in January after 100 days of fighting and launched their attack on the districts that lie west of the Tigris on 19 February.

Defeating Islamic State in Mosul would crush the Iraqi wing of the

caliphate declared by the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, in 2014, over parts of Iraq and Syria.

Baghdadi proclaimed the caliphate from Mosul's grand Nuri mosque in the old city centre which is still under his followers' control. The Iraqi forces are advancing toward the old city center from the south and the southwest. —Reuters

US-backed Syrian force cuts last main road out of IS stronghold-source, monitor

BEIRUT— US-backed Syrian militias cut the last main road out of Islamic State-held Raqqa on Monday, severing the highway between the group's de facto capital and its stronghold of Deir al-Zor province, a Kurdish military source and a war monitor said.

It marks a major accomplishment for the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the multi-phased campaign being waged since November to encircle and ultimately capture Islamic State's base of operations in Raqqa city in northern Syria.

"Cutting the road between Raqqa and Deir al-Zor means that practically the encirclement of the Daesh (Islamic State) capital is complete by land," the Kurdish military source told Reuters, adding that the only remaining way out was south across the Euphrates River.

Air strikes by the US-led coalition have destroyed the bridges across the Euphrates to Raqqa city, the British-based monitoring group, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said.

"It is a big victory but there is still a lot to accomplish," the Kurdish military source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Observatory said families brought recently by Islamic State to Raqqa from areas to the west had been forced to cross the river by boat, reflecting the problem facing IS in reaching the city.

The SDF confirmed that its forces had taken the Raqqa-Deir al-Zor road.

"The road is under the control of the SDF," spokesman Talal Silo said in a voice message sent to Reuters.



An Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter walks with his weapon in northern Raqqa province, Syria on 6 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ters. There was no immediate word from Islamic State.

The SDF has been the main US partner in Syria, where IS still controls swathes of territory including nearly all of Deir al-Zor province which stretches to the Syrian border with Iraq.

The SDF is an alliance of militias including the Kurdish YPG and allied Arab groups. Its campaign against Islamic State in northern Syria is receiving air support from the US-led coalition and backing on the ground from coalition special forces.

The YPG's involvement in the campaign for Raqqa is a major point of contention between the US and its ally Turkey.

Turkey, with the second largest army in NATO, is adamant that Washington should switch support for the planned Raqqa offensive from the Kurdish YPG militia to Syrian rebels Turkey has trained and led against Islamic State for the past year. —Reuters



Displaced Iraqis flee their homes, as Iraqi forces battle with Islamic State militants, in western Mosul, Iraq, on 6 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Five Pakistani soldiers killed in attacks on Afghan border

ISLAMABAD — Five Pakistan Army soldiers were killed on Sunday in attacks on three army posts in the Mohmand tribal area bordering Afghanistan, the Defence Ministry said on Monday.

In a statement, the ministry said that militants from across the border "attempted physical attacks" on three Pakistan border posts in Mohmand Agency and, in the ensuing exchange of fire, more than 10 attackers were also reportedly killed.

Defence Ministry officials said the attacks represented the deadliest clash with militants on the border since a standoff over sanctuaries with Afghanistan started three weeks ago. Both Pakistan and Afghanistan have seen a surge in the number of attacks in recent weeks in their territories and have accused each other of harbouring militants.

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned Afghanistan's deputy head of mission to convey Pakistan's grave

concern over the incident.

"The Afghan government was urged to thoroughly investigate and take firm action against the terrorists operating from its soil to prevent a recurrence of such incidents," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It was also emphasized that the cooperation of the Afghan government is important for effective border management and for preventing cross-border movement of terrorists and militants. Pakistan recently closed the Torkham and

Chaman border crossings with Afghanistan after a suicide attack on a shrine in Pakistan's Sindh Province on 16 February.

Afghanistan responded by refusing to attend a summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization, a regional intergovernmental body, in Pakistan on 1 March. According to media reports, several hundred trucks on both sides have been stranded for several days at the Torkham and Chaman crossings. —Kyodo News

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CONTENDER VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CONTENDER VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2017 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HALONG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HALONG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2017 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

S Korea's Lotte reports store closures in China amid political stand-off

SEOUL/SHANGHAI — Chinese authorities have closed nearly two dozen retail stores of South Korea's Lotte Group following inspections, ramping up pressure on the conglomerate amid a diplomatic standoff that has cast a chill over business ties between the two nations.

Lotte said on Monday that 23 of its China supermarket stores had been shut, reaching from Dandong on China's North Korean border to the wealthy east coast and southern Changzhou, marking a wide clamp-down on the group in its biggest overseas market.

A Lotte Mart spokesman could not provide further details, but workers at three stores said the closures — which they said were temporary — were fire-safety related. The three people asked not be identified due to the sensitivity of the issue.

The Anhui fire department said in a post on its Sina Weibo microblog account on Monday it had

temporarily shut two Lotte Mart stores due to fire risks, part of a broader regional sweep over the last month that had led to the closure of 30 stores belonging to a range of companies including Lotte.

The Lotte closures are the latest in a series of incidents affecting South Korean companies in China after cyber attacks and a ban on sales of travel tours to South Korea. Lotte Mart had 115 stores in China as of January contributing to group sales there of over 3 trillion won (\$2.6 billion) in 2015.

The incidents come after Lotte approved a land swap outside Seoul last week that will allow South Korea to install the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system, in response to missile threat from North Korea.

South Korea's military earlier on Monday said North Korea fired four ballistic missiles into the sea prompting acting president Hwang Kyo-ahn to call for THAAD's swift

installation.

But China's government has objected to the deployment of THAAD, saying it has a radar capable of penetrating its territory, while state media has called for a boycott of South Korean goods and services.

On Chinese social media on Monday, photos and videos circulated of protests outside Lotte stores, while others showed Lotte outlets with their steel grates pulled shut.

Outside one store, a red banner with large white characters read: "South Korea's Lotte has declared war on China. Lotte supports THAAD. Get the hell out of China".

The protests come days after Lotte Duty Free on Thursday said a cyber attack using Chinese internet protocol (IP) addresses had crashed its website. It is currently back online.

Political risk experts say the chill facing South Korean firms demonstrates Beijing's playbook for hitting back at the corporate

interests of trade partners it disagrees with through state media and tightening regulations.

The Lotte Group in a statement on Sunday said it was seeking assistance from the South Korean government regarding the issues it was facing in China, where it employs around 20,000 people — a third of its overseas staff.

On Monday, shares in Lotte Shopping Co Ltd, of which Lotte Mart is a business division, fell as much as 4 per cent compared with a near-flat benchmark share price index. The stock regained some ground in afternoon trading.

Lotte's troubles expanded to other South Korean firms on Thursday as China's tourism ministry instructed tour operators in Beijing to stop selling trips to South Korea from 15 March. The order has since spread to other regions across the mainland, an official at Korea Tourism Organization said on Monday.—Reuters

Cuba's Raul Castro blasts Trump's Mexican wall and trade policy

HAVANA — Cuban President Raul Castro harshly criticized US President Donald Trump's immigration, trade and other policies on Sunday as Trump reviews a fragile détente with Communist-run Cuba begun by his predecessor Barack Obama.

In his first critical remarks directed at Trump since he took office, Castro termed his trade policies "egotistical" and his plan to build a wall along the Mexican border "irrational."

Castro's speech to a summit of leftist leaders in Venezuela was broadcast by state-run television on Sunday evening.

Before taking office, Trump threatened to torpedo the detente between the former Cold War foes unless a "better deal" could be struck, without providing details.

The White House said last month it was in the middle of "a full review of all US policies toward Cuba."

Castro said: "The new agenda of the US

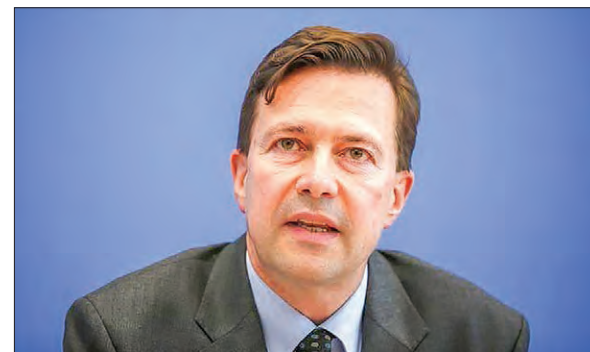
government threatens to unleash an extreme and egotistical trade policy that will impact the competitiveness of our foreign trade; violate environmental agreements ... hunt down and deport migrants."

He said migration was due to growing inequality and poverty caused by an unjust international economic system and that a wall along the Mexican border was therefore "irrational" and aimed at all Latin Americans, not just Mexicans.

"You can't contain poverty, catastrophes and migrants with walls, but with cooperation, understanding and peace," Castro said.

Seeking to reverse more than 50 years of US efforts using isolation to force Cuba to change, Obama agreed with Castro in December 2014 to work to normalize relations.

The two close neighbors have since restored diplomatic ties and signed cooperation agreements.—Reuters



German government spokesman Steffen Seibert. PHOTO: REUTERS

Germany rejects Erdogan's Nazi comparison as absurd

BERLIN—The German government on Monday rejected Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's comparison of current German policies to the Nazi era, urged both sides to stay "calm and level-headed" and not lose sight of the close ties that bind the two NATO allies.

"We firmly reject any comparisons between the policies of the democratic Federal Republic of Germany and the Nazi times," government spokesman Steffen Seibert told a regular government news conference. "Such compari-

sons are always absurd and out of place because they lead to only to one thing: a trivialisation of crimes against humanity."

Seibert said Germany would continue to allow Turkish politicians to speak in Germany as long as they were open about their intentions and did not import Turkish conflicts to Germany. He also said the European Union should investigate to ensure that funds paid to Turkey to pave the way for its accession to the EU were achieving their intended purpose.—Reuters

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2017 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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S LAND & SEA LOGISTICS

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV FSL BUSAN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL BUSAN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2017 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.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV WINNING BRIGHT VOY. NO (TO47)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WINNING BRIGHT VOY. NO (TO47) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SIGAP VOY. NO (2)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIGAP VOY. NO (2) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MERIDIAN SHIPPING AGENCIES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Former US intelligence chief rejects Trump wiretap accusation

WASHINGTON — The former top US intelligence official rejected President Donald Trump's accusation that his predecessor, Barack Obama, wiretapped him even as the White House on Sunday urged Congress to investigate Trump's allegation.

The New York Times reported on Sunday that FBI Director James Comey asked the Justice Department this weekend to reject Trump's wiretapping claim because it was false and must be corrected, but the department had not done so. The report cited senior US officials.

The White House asked Congress, controlled by Trump's fellow Republicans, to examine whether the Obama administration abused its investigative authority during the 2016 US presidential campaign, as part of an ongoing congressional probe into Russia's influence on the election.

Trump on Saturday alleged, without offering supporting evidence, that Obama ordered a wiretap of the phones at Trump's campaign headquarters in Trump Tower in New

York.

"There was no such wiretap activity mounted against the president-elect at the time, or as a candidate or against his campaign," former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, who left his post at the end of Obama's term in office in January, said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Under US law, a federal court would have to have found probable cause that the target of the surveillance is an "agent of a foreign power" in order to approve a warrant authorizing electronic surveillance of Trump Tower.

Asked whether there was such a court order, Clapper said, "I can deny it."

Democrats accused Trump of trying to distract from the rising controversy about possible ties to Russia. His administration has come under pressure from FBI and congressional investigations into contacts between members of his campaign team and Russian officials.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions bowed out last week of any probe into al-

leged Russian meddling in the 2016 election after it emerged he met last year with Russia's ambassador while serving as a Trump campaign advisor. Sessions maintained he did nothing wrong by failing to disclose the meetings.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Trump and administration officials would have no further comment on the issue until Congress has completed its probe, potentially heading off attempts to get Trump to explain his accusations.

"Reports concerning potentially politically motivated investigations immediately ahead of the 2016 election are very troubling," Spicer said in a statement.

US Representative Devin Nunes, Republican head of the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee examining possible links between Russia and Trump's campaign, said in a statement that any possible surveillance on campaign officials would be part of the probe.

Trump made the wiretapping accusation in a series of early morning tweets

on Saturday amid expanding scrutiny of his campaign's ties to Russia. An Obama spokesman denied the charge, saying it was "a cardinal rule" that no White House official interfered with independent Justice Department investigations.

The White House offered no evidence on Sunday to back up Trump's accusation and did not say it was true.

Spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders, appearing on ABC's "This Week," said Trump has "made very clear what he believes, and he's asking that we get down to the bottom of this. Let's get the truth here."

Trump, who is spending the weekend at his Florida resort, said in his tweets on Saturday that the alleged wiretapping took place in his Trump Tower office and apartment building in New York, but there was "nothing found."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Trump had either made a false accusation, or a judge had found probable cause to authorize a wiretap.—Reuters

Russia has to show it can be trusted — Britain's Johnson

LONDON — Russia will have to prove it can be trusted again but there was no appetite among Western allies for a new cold war, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said on Monday.

"Let's be clear: Russia is up to all sorts of no good," Johnson said on arrival at a meeting of EU foreign ministers. "They've

got to change, they've got to show they can be trusted again. I think that's very important," he added.

"It's also important to stress that we are not in a new cold war with Russia. Neither the UK, nor our friends in the rest of the EU nor in Washington is there any appetite for a new cold war," he added.—Reuters



Britain's Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kremlin concerned over North Korea's new missile launch

MOSCOW — Russia is concerned about North Korea's new missile launches, which may lead to increased tensions in the region and urges all parties to show restraint, Russian Presidential Spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters on Monday.

"Of course, we are profoundly concerned. These actions lead to further escalation of tensions in the region. In this situation, Moscow traditionally calls on all parties to show restraint. Russia will exchange views with all parties concerned," he said, commenting on media reports saying that Tokyo is planning to discuss the situation with Moscow.

Earlier in the day, North Korea fired four missiles from its western coast toward the Sea of Japan. According to the Japanese government, they flew about 1,000 kilometres, with three of them falling in Japan's exclusive economic zone. Tokyo strongly condemned Pyongyang's



Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. PHOTO: REUTERS

actions lodging protest through diplomatic channels with it. Kishida later told reporters that the Japanese government intends to discuss North Korea's missile launches with Russia and China.

The Japanese foreign minister earlier held telephone talks on the issue with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and South Korea's top diplomat, Yun Byung-se. In light of this, Kishida told reporters that he "reached an agreement with Tiller-

son on the need to send a strong signal to North Korea from the UN Security Council."

Head of Japan's National Security Council, Shotaro Yachi, held emergency telephone consultations with Herbert McMaster, President Trump's National Security Adviser, over North Korea's missile launches. "The parties have agreed to closely coordinate their actions against Pyongyang," the council said in a statement.—TASS

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the supply and installation of diesel generators for fifteen (15) regional offices and twenty (20) new townships. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference Number: G 66 – SUPPLY and INSTALLATION of DIESEL GENERATORS for 15 Regional Offices and 20 New Townships

Reference No.	Lot N°	Item N°	Description	Quantity
G 66	1	1	Supply and installation of a Diesel Generator set in each of the 15 Regional Offices and 20 New Townships	35 Units
Supply of the material for pre installation inspection			Yangon Regional DRD Office, N° 245, Thanlyetsun Street, Botataung Township, Yangon. (tel. 09-73100744):	
Supply and installation to Township and Regional Offices (Project Sites)			Regional Offices: Sittwe, Mintat, Myintkina, Loikaw, Hpan, Malawmyine, Myeik, Taunggyi, Yangon, Patheingyi, Bago, Magway, Monywa, Mandalay, Naypyitaw. New Townships: Ngaputaw, Pantaung, Hparsaung, Bawlakhe, Loikaw, Shartaw, Maisae, Matupi, Saw, Hteelin, Pauk, Paung, Nahtogyi, Pyinmana, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, Kunchankone, Kyauktan, Moekaung, Hsedi.	

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Friday 24 March 2017 10 am**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in 1 (one) contract. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

Box Office: 'Logan' roars with massive \$85.3 million debut

LOS ANGELES (Variety.com) — "Logan" tore into the weekend box office, opening to a massive \$85.3 million and proving that moviegoers will show up in force for R-rated comic book movies. The superhero spinoff marks Hugh Jackman's last turn as Wolverine after 17 years of donning the adamantium claws.

As the movie business grows more saturated with stories about costumed vigilantes, studios are trying to find ways to differentiate their own comic book adaptations. Like "Deadpool" before it, "Logan" demonstrates that adults will turn out for tentpole fare that is bloodier and more profane than your average X-Men movie.

"Logan" was produced by 20th Century Fox and cost \$97 million to make. Set in the near future, it follows Wolverine and an ailing Professor X (Patrick Stewart), who leaving their hiding place on the Mexican border to help a young mutant (Dafne Keen). James Mangold, who previously collaborated with Jackman on 2013's "The Wolverine," directed the movie and co-wrote the screenplay. Critics embraced the film, hailing it as a comic book movie with bite, with Variety's Owen Gleiberman writing



Actor Hugh Jackman poses cloth puppets, a traditional type of opera during a news conference during Asian premiere of the X-Men series film 'Logan' in Chinese Taipei, on 28 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

that "Logan" "...brings the saga to a satisfying finish."

Despite "Logan's" dominance, Blumhouse and Universal's "Get Out" kept going strong. The low-budget thriller racked up \$26.1 million, bringing

its domestic haul to \$75.9 million. That's an impressive return for a film that cost less than \$5 million to make.

Lionsgate's "The Shack" took third place, earning a solid \$16.1 million in its first weekend

in theaters. The faith-based drama stars Oscar-winner Octavia Spencer and cost \$26 million to produce. "The Shack" centers on a man (Sam Worthington) whose religious beliefs are tested following a family tragedy.

Warner Bros.' "The Lego Batman Movie" and Lionsgate's "John Wick: Chapter 2" rounded out the top five, earning \$11.6 million and \$4.7 million, respectively. That pushes the Lego spinoff's box office total to \$148.6 million and gives the John Wick followup a domestic gross of \$83 million.

Fresh off its best picture win, A24's "Moonlight" grossed over \$2.5 million and crossed the \$25 million mark. The indie studio expects the coming-of-age drama to be the highest-grossing film in its history. That said, "Moonlight," which focuses on a young man growing up gay in Miami, is one of the least widely seen best picture winners, trailing the likes of "Spotlight" (\$45 million, domestically) and "Birdman" (\$42.3 million, domestically). It has grossed more than "The Hurt Locker," the 2009 victor that made just over \$17 million state-side.

Bleecker Street's "The Last Word" opened to \$35,620 in limited release. The story of an aging businesswoman (Shirley MacLaine) who enlists a writer (Amanda Seyfried) to pen her obituary, screened in four locations last weekend.—Reuters

Actress Emma Watson says revealing photo does not undermine feminism

LOS ANGELES — British actress Emma Watson hit back at critics who said she betrayed her feminist ideals by posing for a revealing picture in Vanity Fair magazine where parts of her breasts were exposed.

Watson, the "Harry Potter" movie series co-star and pioneer of the HeForShe campaign to make men advocate for feminism, talked about the photo shoot for the magazine while promoting her latest film, the Disney live action "Beauty and the Beast."

"It just always reveals to me how many misconceptions and what a misunderstanding



Cast member Emma Watson poses at the premiere of "Beauty and the Beast" in Los Angeles, California, US March 2, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

there is about what feminism is," she said in an interview with Reuters. "Feminism is about giving women choice. Feminism is not a stick with which to beat other women with. It's about freedom, it's about liberation, it's about equality. I really don't know what my tits have to do with it. It's very confusing."

"I'm confused. Most people are confused. No, I'm just always just quietly stunned," she said.

The magazine's photo shoot by acclaimed fashion photographer Tim Walker showed Watson in an open, white crocheted bolero jacket with no bra or shirt underneath. "We'd been doing so many crazy things on that shoot but it felt incredibly artistic and I've been so creatively involved and engaged with Tim and I'm so thrilled about how interesting and beautiful the photographs were," she said.—Reuters

I thought John Hurt will beat cancer, says Ian McShane

LONDON — Actor Ian McShane says he believed old friend John Hurt will survive cancer and it was shocking for him to come to terms with his death.

The 74-year-old actor, who studied with the "Elephant Man" star at Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), says he misses the actor who passed away

in January from pancreatic cancer and they shared lots of fond memories together, reported Femalefirst.

"It was still a shock as he'd (Hurt) made a few miraculous recoveries before from near-death experiences, and I thought he was well-picked enough to survive anything," says McShane.

The actors got a break in the films together when they debuted in the 1962 movie, "The Wild And the Willing". McShane adds, "I loved him dearly and I miss him a lot. 'The Wild And the Willing' was our first role, then we did our first stage play together and made his first television show together.—PTI

When 'Logan' crew felt jealous of Patrick Stewart

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor Patrick Stewart says he made the crew of "Logan" feel jealous when co-star Hugh Jackman carried him around while shooting for the scenes of the film.

The 76-year-old star, who plays the wheelchair-bound character of Professor Charles Xavier, had to be carried up the flights of stairs by Jackman's Wolverine and Stewart says many people on the sets were green with envy, reported USA Today.

"There were numerous en-

vious glances in my direction by certain members of the crew," says Stewart.

He adds, he considers being carried by Jackman was an honour and something that will be a part of his working profile.

Stewart says, "I think that is one thing I shall have on my CV in the future - a Knight of the Realm and also the distinction of being carried in the arms of Hugh Jackman all around the Deep South of the United States. I look on it as a significant distinction.—PTI



Patrick Stewart is known for his sense of humour. PHOTO: REUTERS



Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko leave Bangkok for Tokyo, on 6 March 2017, after completing a weeklong trip to Vietnam and Thailand. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan's emperor pays respects to Thailand's late king

BANGKOK — Japan's Emperor Akihito paid his respects to Thailand's late King Bhumibol Adulyadej on Sunday on a visit to Bangkok during which he will also see the new king.

Akihito, 83, and Bhumibol, who died aged 88 in October after seven decades on the throne, had a close personal relationship that stretched back to the 1960s and strengthened ties between the two Asian monarchies.

Akihito and Empress Michiko, 82, visited the ornate Grand Palace, laying flowers and signing the condolence book. Bhumibol's body will be cremated at an elaborate ceremony towards the end of this year. Akihito was also due to see King Maha Vajiralongkorn, 64, who took the throne in December after the death of his

widely-revered father. Once considered divine, Japan's emperor is defined in the constitution as a symbol of the state and the unity of the people. He has no political power, but his trips often have diplomatic overtones.

A key regional concern for Japan has been the rise of China, with which Thailand has forged increasingly strong ties.

On many of Akihito's overseas visits he has sought to soothe the wounds of World War Two, but Thailand allied itself with Japan and did not suffer casualties to the extent of many other Asian countries.

Akihito last visited Thailand in 2006. His visit to Bangkok came at the end of nearly a week in Viet Nam and he returned to Japan on Monday. —Reuters

2,000-year-old bronze ware unearthed in Chengdu

CHENGDU — Chinese archeologists discovered a large deposit of bronze items in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, when excavating a tomb cluster dating from between the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C) and the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C).

Wang Tianyou, head of the archeological team from the Chengdu Cultural Relic Research Institute, said they have excavated 180 tombs in an area the size of two soccer fields, from which 540 bronze ware items were unearthed, ranging from weapons, utensils and tools to ritual statues.

The largest number of items was found in a tomb holding a boat-shaped cof-

fin, which was carved out of a tree trunk and sealed with mud.

The bronze ware is elaborately engraved with designs such as cicadas, tigers, dragons, handprints and symbolic patterns of the Kingdom of Shu, which was an ancient civilization in Sichuan, and the Kingdom of Chu, a civilization in present-day Hubei and Hunan provinces.

The smallest bronze pieces were a set of knife sharpeners, each 4 centimetres long. Liu Yumao, a research fellow with the institute, said the findings are important evidence to help understand the culture of the Kingdom of Shu and its interaction with other kingdoms. —Xinhua

Gymnast Uchimura signs sponsorship with Ringer Hut



Tokyo — Japanese gymnast Kohei Uchimura (R) and Kazuhide Yonehama, chairman and chief executive officer of Ringer Hut Co, hold a cardboard cutout of "Nagasaki champon" noodles, a regional cuisine of his home prefecture of Nagasaki, during a press conference in Tokyo on 6 March, 2017. The Olympic champion, who became the first Japanese professional gymnast in November 2016, announced he has signed a sponsorship deal with Ringer Hut, the operator of a chain of restaurants specializing in the dish. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Artist breathes life into still paintings using human canvases

CAIRO — At first glance, the Cairo art installation appears to be a mural in red and purple hues, of three people at a table. Then, one of the subjects pours bright pink paint from a teapot into a cup. Another lights a cigarette, and the scene comes into focus.

The installation, called After Dinner, was Cairo-based artist Chanel Arif's latest venture into living, breathing art.

Arif uses humans and their surroundings as her canvas, creating what at first appear to be two-di-

mensional paintings using fluid brush strokes and playing with light and shadows. "It's crazy to be able to create that optical illusion, from 3D to 2D ... When you create something with the human body, people are affected more by it, there's something more intimate about it," Arif told Reuters.

The child of Saudi and Iranian immigrants to the United States, Arif first signed up to study make-up and body art in Los Angeles last year. After returning to Egypt, she relied on friends, who

offered their bodies and time, to experiment.

"You're just like a canvas for someone's vision and even just to be concentrating to keep a certain mood is really meditative," May Mansour, one of the models in the installation and Arif's friend, said.

Arif usually starts with a sketch, inspired by an emotion or mood that dictates the palette. In each work, Arif strives to create something that invites the viewer to forget the space they're physically in.

"I like that its bring-

ing art to life. Instead of taking pictures of people and lifelessly observing them, we can see the painting brought to life," Salma Barakat, a spectator at the exhibition, said.

Inspired by American artist Alexa Meade, the concept is new in Egypt's contemporary art scene, where artists can struggle to engage conservative audiences.

"Egypt is the most inspiring place for me... It's very chaotic and very high-energy and there's a lot to see and experience," Arif said. —Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(7-3-2017 07:00am ~ 8-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
07:50	Am	Amazing: May Phoo Han
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-II)
08:44	Am	The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Life In NightArt In Life (Ep-1)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	19 Hours
10:50	Am	Sagaing: Youth Leader

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Glass Noodle Soup)
08:46	Pm	Chef Life: Avi Bitton (Israeli Chef)

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

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

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(7-3-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	2:30 Pm	◆ Yes or No Talk Show (Needs or Wants) (Review by Prof; Dr Aung Tun Thet)
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	2:50 Pm	◆ Documentary (International Woman's Day)
7:30 Am	◆ Socio Economic Scenes	3:15 Pm	◆ AFC Cup 2017 Myanmar Club (LIVE) (Magwe FC Vs Johor DT)
8:35 Am	◆ Law Affairs	5:30 Pm	◆ Money Talk Myanmar
9:15 Am	◆ Towards All Sector Development	6:15 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
9:30 Am	◆ MRTV's Youth Programme	6:35 Pm	◆ Catch Asia News
10:30 Am	◆ MRTV's Education Programme	7:15 Pm	◆ Teleplay
11:00 Am	◆ 2017 Martrication Examination Lessons (Myanmar)	8:00 Pm	◆ News/International News/ Weather Report
11:40 Am	◆ Documentary	8:35 Pm	◆ Political Parties Campaign Speeches
12:30 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series	9:15 Pm	◆ Documentary
1:00 Pm	◆ Radio Dramar	◆ Myanmar Classical Songs	
2:10 Pm	◆ Reasl Story Real Movie	◆ Myanmar Video	

Man City ease past Sunderland to keep up title chase

LONDON — Sergio Aguero proved he is still vital to Manchester City's cause as the Argentine paved the way for a routine 2-0 victory at bottom club Sunderland on Sunday.

Having lost his place last month to young Brazilian Gabriel Jesus there has been speculation about his future, but he was at his razor-sharp best as third-placed City closed the gap on Premier League leaders Chelsea to eight points. He opened the scoring three minutes before halftime when he dinked in Raheem Sterling's low cross — taking his tally to five goals in his last three games in all competitions.

Leroy Sane made it 2-0 just before the hour mark after a superb pass by David Silva sent him in on goal. Sunderland struck the

post through Jermain Defoe when it was 0-0 but offered little apart from hard graft.

With a home game against Stoke City to come on Wednesday, City can move into second place and there are signs, after a fourth consecutive league win, that they are finding another gear at the perfect moment in the season. And having recovered from a run of six games without a goal, Aguero is back to his best form.

"I am happy and was very pleased with display of Sergio. When a huge player is left out people ask, 'Why? Why? Why?'" Guardiola said. "In the future I want to involve both Gabriel Jesus and Sergio when they're fit."

"Sergio helped us a lot in our game and in the build up. It was brilliant."



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero celebrates scoring their first goal during the Premier League between Manchester City and Sunderland at Stadium of Light on 5 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sunderland had worked tirelessly to restrict City in the first half but were undone by a move of real quality. Yaya Toure fed the ball to Silva who in turn released Sterling and when he delivered a low cross Aguero ghosted into space to flick a close-range effort past Pickford for his 12th league

goal of the season and 23rd in all competitions.

Sane finished off Sunderland with shot off the post and City could have doubled their lead in the closing stages as Sunderland tired.

Apart from the ever-willing Defoe, Sunderland offered little

threat after that and remain bottom with only 19 points — six adrift of safety — after a third consecutive defeat.

"I hope our players understand the position that we're in, but we're not panicking," manager David Moyes said. —Reuters



Bayer Leverkusen coach Roger Schmidt and Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone. PHOTO: REUTERS

Leverkusen sack coach Schmidt after losing run

MADRID — Champions League contenders Bayer Leverkusen sacked coach Roger Schmidt on Sunday, a day after his team suffered their fourth loss in the last six league games with a 6-2 demolition by Borussia Dortmund.

Leverkusen are in ninth place in the Bundesliga after an erratic campaign and risk losing out on European action altogether next season.

They travel to Atletico Ma-

drid on March 15 for the return leg of their Champions League round-of-16 match after a 4-2 loss at home in the first leg last month.

"Due to the current sporting development we reached the conclusion after a long analysis that parting ways may be painful but unavoidable for the further development of Leverkusen," said the club's managing director Michael Schade. —Reuters

Underdog Bellew stuns Haye in heavyweight clash

LONDON — Underdog Tony Bellew stopped former WBA heavyweight champion David Haye in the 11th round of their thrilling clash at London's O2 Arena on Saturday.

Haye, hindered by an ankle injury for much of the fight, was knocked down for a second time and sent crashing through the ropes in the penultimate round, prompting his corner to throw in the towel.

The buildup to the fight had been marked by intense news conferences and heated trash-talk between the British fighters, but after Saturday's fight they quickly put the animosity aside.

"In my eyes I've beaten the best cruiserweight this country has ever produced and one of the best heavyweights," Bellew told Radio 5 live. "He made the same mistake everybody else does. He underestimated me. Watch me on tape and I'm terrible but in the ring I'm harder to hit than you think."

The 34-year-old Bellew had moved up from cruiserweight to face Haye, whose previous fight was last May against Swiss Arnold Gjergjaj.

Prior to Saturday, Londoner Haye had fought just three times since losing a heavyweight unification bout to Wladimir Klitschko in 2011. Haye, who has 28 wins

from 31 bouts, said his opponent fully deserved the victory but wanted a rematch.

"I would love to do it again, I have never been in a fight like that," he said. "If the fans want to see it again I would do it again."

"We'll do it on his terms, in his town - he deserves it."

Promoter Eddie Hearn, however, said Liverpoolian Bellew (29-2-1) would look for a title shot.

"We've got to go after a heavyweight world title for Bellew now," he said. "He is everything you would want in a man, he has a big heart, never gives up, has a wonderful family and I am so happy for him." —Reuters



David Haye in action against Tony Bellew at O2 Arena, London on 4 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS