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Members of civil society raise awareness of the voting process for the upcoming 1 April by-election in Hlinethaya. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

REVISED VOTING LISTS TO BE RELEASED ON 17TH MARCH

Ko Moe

REVISED voting lists for the by-election on 1 April will be released on 17 March, according to U Hla Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, who was attending the cooperative meeting on educating voters held at Park Royal Hotel yesterday.

If there are errors found in the revised voters' lists to be released on March 17, voters can make claims for amendment up until March 25, according to UEC.

"The UEC took only three months for preparation of voters' lists in previous elections, whereas in the by-election of 2017 it took 6 months to prepare for the list, so as to lessen errors as much as possible," said U Tin Tun, director-general of the UEC.

He added, "Those eligible to vote are urged to take out the identification cards. One can come to take all ID cards on behalf of all. By-elections in 2017 cannot be held in all re-

gions where elections were not held due to insecurity of the area in the 2015 general elections, except in Mongshu and Kehsi townships in Shan State."

It is learnt that UEC released the first-time voters' lists from February 1 to February 14. In previous elections, there were several problems in many places on account of the inadequate time for preparation, immaturity of the commission and poor management.

For similar errors not to oc-

cur again in the by-elections to be held in 2017, the UEC is making arrangements in connection with local civil societies as well as with Australian Aid, UK Aid, USAID and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

In the 2017 by-election, 19 vacant parliamentary posts will be chosen in 22 townships, in the Regions and States, it is learnt. 96 representatives representing 24 political parties will contest with those eligible to vote amounting to 2.1 million voters.

USDP criticism of schoolbooks on civics prompts clarification

AFTER a list of schoolbooks on civics elicited disapproval from the Union Solidarity and Development Party, whose remarks are being broadly criticised on the social website Facebook, the Ministry of Education yesterday released a clarification that those books are not required reading and were added to a suggested reading list by an NGO.

The 7 March issue of the Union Daily newspaper said the USDP would "take necessary action for the national interest." The USDP was apparently critical of books that mention four major religions that exist in the world, according to social media.

In response, the Ministry of Education said yesterday that it was the Center for Diversity and National Harmony (CDNG), an NGO, that compiled the list of books on ethics and civics and they are not a part of the prescribed syllabus approved by the National Curriculum Committee. The morality and civil ethics curriculum committee compiled a list for basic education schools and submitted it to the Ministry of Education through the national curriculum committee. Only approved and prescribed books are being used on the syllabus.

Concerning the criticism, the CDNG on 5 March also issued a statement that civics are not completely concerned with the government and its institutions. In their statement, they stated that CDNG's civics books are aimed for teaching children from kindergarten to the 10th standard grade.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw: compensation in Manaung Airport, judicial sector

THE 15th day of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th Regular meeting continued on March 7 at 10 in the morning.

U Tin Nu (also known as) U Tin Nu Aung from Manaung Constituency raised the question of, “What are the plans to compensate the five landowners involved in the expansion project of Manaung Airport?”

To this, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that the previous Ministry of Transport has already received budgeting from the 2015-2016 fiscal year and compensated according to standards set by respective township administration committees for crops and land and two monasteries via the Rakhine State General Administration Department.

Concerning the Manaung Airport expansion project, it is reported that of the 35 people being compensated, 31 accepted the amount while 4 people demanded a higher compensation rate. The payment for the remaining individuals has been deposited in Manaung Township’s Myanma Economic Bank and negotiations have been made several times to compensate them.

In the list of people being compensated, Daw Khin Mya Lwin is noted to have landownership yet no residential property and although she agreed to the amount being compensated, she has not come forth to withdraw the amount and thus this has been deposited in the township’s My-

anma Economic Bank. Another three, U Phyu Thi Khine, U Tin Nu, and U Tar Ni, were found to have constructed buildings without legal permission and because they have ignored multiple eviction notices, the township’s farmland management committee Secretary has filed a lawsuit against them. Additionally, U Chan Pu is not on the list of people being compensated and is actually trespassing near a public road which is to be the site of the expanded airport’s runway. The residents of Samone have already complained to Maunaung Township management committee concerning U Chan Pu’s trespassing and illegal plantation of crops. Rakhine State Government has announced that U Chan Pu is not on the list, yet has appealed for compensation.

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo replied to a question asked by Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin Constituency concerning whether security measures will be implemented in Ottwin Township’s Myatnikwin, Hlayswemyaung, ChaungKyo, Manyeinsu, Yayohsin, Taungpu and Taungdan villages.

Next, the Speaker for the Pyithu Hluttaw announced the Bill amending Legal Aid, from the Amyotha Hluttaw and that Hluttaw representatives wishing to amend the Bill can write down their names in the waiting list and should state which section or sub-section they wish to amend. The Speaker also announced the Bill amending the Law for Con-

serving Water Resources have been reviewed by the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw on the 6th day of its 4th Regular Meeting. Nine Hluttaw representatives have already registered for discussion concerning ratification of the proposed Bill.

Afterwards, Committee for Draft Law member U Kyaw Soe Lin submitted seven amendments to the Law for Conserving Water

“The Judicial Sector includes not only judges but legal advisors, witnesses, and investigation groups”

Resources with the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker approving the amendments after receiving feedback from the Hluttaw.

Afterwards Hluttaw representatives individually submitted amendments for four sections in the Law for Conserving Water Resources, to which the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker approved the amendments after reviewing the results of an electronic voting system by Hluttaw representatives.

In conclusion, the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw approved the

amendments to the Law for Conserving Water Resources and will proceed according to Bylaw 191 passed by the Pyithu Hluttaw in 2013. U Tin Htwe from Waw constituency submitted an appeal to the Union Supreme Court for amending the Judicial Sector. Daw Aye Aye Mu for the Kalay Constituency discussed that due to immoral acts from authorities, many citizens have to suffer and that some courts ignore the procedures and legal rights for citizens in many court cases. This has led to imbalance and disrespect for the Judicial Sector. A nation should be able to provide legal security and legal protection to its citizens.

Bribery and discontinuing of court cases due to failure to pay unlawful sums of money, causes the citizens to lose trust in the legal system. This is also caused by unnecessary lengthening of court cases.

The appeal requests increasing the number of State Judges and appointing necessary staff members to district and township courts, and making sure all citizens receive legal security as stated in the Constitution. Twenty-four Hluttaw representatives discussed the aforementioned appeal.

Union Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt stated that it is the responsibility of the Supreme Court and other judicial courts to uphold rule of law. The Supreme Court is doing its utmost so the citizens will have faith in the judicial system in the country and they are monitoring

the actions of each level of courts in the country. When we refer to the judicial system, it includes not only judges but legal advisors, witnesses, and investigation groups. It is due to their laxity of actions, inexperience and dishonesty that faith in the system has deteriorated. Although the Supreme Court has authority to monitor courts, it does not have authority over other groups and organisations under the judicial system.

Only the Ministry of Home Affairs, office of the Union Attorney-General, and the Lawyers Association has authority over them, which is why it is not correct to submit an appeal urging only the Supreme Court, but should be inclusive of all groups under the judicial system. The Judge also explained procedures in sharing knowledge concerning ethics, procedures in conducting legal affairs, examination of unethical procedures in courts, and handling and introducing preventive measures concerning bribery and corruption on all levels of the judicial system. The Judge General advised that the appeal be archived while the submitter of the appeal U Tin Htwe advised that the appeal be approved.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, U Win Myint, then reviewed the votes for the appeal concerning the Judicial System and with a result of 286 approval votes, 4 disapproval votes, and 60 neutral votes, verified and approved the appeal.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Government to supply electricity to all villages in MraukU

The Government has budgeted Ks518.75 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year to supply electricity to all the villages in Mrauk U Township in Rakhine State by connecting to the National grid, said the Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr. Tun Naing. The Deputy Minister made his remarks on the 15th day of the fourth regular session for the second Amyotha Hluttaw when U Kyaw Kyaw, Member of Parliament for No. 4 Constituency in Rakhine State, inquired about the plan to supply electricity to the villages in MraukU Township.

A budget of Ks774.75 million for 2016-17 FY had been requested to be added to the Rakhine State Budget to install a 400 voltage power line for 7.89 miles, 10 transformers 11/0.4 for KV capacity and an 11 KV power line for 6.55 miles to be able to supply 10 villages in MraukU Township; Shoutpon Kyunt, Panmaw, Laung-kkhat, Nankya, Maungnyo Kyun, Maungsheekyan, Oakphokan, Pauktawpyin, Thikyar and Laymyosar.

The construction works are being carried out and can distribute

the power from the MraukU power station when finished.

The deputy minister said the budget of Ks518.75 for the 2017-18 fiscal year has been requested to add to the Rakhine State government budget, which is required to implement construction works of a 400-volt power line for 4.3 miles, five transformers for 11/0.4KV capacity and 11 KV power line for 5.9 miles to be able to distribute six villages; Phophyu kyun, Kyauktwinkone, Zingalikone, Ywarhaungta, Maungtharkone and Peepinkone. Construction will commence when the budget is approved.

He said the remaining villages in MraukU Township would be supplied with electricity when the ministry’s five-year plan from 2017-18 to 2021-22, which includes installation of 66 KV power line for 15 miles from 66 KV MyaukU Power Station to Tainnyo village and one 66/11 KV 5MVA power station, a 33 KV power line for 13 miles from Minbya 33/11 KVA, 10 MVA station to Kyaetae village and one 33/11 KVMVA Station, 66 KV power line for 8 miles from 66 KV

Ponnagyun-MyaukU power line to Maungnama village and one 66/11KV,5MVA station.

The required budget will be requested next year and be implemented depending on the budget approval. U Lin Tin Htay, Member of Parliament for No 4 Constituency in Mon State questioned what the government’s plan was to compensate those who lost cultivated lands due to the power line constructions in Chaungzon township in Mon State.

The Deputy Minister said compensation of Ks 45,230,700, which was submitted to the Mon State government after being circulated, was approved on 29 April, 2016 to be able to pay 93 garden owners in Mawlamyine township and 12 land owners in Chaungzon township who lost land due to the installation of 66 KV power line.

He said the compensation has not been immediately done as the budget which has been projected in the capital expenditure for 2016-2017 fiscal year was not enough to be allocated. However, the compensation would be accomplished as the extra budget requested for 2016-17 fiscal years has been al-

ready approved.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung and the Deputy Minister then made an explanation for questions from Daw Than Than Aye, Member of Parliament for No. 7 constituency Magway Region, who raised the issue of whether there would be a plan to construct a concrete riverbank for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to prevent riverbank erosion in the eastern part of Panee creek in Shantlay village in Minhla township in Magway Region. U Zone Hle Htan, Member of Parliament for Constituency No. 4 in Chin State, also asked about mobile communication plans in the western part of Falam township in Chin State. Daw Ma Ma Lay, Member of Parliament for constituency No. 8 in Shan State, asked if there would be a plan to install a power station in Theinkone village in Pindaya Township, in the Danu self-administered zone in Shan State. The Deputy Minister also answered the question of U Win Maung, Member of Parliament for No. 6 constituency in Magwe Region, that there was a plan for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to install 33

KV power line to Saline township by setting up 66/33 KV sub power station in Tanyaung 123 KV power station, 23 miles away Saline township, to access full electricity in Saline township in Magwe Region. A member of Ayotha Hluttaw Bill Committee U Aung Kyi Nyunt read the report of the committee’s analysis and findings on the draft for hand-scooped oil production, which was sent with an amendments and approved by Pyithu Hluttaw. The speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw received confirmation for each amendment section by section in the draft presented by the committee and approved as presented after getting the decision of the Hluttaw. The Amyotha Hluttaw made the decision that Transportation Draft Law should not be approved as Union Minister for Transport and Communications agreed. The Union Minister for Transport and Communications also proposed a Myanmar Coastal and Inland Water Transport License Law and Inland Water Transport Law to be approved and the speaker took decision from the MP and approved them.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President gives policy guidance to newly-appointed Myanmar Ambassadors

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw gave policy guidance to Myanmar Ambassadors who are going to serve at the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Myanmar Embassy in Vientiane of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

President U Htin Kyaw met with Myanmar Ambassadors U Sein Oo and U Ko Ko Naing at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw gives policy guidance to Ambassadors U Sein Oo and U Ko Ko Naing at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor receives Iranian Ambassador

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, receives H.E. Mr. Mohsen Mohammadi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with residence in Bangkok, on 10:00 am in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

U Myo Aye presents credentials to President of the Slovak Republic

U Myo Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Slovak Republic, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Andrej Kiska, President of the Slovak Republic on 1 March 2017, in Bratislava.—*MOFA*

Committee meets to review Television and Broadcasting Law

A committee to review and draw up the bylaw held its 3rd coordination meeting on reviewing the Television and Broadcasting Law at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint urged the attendees to make earnest efforts to materialise the bill amending the Television and Broadcasting Law. Then, Director-General U Myint Htwe of the Myanmar Radio and Television clarified preparations for amendment of the Television and Broadcasting Law in accord

with the decisions made at the 2nd coordination meeting.

The officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Union Attorney-General Office and Myanmar Television and Broadcasters Association discussed and confirmed the amendments and terms over the law. The amended Television and Broadcasting Law will be sent to the Union Attorney-General Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

We need to work, cooperate each other to improve the medical standard: Prof Aung Ye Oo

YANKIN Children's Hospital has successfully conducted about 1,800 heart surgeries as from 2012.

A medical team led by Cardiac surgery specialist Prof Aung Ye Oo and professors from Myanmar also achieved a further historic landmark on 5th March, with successful operation on Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

Ministry of Health and Sports arranged the operation, providing assistance to it.

Regarding the operation, Myanma News Agency interviewed Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and Prof Aung Ye Oo.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe

Q: How did the Ministry of Health and Sports provide to this operation?

A: We received good ideas from Dr U Tin Myo Win because he is also a surgeon and we drew a detailed plan to arrange this operation. Not only this operation, specialists and surgeons from the US, England, Singapore, Korea and Germany have conducted surgeries and liver and kidney transplant operations in Myanmar. Our ministry has a plan to step up our efforts for providing such kind of health care services to the people.

Professor Aung Ye Oo

Q: How did you prepare for cardiac operation of Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein?

A: First, Ministry of Health and Sports contacted me to carry out cardiac surgery for the Yangon Region Chief Minister after discussing with Chairman of Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win, Dr Than Htike Aung and Prof Daw Win Win Kyaw. I received health records of the Chief Minister. After discussion, we decided to conduct the operation in Yangon.

Q: How did you cooperate with each other to achieve success



Dr Myint Htwe. PHOTO: MNA



Prof Aung Ye Oo. PHOTO: MNA

in this operation?

A: Team work plays an important role in carrying out major operations. Planning is also important for that. Thanks to the detailed planning and preparations made by the Health Department and doctors and nurses of the Yankin Children's Hospital, we achieved success in this operation.

Q: How is the condition of the Yangon Region Chief Minister following the operation?

A: He is in good condition. Today, he is practicing respiration exercises and he is even walking today. He will be discharged from the hospital after five or seven days.

Q: Please let me know your opinion about differences between the health care services in Myanmar and foreign countries.

A: I see more equipment in Myanmar today compared with four to five years ago because I have carried out operations here occasionally since four to five years ago.

Staff of the hospital have worked hard, but still need to improve their skills compared with the professionals in England and western countries. Some equipment are required for the hospital. The most important thing is we need to work and cooperate with each other as a team to improve the medical standard of Myanmar. But, I have seen that health

care in Myanmar is getting better.

Q: Please let me know if you teach and disseminate knowledge on medical services to others during your stay in Myanmar.

A: I graduated from the Medical College-1 in Yangon in 1988 and went to England. My father is a retired special surgeon. His name is Dr U Ye Myint. Whenever I visited my father living in Myanmar, I was thinking to help Myanmar. When Prof Daw Win Win Kyaw started to carry out cardiac surgery operations at the Yangon Children's Hospital, I came here and helped them. I taught cardiac surgery to others from one to three times a year in Myanmar. I also taught post-graduate doctors in Myanmar and conducted examinations. I also gave talks on health at conferences in Myanmar.

Q: Do you think that the ratio between the heart patients and cardiac specialists in Myanmar is okay?

A: In Myanmar which has a population of more than 50 million, there are less than 10 cardiac surgeons. In England which has a population of 66 million, there are more than 350 cardiac surgeons and 36 cardiac care units. Myanmar needs to draw 20-year or 30-year long-term plan to produce professionals in medical care field related with heart.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Viettel Research and Development Institute



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for a photo with the Vietnamese welcoming party. PHOTO: MNA

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited air defence and air force command yesterday morning where he was welcomed by Lieutenant General Le Huy Vinh, Commander of the Air Defence-Air Force and senior military officials. The Senior General and Vietnamese air defence-air force chief took salute from the Guard of Honour.

The Senior General and entourage proceeded to Air Defence and Air-Force Museum

and looked round military aircrafts, helicopters and air defence system being displayed inside the museum. In the afternoon, the Senior General and party visited Vietnam Military University of Medicine where they were explained historical background and healthcare activities of the university by the principal and officials. The Senior General raised questions for his knowledge to the Vietnamese officials and discussed the opportunities for the students from the Myanmar's

Tatmadaw.

They then visited Viet Nam National Institute of Burn and Viettel Research and Development Institute in Hanoi and observed the research works. The Senior General and party were explained work procedures of the institute by the chairman and vice-chairman of the Viettel Group. The Viettel Group also hosted a luncheon in honour of the Myanmar Tatmadaw goodwill delegation led by the Senior General.—*Myanmar News Agency*

USDP criticism of schoolbooks on civics ...

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The CDNG listed 11 books for students, one manual for kindergarten teachers, one manual for primary teachers, one manual for middle school teachers, one manual for high school teachers and one analysis on the teaching of civics. The CDNG submitted this to the Ministry of Education and scholars to be able to refer to it, if necessary, in teaching civics

in schools, and it did not urge any schools or institutions to teach it, the CDNG said. The CDNG gave training to those wishing to have knowledge on teaching ethics. At the trainings, they suggested that they could leave out the unnecessary portions of the book in teaching it in their regions and could substitute stories and matters that will suit their areas. Officials of the organisation said the CDNG

is not comprised of religious leaders, but rather a local NGO made up of scholars on social science, history and law. It has no religious leaders as members. The CDNG is an organisation that is mainly performing the tasks of researching and training for courses on political changes in the country and situations on harmony and matters on protection of conflicts, it described at length.—*GNLM*

Crime NEWS

Fire in Mandalay destroys a dozen houses

A fire broke out in Dawei Ward in Aungmyayathazan Township, Mandalay on Tuesday, destroying 12 houses, 10 motorcycles and one car.

A shelter was opened at a religious building to provide temporary housing for those

rendered homeless because of the fire. Mandalay Region Fire Services Department and Aungmyayathazan Township Police are investigating the cause of the fire. Mandalay City Development Committee members and Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin,

Hluttaw representative Dr Nyi Min Han, Colonel Myo Min Aung, Regional Minister for Security and Border Affairs under Mandalay Region Government comforted the affected people. They will continue to provide assistance.—*Mdy's Office*

Bullets, swords found in creek in Tamwe Township

AMMUNITION and knives were found in a creek in Tamwe Township yesterday by workers who were dredging the waterway, according to Eastern District Police Station.

Thirty two bullets and 12 knives were found in the Khannapinlain creek near Laydaungkan street in Tamwelay

Ward, Tamwe Township at about 9 am. There were 27 9mm bullets, two 0.303 rifle bullets, one AK47 bullet and two shells. There were also 10 long swords and two knives.

"The bullets can't be reused and the knives are various sizes. We are arranging to hand over the bullets to a military unit," said an

officer of Eastern District Police Department.

On 6 November 2016, 91 .22 caliber bullets in a plastic bag were found in a bush near Swallow Kan Pat street in Ward 5 in Mayangon Township. Fifty-five .22 caliber bullets were also seized near that location.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Residents flee homes to avoid clashes between Tatmadaw and MNDAA

A temporary relief camp was opened at a monastery in Lashio, capital of northern Shan State yesterday morning for residents who fled their homes in Tonchein Township, Laukkai District.

The abbot of the monastery offered free accommodations to 55 war victims including 28

men and 27 women from 36 households at the Thiri Mingalar Mansu Monastery in Ward 12 in Lashio. It is learnt that they left their homes due to the ongoing clashes between the Tatmadaw and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA).—*Myanmar News Agency*

Hiring of Myanmar orchestras for novitation ceremony in rural areas dropping



A Myanmar traditional orchestra (Sine Wine). PHOTO: MYANMA ALINN

THE hiring of Myanmar traditional orchestras (Sine Wine) for religious events such as novitation ceremonies and donations in rural areas is dropping as a result of the low incomes of the farmers.

Previously, Myanmar people eagerly celebrated the religious events and received donations on a grand scale enabling the hiring of a traditional orchestra including various

musical instruments. However, the unfavourable market and the low yield of crops have taken a financial toll on the rural people.

An orchestra is hired at over Ks600,000 and it costs about Ks1million if transportation costs and the hiring of an actress are included. Therefore, the donors who individually cannot afford to hire Sine Wine make a contribution to the charity or events.—*Ko Lwin (Swar)*

Yangon Region Hluttaw to discuss supplying power at a reasonable price

A motion on supplying power and fuel at a reasonable price will be discussed at the Regional Hluttaw at the end of March, said Yangon Region Electricity, Industry and Transportation Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw.

"Before discussing that issue at the Yangon Parliament, we will make pre-discussions with the public. Then, we will submit the proposal to the Hluttaw," she added.

The Yangon regional government has invited international companies to invest in the electrical power and energy sector. Local and foreign businessmen are also allowed to invest in accordance with the law to distribute the fuel.

"On the media network, people are saying that the government will increase meter charges three times starting from 1 April. It is not true. It is only a rumour. This issue is not included in the meeting of the Yangon Region Chief Minister and the Hluttaw MP," said Daw Nilar Kyaw.

Currently, the Yangon re-

gion consumes 50 per cent of the country's power supply. The Yangon regional government will discuss with transparency the current situation of the Yangon Electricity Supply Cooperation (YESC) and to develop distribution of the private electricity sector because of more foreign investment, development of the industry sector and more consumption of power supply.

Production of electricity costs about Ks135 per unit in the Yangon region. The Government sets the fee for power, with Ks35 per unit for 100 units, Ks40 per unit for over 100 units and Ks50 per unit for over 200 units. Business meter charges cost Ks75 per unit for less than the 500 units, Ks100 per units for less than 1,000 units, Ks125 per units for over 2,000 units and Ks150 per units for over 10,000 units.

There are seven fuel distribution companies which are mainly imported for abroad and over 400 agent companies in Yangon region. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

OPPLE Lighting gearing up to build a factory in Myanmar

OPPLE Lighting is planning to set up a factory in the country, said U Peter Kyaw Moe, marketing manager of Farmer Lighting under the Farmer Phoyarzar Group of Companies.

China-based OPPLE is importing LED bulbs and lighting products used by low-income people, lighting products for projects and lighting for

petrol stations, it is learnt.

OPPLE Lighting has covered over 50 countries worldwide with its lighting products. After construction of the factory, it will help to contribute effectively the local consumption. OPPLE Lighting is a leading lighting manufacturer, which gives the better lighting with its affordable LED technology.—200

Myanmar to cooperate with Japanese businessmen to enhance SMEs

TWENTY Japanese businessmen led by Mr. Noriyuki Yonemura, the director-general of the Japan-Myanmar Economy & Investment Center (JMEIC), discussed with Myanmar entrepreneurs a bid to cooperate in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), it is learnt from a discussion of Myanmar-Japan SMEs held at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The Japanese entrepreneurs are engaged in the production businesses of electric power tools, transportation, paint, industrial materials, import/

export and home decoration businesses.

They discussed with Myanmar SME businessmen and banking operators how to create opportunities, said Mr. Noriyuki Yonemura.

Japan will provide technical and monetary assistance on the basis of the government's guidelines on SMEs.

Good opportunities are expected to result from the cooperation with Japanese businessmen and investors, in part because this discussion is likely to improve Japanese enterprises in Myanmar, said U Myo Thet, the vice chairman of UMFCI.—200



Farmers work on a cabbage farm outside Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Production of agricultural with Good Agricultural Practices system workshop held

A workshop on the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) system was conducted at the meeting hall of the Agriculture Department in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday to encourage farmers and agricultural agents to produce safe crops. The workshop was jointly held by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Agriculture Department, the vegetable and plant bio-technology branch and the Nay Pyi Taw Region Agricultural Department Office with the aim of establishing free trade with international countries, attaining

the GAP certificate for the crops and for the public to consume nutritious vegetables.

"Currently, the paddy and bean market are losing in the market because the land is not being used efficiently. We need more agricultural good practice," said U Hla Myint Aung, the Deputy Director-General from the Agriculture Department, in his opening speech.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) is a voluntary audit that verify that fruits and vegetables are produced and packed as safely as possible to minimise risks of microbial

food safety hazards. Some farmers are using fertilizer and pesticide when they are growing crops and vegetable. Some people consuming those crops and vegetables are becoming unhealthy. If we are growing the crops and vegetables with the use of GAP system, we have to test the heavy metal content of the land and water, said U Hla Myint Aung.

"We do not mean that in the GAP system is not allowed to use the fertilizer and pesticide. But we should use fertilizer and pesticide in the right way. So that people can con-

sume healthy food as well as so we can penetrate the international market," said U Tin Oo Kyine, a regional officer.

Currently, paddy, sesame, green bean, urad bean, corn, onion, watermelon, tomato, melon, cabbage, mango, pomelo, avocado, chili and coffee crops have already had GAP protocol processing from the agricultural department.

The agriculture department will offer training courses and discussions to farmers across the country about how to use the GAP agricultural system.—Ko Pauk

Commercial tax rate in Myanmar lowest compared to 16 countries

THE commercial tax rate in Myanmar is by far the lowest when compared to regional countries and the rest of the world, the Internal Revenue Department said in a statement released yesterday.

Countries across the globe levy indirect taxes labelled Commercial Tax, Value-Added Tax and Goods and Services Tax. In a bid to inform Myanmar taxpayers aware of the low commercial tax

rate, the Internal Revenue Department released a list of tax rates set by 16 countries.

Myanmar imposes a 5 per cent commercial tax, while 10 per cent is levied by Cambodia, Viet Nam and Indonesia; six per cent by Malaysia; 12 per cent by The Philippines; seven per cent by Singapore and Thailand; 17 per cent in China; 20 per cent in France; 19 per cent in Germany; 25 per cent in Den-

mark; 14 per cent in India; 8 per cent in Japan; 15 per cent in New Zealand and 25 per cent in Norway, it is learnt.

Only a three per cent commercial tax will be levied on the sale of real estate, stated in Union Tax Law 2017. Additionally, there will be no tax for buyers of low-cost apartment units, said Union Minister U Kyaw Win of the Planning and Finance Ministry.—Mon Mon

TRADEMARK CAUTION
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IOPE
Reg. No. 149/2017

In respect of **Class 3: Cosmetics**, cosmetic preparations for skin care; make-up preparations, namely, make-up base; make-up powder, mascaras; creamy foundation; lipsticks; nail polish; beauty masks for cosmetic purposes; shampoos; dentifrices; perfumery; tissues impregnated with cosmetic lotions; cosmetic soaps.

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Daw May Thwe Hlaing, J.L.B., J.L.M. (H.G.P.)
For AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION
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Dated: 8th March 2017

Abe, Trump agree N Korea's missile threat entering "new phase"

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Tuesday he and US President Donald Trump agreed that North Korea's test-firing of ballistic missiles the previous day poses a "clear challenge" to the region and the international community and that the country's missile threat has entered a "new phase."

Trump told Abe in telephone talks in the morning that the United States stands by Japan "one hundred percent" and that he hopes Japan will trust him and the United States completely, according to the Japanese leader. Trump expressed Washington's unwavering commitment to the security of Japan, a Japanese official said separately.

Abe told reporters the two leaders also agreed that the missile firing was a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions banning North Korea from developing and testing nuclear and ballistic missile technologies, adding that Japan will work closely with the United States and South Korea to deal with the North Korean threat.

"Japan and the United

States confirmed that the latest missile firing by North Korea...is a clear challenge to the region and the international community, and that its threat has entered a new phase," Abe said at the prime minister's office.

With the Trump administration reportedly reviewing US policy toward North Korea, including putting the country back on a list of state sponsors of terrorism, Abe told Trump that Tokyo views positively his administration's move, according to the official.

The Japanese leader also told his US counterpart that Japan is ready to assume a "large role and responsibility to enhance the deterrence provided by the Japan-US alliance," and that it intends to start moving swiftly to make it happen, the official said.

The two leaders also agreed that the foreign and defense ministers of the two countries should hold so-called "two-plus-two" security talks soon.

North Korea fired ballistic missiles from an area near Tongchang-ri in the country's northwest early Monday morning. Four

missiles flew some 1,000 kilometres eastward before falling into the Sea of Japan some 300 to 350 km east of Akita Prefecture, according to the Japanese Defence Ministry.

Three of them fell within Japan's exclusive economic zone, a 200-nautical-mile offshore zone where the country has sovereign rights to explore and manage natural resources.

No damage to ships or aircraft was reported.

Monday's test-firing was the latest in a series of ballistic missile launches by North Korea and marked the third time

North Korean missiles have landed within the Japanese EEZ. In September, three ballistic missiles fired by the North fell into the zone off Hokkaido. —Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets with reporters at his office in Tokyo on 7 March, 2017, after holding telephone talks with US President Donald Trump. Abe said the two leaders agreed that North Korea's test-firing of ballistic missiles the previous day poses a "clear challenge" to the region and the international community and that the country's missile threat has entered a "new phase." PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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Malaysia says foiled attack on Arab royalty ahead of Saudi king's visit

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia on Tuesday said suspected militants from Yemen arrested late last month ahead of a visit by Saudi King Salman were planning an attack on "Arab royalties".

A senior police source said the four Yemenis belonged to a Houthi insurgency group that has been fighting Yemeni forces backed by a Saudi-led military coalition for two years.

The Saudi monarch arrived in Kuala Lumpur on 26 February with a 600-strong delegation for a four-day visit, at the start of a month-long Asia tour. He is currently in Indonesia.

Between 21 and 26 February, Malaysia arrested

one Malaysian and six foreigners — one Indonesian, four Yemenis and one East Asian — for suspected links to militant groups including Islamic State, police had said in a statement on Sunday. Speaking on Tuesday, Malaysia's police chief said the four Yemenis were plotting an attack on Arab royalties.

"Four Yemenis, apart from their role involving in producing false travel documents they are also involved in distributing drugs... and they are also planning to attack the Arab royalties during the visit in Kuala Lumpur, so we got them in the nick of time," Inspector General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar told reporters.

The Yemenis were arrested in Serdang and Cyberjaya — near the capital Kuala Lumpur — for suspected links to a Yemeni insurgent group, Malaysian police had said on Sunday.

Police seized multiple international passports from the four, along with 270,000 ringgit (\$60,742.41) in different currencies which were suspected to be channelled to the insurgent group. The United Nations has said Yemen now poses the largest food insecurity emergency in the world, with an estimated 7.3 million people needing immediate help, while more than 10,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Malaysia has arrested

hundreds of people with suspected militant links during recent years. The Southeast Asian nation has been on high alert since suicide bombers and gunmen linked to Islamic State launched multiple attacks in Jakarta, the capital of neighbouring Indonesia, in January 2016. A grenade attack on a bar on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur in June last year wounded eight people. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack. Two of the seven arrested in late February — a Malaysian and an Indonesian — were planning to launch a large-scale attack using a "vehicle-borne improvised explosive device," the police have said. —Reuters

Thai 'red shirt' leader jailed for insulting monarchy

BANGKOK — A leader of Thailand's "red shirt" opposition group was jailed for two years on Tuesday for insulting the monarchy during a street protest in 2010.

The Supreme Court said it had upheld the ruling of a lower court that Yosvaris Chuklom, also a

comedian, was guilty of the crime of lese majeste, which can carry a penalty of up to 15 years for each offence.

The military government has made increasing use of the royal insult law against critics since taking power in 2014.

Yosvaris was a lead-

er of the group loyal to the populist movement of ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra, who was prime minister in the government that was overthrown in the last coup.

Although Yosvaris did not name the king in

his speech in 2010, at a time the red shirts were in opposition, the court ruled that his gestures had made the insult clear. He had said he no intention of insulting the king. Neither he nor his lawyer made any comment after the Supreme Court's ruling. —Reuters

North Korea bars Malaysians from leaving as murder row boils



Police cars block the entrance of a sealed off North Korea embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 7 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR/SEOUL — North Korea barred Malaysians from leaving the country on Tuesday, sparking tit-for-tat action by Malaysia, as police investigating the murder of Kim Jong Nam in Kuala Lumpur sought to question up to three men hiding in the North Korean embassy.

Malaysia was outraged by the murder of

the North Korean leader's estranged half brother at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on 13 February by assassins using VX nerve agent, a chemical listed by the United Nations as a weapon of mass destruction.

Police have identified eight North Koreans wanted in connection with the murder, including a senior North Korean diplomat

and a state airline employee — two of the three believed to be hiding in the embassy. The only people charged so far are a Vietnamese woman and an Indonesian woman.

As the row escalated on Tuesday, North Korea's foreign ministry issued a temporary ban on Malaysians leaving in order to ensure the safety of its own diplomats and citizens in Malaysia.

"All Malaysian citizens in the DPRK will be temporarily prohibited from leaving the country until the incident that happened in Malaysia is properly solved," the state-run Korea Central News Agency said, quoting a foreign ministry official.

"In this period the diplomats and citizens of Malaysia may work and live normally under the same conditions and circumstances as before."

Malaysia reacted swiftly, condemning Pyongyang's action as hostage-taking and responded by barring all North Koreans from leaving the country.

"This abhorrent act,

effectively holding our citizens hostage, is in total disregard of all international law and diplomatic norms," Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said in a statement, adding that he has summoned an emergency meeting of the National Security Council.

Najib said he has also instructed the police "to prevent all North Korean citizens in Malaysia from leaving the country until we are assured of the safety and security of all Malaysians in North Korea".

Before the murder, North Korea could count Malaysia as one of its few friends outside of China. But Malaysia has since stopped visa-free travel and on Monday it expelled North Korea's ambassador for questioning the impartiality of the murder investigation.

There are 11 Malaysians in North Korea, according to a Malaysian foreign ministry official, including three embassy staff, six family members, and two others.

Hundreds of North Koreans are believed to be in Malaysia, most of them

students and workers. The focus, however, was on its embassy staff.

"We are trying to physically identify all the embassy staff who are here," deputy home minister Nur Jazlan Mohamed told reporters outside the North Korean embassy.

He said staff would not be allowed to leave the embassy "until we are satisfied of their numbers and where they are".

By early afternoon, Malaysian police had removed the tape and police car blocking the North Korean embassy driveway in a sign of easing tensions.

Speaking at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday, Malaysia's police chief said three of the North Koreans sought in connection with the murder had holed up at the embassy in the Malaysian capital.

"How much longer do they want to hide in the embassy...it is a matter of time before they come out," police chief Khalid Abu Bakar said.

"We will not raid the embassy building, we will wait for them to come out.

We have got all the time," Khalid said.

Aside from the suspects said to be hiding in the embassy, police have said four other North Koreans left Malaysia in the hours after the murder.

The only North Korean suspect to be apprehended was deported on Friday, released due to insufficient evidence.

US officials and South Korean intelligence suspect North Korean agents were behind the assassination of Kim Jong Nam, who had been living in Macau under China's protection.

He had spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic rule of North Korea.

North Korea has refused to accept that the dead man is leader Kim Jong Un's half brother, and has suggested the victim died of a heart attack.

No next of kin have come forward to claim the body, but the Malaysian police chief said he was confident of obtaining

DNA samples to formally identify the murdered man.—Reuters

South Korea says to "actively" consider filing WTO complaint against China

SEOUL — South Korea will consider filing a complaint against China to the World Trade Organization over what it described as trade retaliation for the deployment of a US anti-missile system outside of Seoul, the ruling party said on Tuesday.

South Korea in July decided to install the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in response to missile threat from North Korea, despite China objecting that THAAD's radar can penetrate its territory.

South Korean companies in China have since reported cyber attacks, store closures and fines, while state-controlled media has called for a boycott of South Korean goods and services.

"We will actively consider whether China's action is in violation of the South Korea-China free trade deal, while stepping up efforts to

minimise damage on South Korean industries," Lee Hyun-jae, chairman of the Liberty Korea Party's policy committee, said after meeting senior government officials.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang, when asked about the matter on Tuesday, reiterated China's stance that law-abiding foreign companies are welcome and will be protected.

In the latest instance of suspected discrimination, China has rejected applications from airlines including Jeju Air Co Ltd to add charter flights between the two countries this month, Yonhap News Agency reported on Tuesday.

This adds to similar rejections for January and February. No reasons have been given for any of the rejections.

A Jeju Air spokesman confirmed the March

rejection when contacted by Reuters. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng said in a briefing he was not aware of the charter flight issue.

The rejections would be the second blow in a matter of days for South Korean travel companies, after the Chinese government last week ordered tour operators in China to stop selling trips to South Korea.

Lee said on Tuesday the Seoul government had since agreed to provide 50 billion won (\$43.3 million) worth of "special loans" for tourism firms experiencing difficulties due to the order.

Chinese authorities have also closed retail stores belonging to Lotte Group following inspections. The number of closures had reached 39, and one store has received a fine, a Lotte Mart spokesman said on Tuesday.—Reuters

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Opinion

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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.

Our mission of building the nation will never die aborning!

Khin Maung Oo

"AN oar is broken while rowing a boat," as a Myanmar saying goes, and we also say that "We will row with our arms, if the oar is broken." These two sayings seem to be different, but if carefully considered, they are found to be closely related. The first one describes a current situation and the second urges us not to stop rowing in the middle of the waters, and to proceed to the bank by using our arms as oars. All beings including animals have to work for their survival, at least the work of searching for food. Unlike those animals, we—human beings, unavoidably have a great burden of duties to perform, more and more as we grow older. Every animal has to do two kinds of jobs: one is to search

for food for its survival and another is to serve humans as animals of prey and beasts of burden. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that even a newly-born baby has two jobs. One is crying. Crying can be said to be searching for his or her food—the milk, for their survival. Another is to give parents, brothers and sisters, pleasure and happiness. Whenever they see faces of newly-born babies, and hear them cry, they are greatly pleased, by saying that their babies have stentorian voices. Accordingly, we say that the life of a married couple begins only after the first child is born.

Teachers earn their living by devoting their lives to teaching. They earn their living by teaching, serving the country by producing technicians, scholars,

politicians, and future leaders of the country. Some young men join the army to earn their living by serving the nation. Their job is to defend the country from aggressive enemies. Similarly, workers, doctors, politicians and lawyers are serving our communities, our society and our country, while at the same time earning salaries to support their families. Briefly, we are all workers who work for ourselves and for our communities. In the midst of these circumstances, we are seeing different types of people, unlike the above-said ones. Being self-centered persons, they are never ever considerate towards others. They are willing and ready to do as they wish. They will resort to any wicked and inhumane ways for their benefits. In fact, they never consider that their evil deeds will

cast a gloomy shadow over their offspring and future generations.

Nowadays, our leaders are making concerted efforts to bring about our long-hoped for national peace. National development plans are being implemented by the Union government. People are also wholeheartedly taking part in the campaigns by supporting or contributing their labor. In times like these, ignorance-overwhelmed selfish people are found to have committed murderous crimes. Their deeds are tantamount to showing that they do not care anything about rule of law. In fact, they should consider whether their children themselves would like to accept their parents' cruel acts, as these villainous acts will one day ruin their names. These terrorists

seem to neglect that there are many able bodied citizens among us who are willing and vigilant to protect the nation from harm. Students may fail in their exams once, but they will sit for their exams again and again till they achieve success. Likewise, the people may meet loss and failure in their attempts in social or economic affairs for one or more times. But they will never give up their aims and aspirations. Now, we are marching towards a modern and developed federal democratic Union, under the leadership of our chosen government, with a firm resolution. Just because of one senseless and inhuman act of some destructive elements, our mission of building the nation will never die aborning, that is, be destroyed while being born.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

Dr. Thazin Lwin (Professor)

What is a MOOC?

A Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web. Many MOOCs provide interactive user forums to support community interactions among students, professors, and teaching assistants. MOOCs are a recent and widely researched development in distance education which were first introduced in 2008 and emerged as a popular mode of learning in 2012. The first MOOCs emerged from the Open Educational Resources (OER) movement. MOOCs from private, non-profit institutions emphasized prominent faculty members and expanded existing distance learning offerings (e.g., podcasts) into free and open online courses.

As MOOCs have evolved, there appear to be two distinct types: those that emphasize the connectivist philosophy, and those that resemble more traditional courses. To distinguish the two, Stephen Downes proposed the term "cMOOC" and "xMOOC". He considers these so-called cMOOCs to be more "creative and dynamic" than the current xMOOCs, which he believes "resemble television shows or digital textbooks".

The new term MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) has immediately attracted the masses even though it is just another label for a diversity of different online learning scenarios and methodologies that were already developed and implemented many years before.

Nowadays, different types of MOOCs (so called cMOOCs and xMOOCs) are discussed but the focus is still on the masses, technology and promised innovations that are

not easy to discover.

A MOOC is a model of educational delivery that is to varying degrees, massive, open, online, and a course. Most MOOCs are structured similar to traditional online higher education courses in which students watch lectures, read assigned material, participate in online discussions and forums, and complete quizzes and test on the course material.

A massive open online course (MOOC) is a model for delivering learning content online to any person who wants to take a course, with no limit on attendance. Much of the attention given to MOOCs focuses on their ability to reach millions of learners worldwide. However, the on-campus impacts have gone far beyond moving lectures from the podium to the laptop or mobile device. Faculty members are improving materials and activities in their classes, crafting better assessments to measure student learning, and experimenting with new pedagogies to increase engagement and learning. The extent to which MOOCs have led faculty members to increase on-campus student access to online learning materials. These materials help reinforce what students learn in class and let them review difficult material.

One of the most exciting impacts of MOOCs on teaching at **Duke University** has been faculty members rethinking their assumptions about how students learn. One student said:

- * "I think it was a great idea to give this kind of course!"
- * "I love writing but lost the habit of it and thanks to your class!"
- * "I think it's a course that can help many people in different ways."
- * "My peers in the course gave me very good constructive feed-

back, and I learned to improve."

Duke University's MOOCs initiative has had an impact in reaching global audiences, increasing access to educational resources, and spurring on the development of new educational technologies and business models. Duke University plans to continue providing its faculty the expansive opportunities provided by MOOCs and other potentially innovative tools and ideas. In this way, faculty members can continue stimulating the campus conversation

The work is accessible.

Take the course without paying.

The work is shared.

about new possibilities in teaching and new ways to improve learning.

Online learning environments on campus or at a distance- and the policy issues that affect them have come to the forefront of higher education. As policy-makers consider how to dramatically increase the percentage of the population with a postsecondary degree or credential within significant, long-term resource constraints, online and blended learning options dominate the discourse. A rapid enrollment growth in e-learning courses and programs signals that students and the public at large also see online and blended options as increasingly attractive.

Challenges

The MOOC Guide suggests the possible challenges for cMOOCs:

- (1) Relying on user-generated content can create a chaotic learning environment
- (2) Digital literacy is necessary to make use of the online materials

(3) The time and effort required from participants may exceed what students are willing to commit to a free online course

(4) Once the course is released, content will be reshaped and reinterpreted by the massive student body, making the course trajectory difficult for instructors to control

(5) Participants must self-regulate and set their own goals

(6) Language and translation barriers

These general challenges in effective MOOC development are accompanied by criticism by journalists and academics. MOOCs have been criticized for a perceived lack of academic rigor as well as the monetization strategies adopted by providers.

MOOCs and the Future of Higher Education

MOOCs could help students who are at Universities, especially in lower income communities where they cannot afford extra tutorials. But, because of the different approaches in education, especially in developing countries, there is not encouragement to take or promote MOOCs, or other online assistance. Now that Smart Phones are in the hands of more people, in many countries, and MOOCs are also available on Smart Phones, it should become more popular. The feedback especially via Facebook, should help the comments to be country sensitive, because what works in one country does not always work in another, but with many people in the group, they can make things work, or help to make things work.

A closer look at higher education in Asia and the Pacific reveals that more and more people are becoming aware of the importance of attending university and getting at

least an undergraduate degree, which increases the chances of getting employed. The five best MOOC providers are Coursera, EdX, Udacity, Udemy, and Carnegie Mellon Open Learning Initiative.

In 2025 and beyond we will use mobile, digital technology to learn. The classroom will be in our hands. We will have access to knowledge, lessons, and learning technology anywhere, anytime. We will learn in the moment. Our learning will include immersive, multi-sensory experiences that simulate reality. Human educators will sometimes work as our learning coaches, more essential to the processes of learning than as holders of knowledge. Universities will be places for hands-on education and collaboration. Perhaps we should run a MOOC on how the internet benefits developing countries, or how Smart Phones now makes online and even distant learning possible, and why these are possible, why is still not attracting more learners.

Not only the high drop-out rates have raised the question of quality for MOOCs and several international conferences had a special focus on MOOCs. On the other hand MOOCs have prepared the future path for opening up education. Thus, MOOQ (Quality of Massive Open Online Courses) has started to develop a common Quality Reference Framework for improving, assessing and comparing the quality of MOOCs in the future. There is no MOOCs in Myanmar. In Myanmar, we need to collaborate and cooperate with local and international institutions and organizations.

We will make MOOCs better !

*Dr. Thazin Lwin (Professor)
Yangon University of Distance
Education*

Dailies at People's Service with Changes

Khin Yadanar

DURING one-year period when the incumbent government took office, State-owned newspapers—the Myanma Alinn, the Kyemon (the Mirror) and joint-venture the Global New Light of Myanmar are operating as a linking machinery between the People and the Government, by making reforms. Especially, form of collecting news, presentation and lay-out forms, quality of a newspaper and economic policies were managed to be changed successfully in one year. Success was achieved due to subscribers' increasing demands for more copies, because of satisfying designs of the logos and news presentation patterns. People's voices and breaking news of performances of 3 major panels of the State—



The trucks transport the newspapers to airport, railway stations and bus terminals early morning to deliver the dailies to houses. PHOTO: MNA



Traveller reads the state-run newspaper outside Airport (left), a worker checks the quality of dailies at printing machine (centre), and the news room of the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper. PHOTO: GNLM

administrative, judicial and legislative sectors including the Government have been described on these pages in a new type.

News correspondents, editors, news-room staff and nation-wide reporters were made to develop their abilities by making local and overseas veteran newsmen, legal experts, writers and photographers conduct trainings, for human-resource development. And, some were sent abroad to attend overseas trainings. This resulted in more inclusion of news and information that are worth knowing, articles and news features, news analysis and exciting news.

As regards international news, news critics and breaking news had been presented to the public. Exchange of news with foreign news agencies, purchase of news and information from Reuters by making a one-year contract for US \$ 19200 for a financial year can make our papers use international breaking news timely. Since the time of taking office of

the new government, the government-owned papers opened the new page of the Myanmar newspapers' history with reformed logos in accord with the current situations. People's papers are daily striving for their best to give education, information and entertainment for people and for making papers more attractive pages in describing political, economic and social affairs. Simultaneously, they are making effort to expand publication of pages on national ethnics through their branch press-houses in local areas. Presently Mawlamyaing Branch has been publishing news written in Mon, Sakaw Karen, Poe Karen and Pao languages weekly, with Mandalay branch expanding Mandalay pages weekly, describing Mandalay news and articles.

State-owned papers always take care to abide by media ethics and avoid news writing that can cause conflicts and disputes. Accuracy of news, guarantee and simplicity of presentation are the dignity of a news-

paper. Compared to privately-owned papers, they can be said to lag behind, in presenting news earliest. But opinions, trust and concepts over the newspapers, of those reading newspapers are found to differ. News and information printed on government-owned newspapers are thought to represent the government. Out of the government-owned enterprises, the successful "News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information," is void of ultra-opportunism in every phase of the process, found proudly to be paying charges even in the sector of the transportation. It pays fully commercial tax and 25% of the profit as income-tax to the State. In addition, 20% of the profit is given to the finance of the State with 55% of the profit saved for the capital of the enterprise. Now that saved money has amounted to the extent of considerable amount, annual expenditure was no longer disbursed from the State Fund Finance Category.

U Ye Naing, General-Manager of the News and Periodicals Enterprise said, "Our newspaper are describing policies and performances of the government, simultaneously expressing people's desires, attitudes and experiences. We are striving for our best to be a successful place for serving the benefit of the people and to survive as a fruitful enterprise. And, we are carrying out our operation for the Mirror and the Myanma Alinn to exist as the accurate and prestigious state-owned papers and for the Global New Light of Myanmar published in English language, being circulated as a joint-venture enterprise to stand tall as an English Version Newspaper."

There are included platforms for people's opinions, pages for things to be amended transparently, columns for letters to the editor, pages for those who would like to express their grief and woes, difficulties and demands for reforms in the Myanma Alinn and the Mir-

ror dailies. This resulted in direct effectiveness almost every day.

In the Mirror daily, the page, "Platform for new generation," is being expressed for the emergence of young writers and for the improvement of love for literature. In answer to this, youths and students from different levels are encouraging and influx of scripts is being received almost every day. Sunday cartoon program intended for developing the reading habits for children caused children to speed up their reading, lifting the courage, morality and artistic creation in children. Increasing the number of subscribers, the best-selling dailies and voluminous trust of the readers can attract more advertisements. Depending upon the income from advertisement sector, a copy of the newspaper can be sold at 50 kyats.

The Global New Light of Myanmar Daily that is being published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise was managed to be set up as

a joint venture enterprise in a short period of time. It is also being sold at 50 kyats per copy.

During the rule of the new government, the NPE is implementing to spread its papers across the country including remote areas timely.

Extraordinarily, the NPE is striving for its best, for the state-owned papers to post online very soon, for the people to be able to read news and information earliest, with the developing information technology. So, our readers can read the papers in bi-lingual versions.

The papers are presenting news and information in accord with the media ethics to give true news to readers. In the world of Myanmar media which had developed with great momentum, the Myanma Alinn daily which had existed for over 100 years, the Mirror daily which had lasted for over 60 years and the GNLM which has been presenting in new form are trying to present people's favorite sectors to readers.

US starts deploying anti-missile system in South Korea after defiant North's latest test



Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptors arrive at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, in this handout picture provided by the United States Forces Korea (USFK) and released by Yonhap on 7 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — The United States started to deploy the first elements of its advanced anti-missile defence system in South Korea on Tuesday after North Korea's test of four ballistic missiles, US Pacific Command said, despite angry opposition from China.

The announcement came as North Korean state media said leader Kim Jong Un had personally supervised Monday's missile launches by an army unit that is positioned to strike US bases in Japan, stepping up threats against Washington as US troops conduct joint military exercises with South Korea.

"Continued provocative actions by North Korea, to include yesterday's launch of multiple missiles, only confirm the prudence of our alliance decision last year to deploy THAAD to South Korea," US Pacific Commander Admiral Harry Harris said in a statement, referring to the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system.

The move by the US military is likely to deepen the brewing conflict between South Korea and China, which says the THAAD deployment destroys the regional security balance.

The four ballistic missiles fired by North Korea landed in the sea off Japan's northwest, angering Seoul and Tokyo, days after Pyongyang promised retaliation over the military drills that it sees as preparation for war.

US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe discussed the launches by the nuclear-armed North during a phone call on Tuesday.

"Japan and the US confirmed that the latest North Korean missile launches were clearly against UN resolutions and a clear provocation against the regional and in-

ternational community," Abe told reporters. "(North Korea's) threat has entered a new phase."

Trump also spoke to South Korea's acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn to discuss the North's missile launches, Hwang's office said.

Reclusive North Korea, which has carried out a series of nuclear and missile tests in defiance of United Nations resolutions, issued a typically robust statement on state news agency KCNA after the missile launches. "In the hearts of artillerymen ... there was burning desire to mercilessly retaliate against the war-mongers going ahead with their joint war exercises," KCNA said.

It said Kim ordered the Korean People's Army's Strategic Force "to keep highly alert as required by the grim situation in which an actual war may break out any time, and get fully ready to promptly move, take positions and strike so that it can open fire to annihilate the enemies".

The missiles North Korea fired on Monday were unlikely to have been intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), South Korea said, which can reach the United States. They flew on average 1,000 km (620 miles) and reached an altitude of 260 km (160 miles).

Some landed as close as 300 km (190 miles) from Japan's northwest coast, Japan's defence minister said earlier.

South Korean military and intelligence officials said on Tuesday the four North Korean missiles appeared to be an upgraded version of the Scud type - Extended-Range Scud.

North Korea is mired in a separate diplomatic row with Malaysia over the killing of Kim's estranged half-brother at Kuala

Lumpur airport last month.

The two countries have expelled each other's ambassador from their capitals and on Tuesday announced tit-for-tat bans on departures of each other's nationals, sharply escalating tensions between two countries that, until the killing of Kim Jong Nam, had maintained rare close ties.

The United States and Japan have requested a United Nations Security Council meeting on the latest North Korean missile launches, which will likely be scheduled for Wednesday, diplomats said.

The planned installation of the US anti-missile defence system has led to a diplomatic standoff between China and South Korea. Chinese authorities have closed nearly two dozen retail stores of South Korea's Lotte Group, which approved a land swap with the country's military last week to allow it to install the system. On Tuesday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang repeated China's resolute opposition to THAAD, saying the country would take the steps necessary to protect its security interests.

"The consequences of this are on the shoulders of the United States and South Korea. We again strongly urge the relevant sides to stop the deployment process and not keep going down the wrong path," he added. China's state-run Global Times warned the possibility of war on the Korean peninsula was growing because of the US-South Korean military drills and the North Korean missile launches. "The Chinese public is angry that Pyongyang's nuclear programme has provided an excuse for Seoul to deploy THAAD," the tabloid said in an editorial.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian formin: US deployment of missile defence system in S Korea creating impasse

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday the deployment Of United States' missile defence system in South Korea is bringing the situation in the Korean peninsula into a stalemate, Russian news agency Interfax said.—Reuters

China opposes US deployment of THAAD anti-missile system

BEIJING — China's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday it was resolutely opposed to the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system, after the US military said its first elements had arrived in South Korea.

Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang made the comments at a daily news briefing.

China has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the deployment, saying its powerful radar could affect China's own security and that it will do nothing to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula.—Reuters

North Korea warns of "actual war", US calls it "pariah"

GENEVA — North Korea faced a chorus of condemnation on Tuesday for its latest ballistic missile tests but declared that ongoing joint US-South Korea military exercises were aimed at conducting a "pre-emptive nuclear attack" against Pyongyang.

Ju Yong Choi, a North Korean diplomat, told the UN-sponsored Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that the "massive, unprecedented" joint drills were "a major cause of escalation of tension that might turn into actual war".

Robert Wood, US Disarmament Ambassador, retorted that North Korea was a "a pariah, an outlier" that has violated multiple UN Security Council resolutions and international law by conducting ballistic missile and nuclear tests.—Reuters

Avalanche at French ski resort Tignes sweeps away many skiers — emergency workers

PARIS — Many skiers were swept away by an avalanche at Tignes ski resort in the French Alps on Tuesday, first aid workers told Reuters, although it was not immediately clear if there were any victims.

The avalanche came down at about 10 AM (0900 GMT) in the Val Claret area of the resort, near a relatively easy "blue" slope, a local emergency services spokesman said. The vast Tignes ski area was entirely closed and skiers were evacuated by resort staff and police.

Rescue conditions were difficult because of fog which made it impossible for emergency workers from outside the resort to get there by helicopter. They had to come by road instead. The avalanche risk was high on Tuesday at four on a scale of five. Four people were killed in an avalanche at Tignes on 13 February, local authorities said.—Reuters

Working group on Kosovo crimes meets

BELGRADE — A working group set up to gather facts and evidence of crimes against Serbs and other national communities in Kosovo-Metohija met on Monday to analyse its work to date, agreeing to carry out intensive activities in the period to come.

The third session of the working group was attended by Defence Minister Zoran Djordjevic, State Secretary at the Interior Ministry Biljana Popovic Ivkovic, State Secretary at the Justice Ministry Radomir Ilic and officials of state authorities involved in the work of the working group.—Tanjung

US Navy ship changes course after Iran vessels come close — US official

WASHINGTON — Multiple fast-attack vessels from the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps came close to a US Navy ship in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, forcing it to change direction, a US official told Reuters on Monday.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the boats came within 600 yards (metres) of the USNS *Invincible*, a tracking ship, and stopped. The *Invincible* and three ships from the British Royal Navy accompanying it had to change course.

The official said attempts were made to communicate over radio, but there was no response and the interaction was “unsafe and unprofessional.”

The IREG could not immediately be reached for a comment.

Years of mutual animosity eased when Washington lifted sanctions on Tehran last year after a deal to curb Iran’s nuclear ambitions. But serious differences remain over Iran’s ballistic missile program and conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

While still a presidential candidate in September, Donald Trump vowed that any Iranian vessels that harassed the US Navy in the Gulf would be “shot out of the water.”

Similar incidents happen occasionally, but the last serious one was in January when a US Navy destroyer fired three warning shots at four Iranian fast-attack vessels near the Strait of Hormuz after they closed in at high speed and disregarded repeated requests to slow down.—
Reuters

Syrian army advances on IS-held water supplies for Aleppo — monitor, military source

BEIRUT—The Syrian army has advanced to the outskirts of an Islamic State-held village in northern Syria, where a key water pumping facility for Aleppo city is located, a monitor said on Tuesday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitoring group, said the army and allied forces made gains east of Aleppo, as Syrian government and Russian warplanes pounded the areas.

The army and its al-

lies moved closer to the al-Khafsa area where the water supplies are located, and to the al-Jarrah military airport, the Observatory said. A Syrian military source said the army had advanced to areas “very close” to both.

Islamic State has lost ground in recent months to three separate campaigns in northern Syria - by the Russian-backed Syrian army, by US-backed Syrian militias, and by Turkey and allied Syrian rebels.—

Reuters

Iraqi forces recapture Mosul government buildings, museum



Displaced Iraqis flee their homes as Iraqi forces battle with Islamic State militants, in western Mosul, Iraq on 7 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSUL, (Iraq) — Iraqi government forces fighting to drive Islamic State from western Mosul on Tuesday recaptured the main government building, the central bank branch and the museum where three years ago the militants had smashed statues and artefacts.

The government buildings had been destroyed and were not used by Islamic State, but their capture still represented a symbolic victory in the battle over the militants’ last major stronghold in Iraq.

An elite Rapid Response team stormed the Nineveh governorate building and government complex in an overnight raid, spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Abdel Amir al-Mohammadawi said.

They also seized a building that housed Islamic State’s main court of justice, known for its harsh sentences, including stonings, throwing people off building roofs and chopping off hands, reflecting Islamic State’s extreme ideology.

“They killed tens from

Daesh,” Mohammadawi said, referring to Islamic State by one of its Arabic acronyms. The raid took over an hour.

The militants looted the central bank when they took over the city in 2014 and took videos of themselves destroying statues and artefacts.

Illegal traffic in antiquities that abound in the territory under their control, from the sites of Palmyra in Syria to Nineveh in Iraq, was one of their main source of income.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi flew into Mosul to visit the troops engaged in the fighting.

The breakthrough paves the way for the US-backed forces to attack the militants in the old city of Mosul, the most complicated phase in the nearly five-month campaign due to the density of the population and the narrowness of the alleyways. The militants are dug in amongst civilians in the historic district.

It was from the Nuri Mosque in the old city that

the group’s leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, declared in 2014 a caliphate also spanning parts of neighboring Syria.

The old city lies on the western bank of the Tigris river that cuts Mosul in two. About 750,000 people were estimated by aid organizations to live in west Mosul when the offensive started on this side of the city on 19 February.

The Iraqi forces took the eastern half in January, after 100 days of fighting. They are backed by air and ground support from a US-led coalition.

Defeating Islamic State in Mosul would crush the Iraqi wing of the self-declared caliphate, which also suffering setbacks in Syria.

US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces cut the last main road out of the Islamic State capital there, Raqqa, on Monday. Islamic State is also fighting off the Russian-backed Syrian army as well as and Turkey and allied Syrian rebels.

The number of Islamic State fighters in Mosul was

estimated at 6,000 at the start of the offensive on 17 October, by the Iraqi military who estimate several thousands have been killed since.

Lined up against them is a 100,000-strong force of Iraqi troops, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and Iranian-trained Shi’ite Muslim paramilitary groups.

More than 40,000 people fled their homes in the past week, bringing the total number of displaced since the start of the offensive to more than 21,000, according to the United Nations.

Dozens more streamed out of the Mamoun district in southwestern Mosul toward US-trained Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) troops as machinegunfire rang out in the background. US special forces were also seen walking between buildings in the same area, some of them carrying assault rifles with scopes and silencers. Helicopters attacked targets just north of their positions as thick smoke filled the sky from various explosions.—

Reuters

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (003)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (142)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (142) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ()

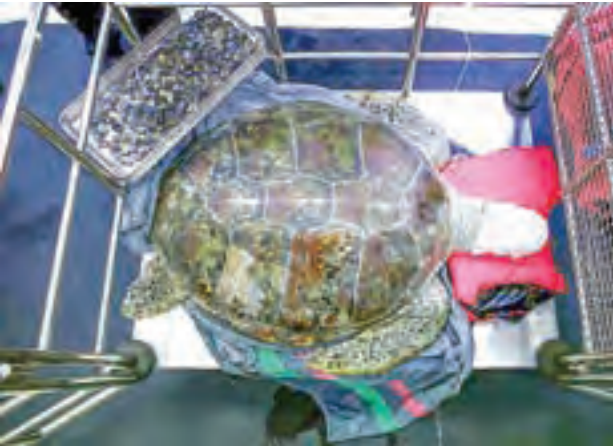
Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185



Omsin, a 25 year old femal green sea turtle, rests next to a tray of coins that were removed from her stomach after a surgical operation at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand on 6 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hoard of coins extracted from sea turtle

BANGKOK — Thai veterinarians on Monday removed 915 coins from a 25-year-old sea turtle which had been swallowing items thrown into her pool for good luck, eventually limiting her ability to swim.

The coins and other objects removed from the turtle named Omsin — piggy bank in Thai — weighed 5 kg (11 lb). The turtle itself weighed 59 kg (130 lb).

The green sea turtle, living at a conservation centre in Sriracha, Chonburi, east of the Thai capital of Bangkok, had been finding it hard to swim normally because of the weight.

The vets said they believed the seven-hour-long operation was the world's first such surgery.

"We think it will take about a month to ensure she will fully recover," said Nantarika Chansue, of Chulalongkorn University's veterinary science faculty, adding that the turtle would need six more months of physical therapy. There was no immediate estimate of the value of the coins, some of them foreign and many corroded.—Reuters

Senior US Justice nominee to face Senate grilling over Russia probe

WASHINGTON, — A Maryland lawyer tapped to fill the No 2 position at the US Justice Department was expected to face tough questions from a Senate panel on Tuesday about how he would handle an investigation into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

Rod Rosenstein, nominated by President Donald Trump to be deputy attorney general, would handle the Russian investigation if he is confirmed by the Senate because Attorney General Jeff Sessions has recused himself from the matter.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a confirmation hearing for Rosenstein, who is now US Attorney for Maryland.

Democrats are pushing for the investigation to be handled instead by an outside, specially appointed prosecutor, to avoid any potential political interference.

Senator Richard Blumenthal has pledged to use "every possible tool" to block Rosenstein's nomination unless he commits to naming a special prosecutor to conduct the inquiry.

Sessions said last week he will stay out of any "matters that deal with the Trump campaign." He recused himself after admitting he met twice with Russian Ambassador Sergei Kislyak during the presidential campaign, despite previously testifying to the Senate that he had no contact with Russian officials.

Sessions said the deputy attorney general would be responsible for the Russia-related investigations.

US intelligence agencies concluded last year that Russia hacked and leaked Democratic emails during the election campaign as part of an effort to tilt the vote in Trump's favor. The Kremlin has denied the allegations.

Rosenstein has experience working for a special counsel on investigations involving the presidency. In the mid-1990s he was part of independent counsel Kenneth W Starr's team of prosecutors who investigated Bill and Hillary Clinton.

The 26-year Justice Department veteran is seen by many current and former department officials as a politically neutral pick. Named as Maryland's top prosecutor by President George W Bush, Rosenstein stayed in office through the Obama administration.

"Doing an investigation into ties to Russia or the president, Rod is just going to find the facts and apply the law whether it's an indictment or closing the case," said Bonnie Greenberg, a federal prosecutor in Maryland, who worked with Rosenstein for 11 years. "That's the essence of Rod."—Reuters

Italian farmers bring sheep to Rome to protest quake response

ROME — Italian farmers from regions ravaged by earthquakes brought sheep to central Rome on Tuesday to protest what they say are serious delays in reconstruction efforts.

More than 10,000 farm animals have been killed or injured by quake damage and subsequent freezing weather, farmers' association Coldiretti said.

Outside parliament, a makeshift paddock housed three sheep rescued from areas struck by tremors while farmers waved flags and banners reading "Bureaucracy is more deadly than earthquakes".

Thousands of farming businesses are housed in the central regions of Lazio, Marche, Abruzzo and Umbria where tremors have rumbled since August. Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni has approved a draft law to help people affected by the quakes, including 35 million euros (\$37 million) to compensate farmers for lost income.

The law also aims to make it easier for regional governments to buy temporary stalls. Farmers say about 85 per cent of their livestock need shelter.—Reuters

Correction of Extension of Invitation for Bids

Myanma Railways has already advertised the **Extension of Invitation for Bids** in the **Global New Light of Myanmar** on 6th March, 2017. The clause "6" of advertisement is corrected as follows.

Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 14:00 p.m on 25th April, 2017 and must be accompanied by a bid security of Japanese Yen one hundred and twenty five million (JP¥ 125,000,000).

Managing Director, Myanma Railways
Ministry of Transport and Communications

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (6 / 2017)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L044(16-17)	Assorted Sizes of Batteries (6) Items	Ks
(2)	IFB-123(16-17)	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Services for Installation of Sittaung River Crossing of 20" Myainggalay-Yangon Natural Gas Pipe Line Project	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time- Sr No.(1) 5-4-2017, 16:30 Hr
Tender Closing Date & Time- Sr No.(2) 25-4-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 8TH March, 2017 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

New Israeli law bars entry to foreigners supporting Israel boycott

JERUSALEM — Israel's parliament on Monday passed a law barring foreigners who publicly support an anti-Israel boycott from entering the country.

"In recent years calls to boycott Israel have been growing," parliament said on its website after the law was approved. "It seems this is a new front in the war against Israel, which until now the country had not prepared for properly."

Individuals or representatives of groups publicly calling for a boycott - excluding Israeli citizens and permanent residents - will not be granted visas, according to the law.

It was unclear when the new policy would take effect, and the law said exceptions could be made.

The vote passed 46 to 28, with some in the opposition saying it was better to engage detractors, and that the new law will play into the hands of those attacking Israel. Israel has long decried groups like the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement who want to isolate Israel over policies towards the Palestinians. Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians broke down in 2014. —Reuters

Germany delays contract with MBDA for missile defence system — sources

BERLIN — Germany's defence ministry on Tuesday told lawmakers that it would not complete a contract for a multi-billion euro new missile defence system with European arms maker MBDA during the current legislative period, as planned, ministry sources said.

Ministry officials remain committed to concluding a contract with MBDA for the Medium Extended Air Defence System that will replace the current Patriot air and missile defence system, but said there was still work to do on MBDA proposal, as well as how the overall project would be managed, the sources said.

Regardless of the MEADS outcome, the ministry also plans to spend several hundred million euros to modernise the software and hardware of the German military's existing Patriot system, which was built by Raytheon Co, the sources said. The delay in the MEADS project marks another setback for Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen, who has sought to reform Germany's troubled weapons procurement process since taking office in late 2013. A second multi-billion euro programme to build a new multi-role ship has also been delayed.—Reuters

Germany to buy Triton drone to replace cancelled Euro Hawk — sources

BERLIN — Germany's defence ministry has decided to buy high-altitude MQ-4C Triton unmanned surveillance planes built by US weapons maker Northrop Grumman Corp for deliveries after 2025, ministry sources said on Tuesday.

The new drones will replace the Euro Hawk programme, which Berlin cancelled in May 2013 after it became clear that it could cost up to 600 million euros to get the system approved for use in civil airspace.

The sources confirmed a story originally reported by the Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

The plan, which must still be approved by parliament, calls for Germany to buy the new aircraft from the US Navy, which awarded Northrop a contract to design the unmanned aircraft in April 2008. Sensors for the new aircraft are to be built by Airbus, as planned under the previous programme, the sources said.



The MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft system completes its inaugural cross-country ferry flight at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland in this US Navy photo taken on 18 September, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

It was not immediately clear how many planes the ministry would buy, or at what cost. Under the cancelled programme, it had planned to buy five Euro Hawk aircraft for 1.2 billion euros.

Experts do not expect to run into any problems winning aviation approval for the new aircraft, which is launched from land and is programmed to fly autonomously as high

as 60,000 feet to gather a wide array of intelligence data.

Then-Defence Minister Thomas de Maiziere came under pressure after he was forced to cancel the previous Euro Hawk programme in 2013 after it became clear it would cost hundreds of millions of euros to win aviation approval for the aircraft.

Ursula von der Leyen was moved into the

defence minister job later that year, and took office vowing to reform Germany's ineffective procurement system.

Northrop developed the Triton, a marine-based variant of its initial Global Hawk surveillance drone, for the US Navy. Ministry sources said the aviation approval for Triton would be less costly because it was baked in from the start of the programme.—Reuters

Asian nations restrict US poultry imports over bird flu

SEOUL/CHICAGO — South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong have limited imports of US poultry after the United States detected its first case this year of avian flu on a commercial chicken farm, South Korea's government and a US trade group said on Monday.

South Korea will ban imports of US poultry and eggs after a strain of H7 bird flu virus was confirmed on Sunday at a chicken farm in Tennessee, South Korea's agriculture ministry said.

Japan and Taiwan will block poultry from the state, while Hong Kong will restrict imports from the Tennessee county where the infected flock was located, said James Sumner, president of the USA Poultry & Egg Export Council, a trade group.

The limits will reduce the potential for major US chicken companies, such as Tyson Foods Inc and Pilgrim's Pride, to sell poultry overseas.

The Tennessee farm infected with avian flu was contracted to sell birds to Tyson.

South Korea's import ban took effect on Monday, the agriculture ministry said in a statement. Live poultry and eggs are subject to the ban, while heat-treated chicken meat and egg products can still be imported, the statement noted.

South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy, has been importing eggs from the United States as its worst-ever bird flu, or avian influenza (AI), outbreak has tightened the country's egg supplies.

The latest moves do not affect China, which introduced a ban on imports of US poultry and eggs in late 2015. So far this year South Korea has shipped in nearly 1,049 tonnes of US eggs, according to ministry data, accounting for more than 98 per cent of its total egg imports as of 3 March.—Reuters

Notice of Final Winding Up

E. Sun Commercial Bank Limited Yangon Representative Office

The Yangon Representative Office, consequent in its upgrading to that of a branch, closed down on 30 December 2016 and a Notice to Creditors for submission of their claims, if any, was inserted in the Gazette and Global New Light of Myanmar.

Now that all claims and liability having been met, Notice is hereby given that the affairs of the Yangon Representative Office will be finally wound up as from April 3, 2017.

Maung Maung Aung
Attorney & Liquidator
E. Sun Commercial Bank Ltd.
(Yangon Representative Office in Liquidation)

Invitation for Cooperation in the area of Industrial Complex (Thaton) (Former named Caustic Soda Mill (Thaton) Under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

Industrial Complex (Thaton) (Former named Caustic Soda Mill (Thaton), located in Inn Shae Village, Thaton Township, Mon State, under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry is intended to invite the investors who are interested to operate any type of industries and businesses in the area of (678 Acres), (ie,factory) area (417Acres) and Residential Area (261 Acres), as lease or Joint venture in it.

The investors who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their Draft Proposal, in which mentioning Kinds of business & type of cooperation, addressing to Managing Director, No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry at Office No.(37) Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, not later than 4 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) on 7th April, 2017.

Base Line Data Concerning the Industrial Complex (Thaton) are available at above office from the date (8-3-2017) and interested entities can submit the Draft Proposal by presenting the following documents of company profile.

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
 - Memorandum of Association & Articles of Association (MoA & AoA)
 - Name of Foreign Technical Cooperation (if it is Local Company).
- (For more information, contact No.95 67 408335, 408129, 09425269690)

TRADEMARK CAUTION

AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION, a company registered under the laws of the Republic of Korea, which is located at (Supyo-dong) Cheonggyecheon-ro 100 Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

MEDIAN

Reg. No. 11904/2016

In respect of **Class 3**: Lavender oil, make-up kits, body deodorants (perfumery), shampoos, sunscreen lotions; sunscreen creams, milky skin lotions, skin toners, beauty masks, cosmetic preparations for skin care, perfume, perfumed soap, cosmetic cotton puffs, lipsticks, toothpastes; non-medicated mouth wash and rinse; non-medicated dental rinse, denture cleaning preparations, namely, denture polish and denture cleaner; tooth powders; tooth whitening preparations, namely, tooth whitening creams, tooth whitening gels and tooth whitening pastes.

In respect of **Class 21**: Toothbrushes; eyebrow brushes; combs; toilet sponges; toilet cases/fitted vanity cases; cosmetic utensils; toilet brushes; powder puffs; toothbrushes, electric; floss for dental purposes; shaving brushes.

In respect of **Class 35**: Procurement services for other (purchasing goods and services) for other businesses; advertising/publicity; commercial or industrial management assistance; sales promotion for others; personnel management consultancy; commercial administration of the licensing of the goods and services of others; administrative processing of purchase orders; rental of vending machines; retail or wholesale services for pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations and medical supplies; retail services/wholesale/retail or wholesale services for pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations and medical supplies/providing on line market place for buyers, sellers of goods and services/ retail services provided by supermarkets; import-export agencies; business management assistance; production of advertising film; bill-posting / advertising; business management and organization consultancy; business management consultancy; business organization consultancy; business research; advisory services for business management; professional business consultancy; providing business information via a web site; demonstration of goods; design of advertising materials; direct mail advertising; dissemination of advertising matter; distribution of samples; invoicing; on-line advertising on a computer network; provision of an on-line marketplace for buyers and sellers of goods and services; marketing; modeling for advertising or sales promotion; organization of exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; organization of trade fairs for commercial or advertising purposes; organization of fashion shows for promotional purposes; presentation of goods on communication media, for retail purposes; public relations; radio advertising; search engine optimization; shop window dressing; television advertising; updating of advertising material; updating and maintenance of data in computer databases; web site traffic optimization.

AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION claims the trademark right and other relevant intellectual property right for the mark as mentioned above. AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For AMOREPACIFIC CORPORATION

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyanatada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 8th March 2017.

Vidya appears bold and intense in 'Begum Jaan' first look

MUMBAI — With her intimidating and piercing gaze, actress Vidya Balan comes across as a fierce woman in the first look of "Begum Jaan".

The 38-year-old star took to Twitter to unveil the poster of the film in which she essays the titular role of a brothel owner. "Aa rahi hoon main! #BegumJaanFirstLook @visheshfilms @srijitspeaketh," writes Vidya. In the first glimpse, a unbrowed Vidya can be seen relaxing in a luxurious wooden chair wearing a ghaghra and deep-cut choli with the hookah pipe in her hand. A rifle can also be seen resting next to her. The poster bears the tagline "My Body. My House. My Country. My Rules."

Producer of the film, Mahesh Bhatt also tweeted, "What a woman! She will take you to a place in your heart to which you will never go. @vishesh-films." The film, directed by Srijit Mukherji, releases on 24 April.—PTI



Rapper Future makes Billboard chart history with 'HNRXX'

LOS ANGELES — Atlanta rapper Future became the first artist to score two consecutive chart-topping albums in as many weeks on the US Billboard 200 album chart, as his latest release debuted at No 1 on Monday, a week after his last chart-topping album.

Future's "HNRXX" (pronounced "Hendrix") sold 121,000 units across album and song sales and streaming activity since its 24 February release, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

It follows the rapper's self-titled album, released on 17 February, which topped the Billboard 200 chart last week and dropped to No 2 this week with another 64,000 units sold.

Billboard magazine described "HNRXX" as exploring "the softer, vulnerable side" of the rapper compared with his

"Future" album.

The publication also said the rapper was the first artist not only to achieve two back-to-back No 1 albums but also to succeed himself at the top of the chart.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Other new entries on the top 10 of the Billboard 200 album chart this week include country band Little Big Town, debuting at No 4 with "Breaker," and country singer Aaron Watson at No 10 with "Vaquero."

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online singles sales, British singer Ed Sheeran's "Shape of You" held onto the top spot with another 141,000 copies sold.—Reuters



Rapper Future arrives at the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, US on 28 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



British singer Ed Sheeran performs at the MuchMusic Video Awards in Toronto on 21 June, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ed Sheeran's new album to redefine his career

LONDON — Singer Ed Sheeran says his new album will be career-defining for him as he find it is much better than his previous efforts.

The 26-year-old singer, who released his third LP, "Divide", a few days ago, strongly believes people will remember this record far more than his previous chart-topping efforts, reported OK! magazine.

"I think it's an improvement on the last two records. They have been successful for me but when you look back at Bruce Springsteen's career or Bob Dylan's, you can pinpoint the albums they went (crazy) for."

"I don't think I've had that yet. Like Adele with '21'. I think this is the album I'm going to be known for," Sheeran said.

The "Castle on the Hill" hit-maker says he always plays his new music for his father and his opinion matter a lot to him.

"I play them to four or five people. And if they all go for it, it's usually a good song. My dad is always a good one to play songs to...My father says, 'This song is not very good.' It upsets me but in the long run, it's a good thing.—PTI

I'm peaking at 26, jokes Emma Watson

LOS ANGELES — Actress Emma Watson jokes she is finally feeling mature at the age of 26 after doing the romantic scenes in her upcoming film "Beauty and the Beast".

At the L A premiere of the Disney movie, the actress excitedly said it was the "most romantic" moment for her, reported E! Online.

"I am probably never in my life gonna have a more romantic

moment than this! I'm peaking at 26! My most romantic moment! It's never gonna get better than this!" Watson quipped.

The "Harry Potter" actress, who plays Belle in the Bill Condon film, adds on the experience on getting her character's famous gown right. Watson said, "It was kind of nerve-wracking. That yellow dress is beloved in the imagination of girls all over the world you want it to be perfect.—PTI

I don't follow trends when it comes to picking a film: Anushka Sharma

MUMBAI — Anushka Sharma has managed to stand out with her work as an actress and a producer in her nine-year long career and she says it is because she does not believe in following trends. The actress made her acting debut with 2008 rom-com Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi, before featuring in hit movies like satirical comedy PK, sports-drama Sultan and romantic drama Ae Dil Hai Mushkil.

Anushka ventured into production with 2015 thriller NH-10 and is now gearing up for her banner's (Clean Slate Films) next project Phillauri. "I don't let myself be influenced by what

others might think. I don't follow trends or what is in (and what is not), when it comes to picking a film or producing one I follow my instincts and continue to do what I feel is right for me," Anushka told PTI. "I follow my heart and focus on being part of a good story. I believe that's why turning producer has worked out for me," she says. Phillauri stars Diljit Dosanjh and Suraj Sharma alongside Anushka. There have been reports that NH10 fame director Navdeep Singh has roped in Diljit and Arjun Kapoor for his next film Kaneda to be produced by Anushka's production house Clean Slate Films.—PTI



Actor Emma Watson poses for photographers at a media event for the film "Beauty and the Beast" in London, Britain, on 23 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Stella McCartney brings dance to Paris Opera for fashion week

PARIS — Stella McCartney livened up the catwalk at Paris Fashion Week on Monday with dancing models wearing her signature over-sized clothes in trademark neutral shades with splashes of unusual colors.

The British fashion designer, known for her sharp tailoring and for mixing luxury and sporty looks, unveiled her autumn/winter 2017-2018 women’s collection which mixed in burgundy, bottle green, sky blue, white and silver.

Her models gave the penultimate day of the show a relaxed but effortlessly elegant vibe in trench-coats and jackets, ultra-wide, high-waisted trousers, all-in-one jumpsuits and overalls, and turtle-neck mini-dresses with super-sized sleeves.



Models present creations from the Fall/Winter 2017-2018 women’s ready-to-wear collection by British designer Stella McCartney during the Paris Fashion Week, in Paris, France, 6 on March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The show, at the Paris Opera, was inspired by “faith. love. energy.” McCartney’s Twitter feed said, with dancing to “Faith” by the late singer George Michael in the finale.

It was watched by a star-studded crowd including Mexican-US actress Salma Hayek and her French businessman husband Francois-Henri Pinault, chief executive of the Kering group, which has a 50 per cent stake in Stella McCartney.

Canadian-American actress Pamela Anderson, Vogue’s editor-in-chief Anna Wintour and Charlotte Casiraghi, the daughter of Princess Caroline of Hanover were also there.

A long-time vegetarian who does not use leather or fur, McCartney’s fabrics

included fake leather and suede, velvet, checkered tweed, denim, pleated organza, loose cotton, chiffon with horse prints or lace-like embroidered details.

Models wore oversized hand-held or strap-over bags, wide belts, casual sporty pumps juxtaposed by elegant but flat fronted and wide-heeled, steel toe capped shoes.

Stella McCartney is one of the most active fashion brands on Instagram, with 3.7 million followers and her show was live-streamed on social media.

Paris holds the last leg of the womenswear autumn/winter 2017/2018 catwalk shows, after similar events in New York, London and Milan in the last few weeks—Reuters

Opening a new chapter at India’s ‘grandmothers’ school’

FANGANE (India) — Aajibaichi Shaala is not your ordinary school in India.

The students at “grandmothers’ school” in the village of Fangane are elderly women who are getting the chance to learn to read.

“I love going to school,” Kamal Keshavtupange, 60, told Reuters as

she washed clothes outside her home in the village, 120 km (75 miles) east of the financial capital, Mumbai.

India’s literacy rate grew to 74 per cent in the decade to 2011, according to the latest census, but female literacy continued to lag the rate for males by a wide margin.

About 65 per cent of women were found to be literate, compared with 82 per cent of men, according to the 2011 report. Education experts and researchers have cited outdated attitudes toward women, including a preference for male children over females, and child marriages as main reasons for the

lower female literacy rate. At Aajibaichi, afternoon classes in the one-room school are held six days a week for two hours. The lessons are timed so the women can finish their chores, or their work in the fields, before attending class. One of the few requirements is that all students are at least 60 years old.

“My knees hurt, so I can’t sit on the floor for long. That’s the only problem. But I still go every day,” said Keshavtupange.

Clad in pink saris, their school uniform, the women walk every afternoon along dusty village paths to their lessons. “First I finish all my house work, then I go to school. It’s good we have this in our village,” said 70-year-old Drupada Pandurangedar. Her eight-year-old granddaughter studies in the government primary school in Fangane.—Reuters



Sheetal Prakash More (R), a 30-year-old teacher, teaches at Aajibaichi Shaala (Grandmothers’ School) in Fangane village, India, on 15 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Saint Laurent told to modify ad campaign after uproar in France

PARIS — France’s advertising watchdog on Monday said it had asked French fashion house Yves Saint Laurent to modify two ads from its latest campaign after receiving 50 complaints that they were “degrading” to women.

One of the ads features a reclining woman in a fur coat and fishnet tights with her legs spread wide and the other shows a model in a leotard and roller skate stilettoes bending over a stool.

The ads caused uproar on social media where people called on Yves Saint Laurent to withdraw them. The complaints were brought to the attention of the advertising watchdog the Autorite de Regulation Professionnelle de la Publicite (ARPP), which then asked the label to change them. “We asked the brand and the ad displayer to make changes to these visuals as soon as possible,” ARPP head Stephane Mar-

tin told Reuters. He said the ads were a serious breach of rules set by the advertising industry to maintain “dignity and respect in the representation of the person.”

Martin also said the fact that the models featured in the ads were very thin was also a concern because of the impact on fashion-conscious teenage girls.

Saint Laurent, part of luxury group Kering, could not be immediately reached for comment.

The advertising ethics jury, a body tied to ARPP and independent from the advertising industry, will rule on the complaints on Friday. The ethics committee can ask Yves Saint Laurent to withdraw the ads if it decides there are grounds for the complaints. Britain’s Advertising Standards Authority banned a Saint Laurent ad in 2015 that featured a very thin model whose ribcage was showing.—Reuters



A sticker which reads ‘sexist’ is seen on an ad by French fashion house Yves Saint Laurent displayed on a newspaper kiosk in Paris, France on 6 March, 2017. France’s advertising watchdog on Monday said it had asked French fashion house Yves Saint Laurent to modify two ads from its latest campaign after receiving 50 complaints that they were ‘degrading’ to women. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(8-3-2017 07:00am ~ 9-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuha
07:50	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar “The Decision”
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-I)
08:53	Am	TECH School
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Snake Catcher
09:38	Am	Shan Novices To Be.....
09:53	Am	The Storytellers
10:03	Am	News

Prime Time

10:26	Am	Gardener: King Orange Plantation
10:40	Am	A Visit To Today’s Along-Daw-Katthapha
10:56	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Tuesday 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
07:26	Pm	Dawei -Tavoy, Travel To The Southern Part of Myanmar
07:45	Pm	Elegant and Exquisite Myanmar Cotton Fabrics
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Bollywood Actress “Laila Khan” Born & Raised in Myanmar (Part-1)
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Tuesday 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)		

Former world champion Fury says will fight again in May

LONDON — Britain's former world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury has said he will make a comeback against an unnamed opponent in May, even though he is under a provisional suspension from the sport.

"Breaking news. Return of the MAC. 13th May working on an opponent, more news to follow," he tweeted on Monday.

The 28-year-old has not fought since beating Ukrainian Wladimir Klitschko to become world champion in November 2015, subsequently pulling out of a rematch twice.

He vacated his WBO and



Tyson Fury celebrates with belts as he defeats Wladimir Klitschko at IBF & WBO Heavyweight Titles at Esprit Arena in Dusseldorf, Germany on 28 November 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

WBA belts last year, revealing he was seeking medical help, after telling Rolling Stone magazine that he had taken cocaine to help his depression.

Fury's licence was "suspended pending further investigation" by the British Boxing Board of Control.

He was also charged with a

rule violation by UK Anti-Doping after a urine sample from February 2015 showed traces of the banned stimulant nandrolone. He has denied any wrongdoing.

A provisional UKAD suspension was lifted on appeal but Fury faces an anti-doping tribunal, though no date has been set.

— Reuters

Ibrahimovic, Mings charged with violent conduct

LONDON — Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Bournemouth defender Tyrone Mings were charged with violent conduct by the Football Association on Monday.

Mings landed on the United forward's head with his studs and Ibrahimovic caught Mings in the face with his elbow soon afterwards during the teams' 1-1 Premier League draw at Old Trafford on Saturday. "The players were involved in two separate incidents in or around the 44th minute which were not seen by the match officials at the time but caught on video," the FA said in a statement.

The players have until 1800 GMT on Tuesday to reply to the charge and face minimum three-match bans if found guilty.

Swede Ibrahimovic, who has 26 scored goals in all competitions for United this season, could miss the FA Cup quarter-final trip to Chelsea next Monday.

Mings could face an increased ban for his offence.

"The FA has submitted a claim that the standard punishment that would otherwise apply for the misconduct committed by the Bournemouth defender is 'clearly insufficient'," the FA said. —Reuters

Chelsea ease past West Ham thanks to Hazard and Costa

LONDON — Chelsea brushed aside London rivals West Ham United with a 2-1 away win that restored their 10-point lead at the top of the Premier League on Monday.

Eden Hazard gave them the lead after a swift 25th-minute counter-attack before Diego Costa bundled the ball home shortly after the break to put the Blues in control at London Stadium.

West Ham's Manuel Lanzini grabbed a consolation in added time, but the result was never in doubt.

Mid-table West Ham, who knocked Chelsea out of the League Cup this season when crowd trouble marred the night, offered little threat for most of the game as the west London side surged on towards the title.

Antonio Conte's team, who have won 21 of their 27 league matches this season,

have 66 points ahead of second-placed Tottenham Hotspur.

Chelsea were content to sit deep and draw West Ham's sting for the opening 20 minutes in which the home side enjoyed plenty of the ball without troubling goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. Striker Andy Carroll got a bloody nose for his efforts as he made his presence felt in the box but Chelsea were unruffled. When the opportunity presented itself,

though, Chelsea were primed and launched a lethal counter-attack to take the lead. Midfielder N'Golo Kante stole possession deep inside his own half and immediately released Hazard who exchanged passes with Pedro before calmly taking the ball around keeper Darren Randolph to slot home

his 11th league goal of the season.

Chelsea took control after that and might have se-

cured the points before halftime had they been a little more clinical.

Another breakaway ended with Victor Moses, who was on loan at West Ham last season when the Hammers finished 12 points above Chelsea, having a shot blocked by Aaron Cresswell before Randolph saved well from Pedro's close-range follow-up effort. Manuel Lanzini wasted West Ham's best chance when he fired well over the bar from a central position.

Chelsea then

went further ahead five minutes into the second half when Cesc Fabregas's corner skimmed off the head of West Ham's Pedro Obiang and straight to Costa who could not miss.

West Ham roused themselves and it took a superb low save by Courtois to deny Sofiane Feghouli before, seconds later, home defender Jose Fonte headed over with the goal at his mercy.

Costa looked certain to double his tally with a brilliant turn in the area but his shot was clawed away by Randolph.

The closing stages were played out to swathes of empty seats as West Ham's fans drifted home while Chelsea's sang "We're going to win the league". It was hard to disagree, although Lanzini did provide something for the hosts to cheer with a stoppage-time strike. —Reuters



Chelsea's Victor Moses in action with West Ham United's Mark Noble during the match of Premier League between Chelsea and West Ham United at the London Stadium on 6 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS