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State Counsellor at dinner hosted by defence, security course trainees



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets attendees of a course on defence and security at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a dinner hosted by the trainers and trainees from of the Course on Management of Defence in the Wider Security Context held at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The State Counsellor cordially greeted the trainers from the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom and the Myanmar trainees. Speaking on the occasion, the State Counsellor said that mutual understanding and cooperation with each other is of great importance for the development of the country as the course is being attended by the members from the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and the administrative sector. The State Counsellor said the trainees are expected to take advantage of the course so that they will be able to serve the interest of the country and perform responsibilities in a dutiful manner.

The State Counsellor discussed with the trainers and trainees the effectiveness and necessities of the course. The course is being attended by 22 officers from the Tatmadaw, two officers from the Myanmar Police Force and six commissioned officers from governmental organisations. The course began on 27 February and will conclude today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Term paper on Federal land policy to be compiled from existing policies

WORK committees of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint-Committee continued to hold its meeting yesterday morning at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center.

Here are voices of participants in the discussions of those work committees.

U Myo Win (member of work committee for dialogue on security matters)

“This is the first meeting of our work committee. Out of five work committees being held now, this is a separate situation of the discussion of the committee on se-

curity sector,” said, U Myo Win.

Special Characteristic

The presently-held meeting is continuing to discuss collective discussions submitted by the national-level political dialogues of political, economic, social and land sectors. Especially, there had never

been any discussions of the security sector at the national level, and hence it has started to be discussed for the first time, said U Myo Win.

U Myo Win added, “We are now at the stage of starting to discuss for performing the tasks of the Union Level.”

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U Myo Win.



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Pyithu Hluttaw

Accountability and responsibility for contractors using public money

COMPANIES which are awarded tenders are responsible to repair for any damages during the term of the contract. If the quality control team accepts the executed tasks which do not meet a set standard, the companies and the quality control team are solely responsible, said Union Minister for Construction, U Win Khaing.

That was the Union Minister's response to the question, "Who would be responsible if the tender-awarded construction companies' works did not meet with the quality standards in the contract?" asked by U Tin Ko Ko Oo, Bilin constituency, at yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Union Minister said the Ministry of Construction had delivered the industrial instruction books for practicing the contract system with the approval of the Republic of Union of Myanmar President's office on 6 September, 2016 to all the region and state departments in the self-administered zones or division, all states and regions and all ministries.

Union Minister U Win Khaing said the Ministry of Construction is working based on the facts in the instruction.

Tender-awarded companies are completely responsible for the tasks of standardisation, to be finished in the set period, to follow the disciplines in the contract term of guarantee. However, the quality control team and companies would not be responsible for those unexpected tasks caused by natural disasters or catastrophes.

Union Minister also answered a question by U Sai Mon, Member of Parliament for Laikha constituency on behalf of Daw Nan Khan Aye, Member of Parliament for Namtu constituency on whether the 13.2-mile long solid-structured-road to be ungraded as a tarred road will be finished. Only a 4.6-mile section has been tarred, the MPs said.

Then, Union Minister U Win Khaing answered the question of Dr U Aung Tun Khaing, Member of Parliament for Ye constituency for the establishment of one 16 bedded township hospital in Hnityayin village group and a rural health care centre in Palainkee village group in the coming fiscal year and of Daw Nan Htwe Thu, Member of Parliament for Phasaung constituency also raised a question whether there would be a plan



Union Minister for Construction, U Win Khaing. PHOTO: MNA



U Than Soe Aung, Member of Parliament for Pyinmana constituency. PHOTO: MNA

to continue the construction of the 25 bedded hospital to be 100 per cent complete by the supplemental budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Then, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint announced that the draft for hand-scooped oil production resent by Amyotha Hluttaw had been received and invited the enrollment for those Members of Parliament who wanted to propose the amendment.

Then, U Than Soe Aung, Member of Parliament for Pyinmana constituency, urged the Union government that all the region and state departments in

the self-administered zones or division, all states and regions and all ministries are to follow the instructions from the industrial instruction book for practicing the contract system issued by the Ministry of Construction.

Dr Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin said that it has been too far away from actual expenditure, which is one of the aims of the instructions that it made extremely weak to meet the standard quality as the inspection works are done by negotiation or self-interests that can make people forget the responsibility and accountability while the contractors'

work are being inspected for standard quality.

Besides, there were not serious punishments and fines for being late. Although the construction accomplishment guarantee was also issued according to the instruction book, the company is still responsible for its work for another two years except in the case of natural disaster, she said.

She found the streets, bridges and buildings done by the government budget were damaged within months, as the quality did not meet the standard, and the repetition of annual budget requests were also found to cover the standard. Tarred roads which did not meet the standard were back to the earthen road and stone structured roads were also damaged within months as refill works were being made.

She said the companies and departmental engineers are professionals. If they respect their profession and follow the professional ethics and responsibility, the streets, bridges and building will be constructed with pride. Thus goodwill will emerged in the country and public money will not be wasted. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw: Developing Magway in 2017-2018 Fiscal Year

U Man Law Maung from Chin constituency (8) asked, "Are there plans to open departmental offices for Road Administration Department and Labour, Unemployment, and Social Security Departments in Mindat District in southern Chin State?"

The Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe replied that the Department for Transport issues driver licenses and vehicle permits via Pakokku District Office to Mindat, Matupi and Kanpetlet and the Sittway State Office to Paletwa in Mindat's Township.

There are a reported 3,972 licensed vehicles and 1,658 licensed drivers in Mindat, Kanpetlet and Matupi Townships, according to a survey conducted on 30 November 2016. The Pakokku District Office issues vehicle and driver's licenses twice a year around the townships. For 2017 they will issue licenses for Mindat and Matupi in March and September, and for Kanpetlet in February and November.

The Department for Labour, Immigration and Population and the Labor Union explained there is still a lot left in opening Employment offices in the township, and for the moment labor registration cards are being issued via mobile teams.

Dr Zaw Lin Htut from Mon

constituency 9 raised the question of whether there are plans to pave a road that withstands all weather conditions along Thaton Township in Mon State to Paung Township to which Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied.

Member of the Bill Committee Daw Ohn Kyi read the committee's report concerning the Statistics Bill. The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw approved the amendments of the Bill after receiving approval on each section of the Bill from the Hluttaw and Union Minister for Planning and Finance.

U Kyaw Thiha from Mandalay constituency 12 submitted an appeal to discuss the 2017 Myanmar Gemstones Draft Law and the Speaker after receiving approval from the Hluttaw approved relayed it to the Draft Law Committee.

Amyotha Hluttaw: Developing Magway in 2017-2018

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw announced development plans for Magway Region in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, including construction for a levee in Nankat in the Minpyin and Dammataw area in Khanma Township and building a sluice gate and building an embankment



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



The Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe. PHOTO: MNA

along the main drain in Salin.

In the 17th day of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting, Daw Than Than Aye from Magway constituency (7) and U Win Maung from Magway constituency (6) raised the aforementioned questions.

In response to Daw Than Than Aye's question concerning the levee, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that an investigation has been made after the levee was found to be diminished by 3 feet along the 300-2100 marker. An appeal for repairing the 1,800 feet of the diminished levee and construction for a 3-4 feet sluice

gate has been made after careful budget analysis was included in the 2017-2018 fiscal year and will be carried out after budget approval.

The levee was also damaged along the 1,100 to 1,140 marker after the August 2015 flooding of the Ayeyawady River and a sluice gate was broken in 2010. In response to U Win Maung's question on building a 1,350 feet embankment along the main drain in Salin, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied an estimated budget of Ks 97.6 million will go into the construction of the 1,350 feet of embankment after

the passing of freight trucks led to the main drain's deterioration. However, it is found that a budget appeal for the embankment construction had not been submitted in the 2017-2018 fiscal year for Magway Region but an appeal will be submitted now and plans to be carried forth after budget approval.

U Htay Oo from Yangon constituency (2) asked, "Will medical reports by DNA specialists be accepted as evidence in a lawsuit? The sub-department for DNA testing under the department for chemical research in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw has accepted DNA samples from crime investigations all over the country." Judge of the Supreme Court U Myint Aung replied that it has already been approved in the 1st Pyithu Hluttaw 6th Regular Meeting that the scientific process behind DNA medical reports by specialists are in accord with the Evidence Act and other existing laws, therefore the Supreme Court has no reason not to accept them as evidence.

He further said all levels of courts in Myanmar have already been accepting chemical examiner's reports, medical reports and expert opinions (forensics) and will accept DNA reports if they are submitted as evidence. —Myanmar News Agency

Office of the President releases announcement on New Year Festival Holiday

1. As it has been found that the 10-day New Year Festival holidays for civil service personnel has caused hindrances to office works and banking services with international relations and delay in transportation and commodity flows due to the long holidays, recommendations were sought from the Ministries to assess and consider the advisability of amending the holidays in 2017. In requesting the recommendations, it is planned that the days which would have to be taken out from the 10-day holidays for the Thingyan New Year Festival would be added to the Thandin-
2. Considering the fact that civil service personnel take part in the traditional water festival, go to monasteries and pagodas to observe the Sabbath days, pay respects to the elders and take recreation to get relief from tiredness during the whole year, civil service personnel can enjoy the 10-day holidays though offices will be closed for five days, and arrangements are being made in all seriousness to ensure that 10-day holidays will be enjoyed for the New Year.
3. Therefore, so as to shorten the long holiday period of the new year, not to decrease the number of official holidays, not to cause delays in office works and banking services due to the long holidays and to ensure that the civil service personnel may enjoy 10-day holidays for the New Year as originally planned, we wish to make this announcement that arrangements have been made for the convenience of all concerned.

(Unofficial Translation)

U San Lwin appointed as Ambassador to Lithuania

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U San Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Austria, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Lithuania.—MOFA

U Ko Ko Latt presents credentials to King of Bahrain

U Ko Ko Latt, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Bahrain, presented his Credentials to His Majesty King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa of the Kingdom of Bahrain on 7 March 2017, in Manama.—MOFA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Cambodia, meets Deputy PM

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who is currently on a goodwill visit to Cambodia, met the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Gen. Tea Banh yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.

In the evening, Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Pol Saroeun hosted a dinner in honour of the Senior General and delegation at the Grand Ball Room of the Sokha Hotel in Phnom Penh.

Earlier yesterday, the Senior General and delegation visited Peace Palace and the Tuol Sleng Genocide museum. The delegation then visited the Myanmar military (Army, Navy, Air) attaché's office and met the Myanmar ambassador and wife, and family members of the embassy.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife visit Tuol Sleng Genocide museum. PHOTO: MNA

The Senior General and wife gave gifts, food-stuff and garments from the Tadmataw Textile and Clothing Factory and cash to staff of the embassy and military attaché's office and the state scholars in Phnom Penh. After that

the staff families of the embassy hosted a luncheon in honour of the Senior General and party.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party left Pochentong Military Airport for Siem Reap at 4pm local time, arriving at Siem

Reap Air Base headquarters at 5:30 pm. They were welcomed by Major General Sok Saroeun from No. 4 Military Region, Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and military officials at the airport.—Myanmar News Agency

Police search huts, detain two suspects

LOCAL authorities identified four huts where a group of suspects were staying and detained two suspects found near the huts in Tinmay village, Maungdaw Township on Tuesday.

The two suspects are being interrogated for further information, according to local police.

Acting on a tip-off, border guard police carried out an area clearance operation near the village and found a man named Adulamein from Kyaung Taung village and the other named Mummud Zubei from Tinn May village

near a big hut and three small huts in a gorge.

In the interrogation, Adulamein confessed that Shong Shuee Arloun from Tinn May village came out of the gorge and prevented them from moving ahead because men from the neighbouring country were gathering. Shong Shuee Arloun was believed to be plotting a plan in cooperation with the men from the neighbouring country.

Border guard police also inspected the huts and seized some evidence. The police investigation is ongoing.—Myanmar News Agency



Evidences are found from the three huts where a group of men from the neighbouring country was staying.

PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR OFFICE'S INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Term paper on Federal land policy to be compiled from existing policies

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Exchange of Views and Visions

The committee has laid down two titles, "Reuniting Matters on Defence of the State and Matters on Security." Of the titles, now it reached the stage of discussing views of group members, as for the title, "Matters on Defence of the State," he added.

Under the title, "Matters on Defence of the State," government group, national ethnic armed

group and political parties group submitted term papers. As regards these term papers, the present meeting of the committee will not make any decisions, and it is just preparing to assemble differences and similarities of those term papers, it is learnt.

U Myint Soe (member of work committee for dialogue on land and natural environment)

U Myint Soe said, "As regards the sector of land, there are two policies on

land—policy on land and policy on natural environment and resources. From the existing two policies, a term paper on federalism-related land policy is to be compiled."

The committee had already scrutinised term papers submitted by Taninthary Region and Kayin State, continuing to deal with term papers submitted by Pa-Oh and Bago Region.

The committee is emphatically scrutinising term



U Myint Soe.

papers on the economic sector submitted by races and regions. In addition, professionals and experts on Land Policy will be

invited for discussion, if needed, it is learnt.

Matters to be Included

Scrutiny of term papers submitted to the committee is being carried out by 3 steps.

Step 1 matters on policy

Step 2 matters on management and legal affairs

Step 3 matters on disputes

Matters on disputes mean scrutiny of facts that do not comply with matters included in NCA, and facts included in drawing framework. These findings

will be submitted to the UPDJC to be able to make decision of the facts that do not comply. Similarly, facts that comply with, from term papers submitted will be included in the land policy, U Myint Soe added.

He added, "UPDJC secretary group will re-examine discussions gained from today's meetings of work committees and then it will be submitted to 21st Century Panglong Conference through UPDJC." —Myint Soe



Employees work on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya, Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

New elephant sanctuary to be established in Maungdaw District

RAKHINE State government is arranging to establish an elephant sanctuary on one million acres of land near Mayu mountain range, the natural habitat of the large mammals, in Maungdaw District in Rakhine State.

The move aims to protect wild elephants residing along the mountain range by creating a safer place for them, with the authorities waiting to get approval from the Union government, said U Kyaw Lwin, Rakhine State

Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Mining.

The tasks of bush clearance on the targeted lands have been done under the arrangement of the local government.

The elephant population has been on decline because of illegal hunting, illicit smuggling of teak and hardwood and deforestation in the district. Sometimes the wild animals trespass near human residences in search of food.

Residents around the project

areas worry about their future. U Maung Htwee, one of residents, said thousands of local people rely on the forests along the mountain range for their daily survival.

The new elephant sanctuary will be the largest wildlife conservation area in Rakhine State. Local authorities have already established over 443,000 acres of sanctuary along the Rekhyne mountain range.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Historical museum to be built at the University of Medicine 1 (Yangon)

A HISTORICAL museum will be built in 2018 at the University of Medicine 1 in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region, said professor emeritus Dr. Nyunt Thein of the University of Medicine 1.

“We have already submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health and Sports to grant us a plot of land to build the historical museum.

Currently, authorities are discussing this matter. If we are granted a plot of land, we will form a committee and collect what is necessary for the museum,” said Rector Dr. Zaw Wai Soe of the University of Medicine 1.

“Upon completion of the museum, I will request former students and teachers to send the

old photographs and documents to Rector Dr. Zaw Wai Soe and Administration and Finance head Daw Khin Swe Win.” The University of Medicine 1 was established on 2 February, 1927. The University of Medicine 1 comprises three campuses: Lanmadaw campus, Pyay Road campus and Thaton Road campus.—200

Azolla moss replaces Napier grass to reduce animal feed costs

DAWEI township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department will experimentally plant Azolla moss instead of Napier grass to reduce the cost of animal feed in Dawei township, Tanintharyi region.

Azolla moss, which was tested at the Ngwesin Pearl dairy farm at Badamya Myothit, Mingaladon township, Yangon was deemed successful, so arrangements are being made to grow the seed at the Ngwesin Pearl dairy farm.

“Growing Azolla moss can reduce the cost of animal feed. And Azolla also includes more vitamins than Napier. It is more cost-effective

for the livestock breeders, particularly for the cow breeders. So, we are planting Azolla moss on a test run,” said Dr. Thein Zaw Min, the staff officer from Dawei Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Napier grass contains protein, minerals and vitamins totalling between 12 and 17 per cent, while Azolla moss has 25 per cent of the same nutrients. Napier grass has to be mixed with 60 ticals of supplementary food such as bean, sesame, corn and rice in order to make cow feed, whereas Azolla moss has to be mixed with only 15 ticals of supplementary food.

Azolla moss is a highly productive plant and thus easy to grow. Currently, Azolla moss is planted in Dawei, Thayetthaung towns and Ahlaedaw village in Dawei district. Azolla moss is mostly grown inside a pond.

If the growing method of Azolla moss is successful, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department will distribute seedlings to farmers and livestock breeders free of charge.

Azolla moss is the kind of the plant that can be used as animal feed not only for cows but also for the chickens and ducks.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Over 100,000 employees needed for garment sector

THE garment sector in Myanmar has developed as the EU has lifted economic sanctions, potentially opening up 100,000 jobs in the garment sector, according to Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

“Previously, there were only 300 garment factories in Myanmar. Now, there are over 400 garment factories in Myanmar thanks to the lifting of economic sanctions,” said Dr. Khin Maung Aye, chairman of MGEA.

“Currently, Myanmar garment factories are manufacturing clothing of export quality to fulfill the demand. Garments are exported upon EU lifting of sanc-

tions. So, we need more employees,” said Daw Khin Khin Nwe, general secretary of MGEA.

The EU ended Myanmar economic sanctions during the incumbent government period in October 2016.

“Currently, five garment factories are being opened per month. And, there are 1,000 employees working per factory,” said U Myint Soe, chairman of MGEA.

Myanmar garments are mainly exported to the EU, Japan and South Korea. In 2015, 10 per cent of export products were from the garment sector.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crabs raised in Minbya, Myebon and Pauktaw on a manageable scale

CRAB farming on a manageable scale is being conducted in Minbya, Myebon and Pauktaw Townships in Rakhine State, which abound in freshwater, saltwater and rivers, according to local fishermen.

Previously, local fishermen were catching crabs from rivers. Now, local fishermen cannot catch crabs over 100 grams because of over-fishing.

“The local people are farming the crabs. They are farming the small crabs inside small ponds. If the crabs grow bigger, they catch the crabs. Previously, crab farming tested last year proved to be successful. So, we will raise the crab farming this year. Crabs farming is usually successful in salinated areas. Crab farming can make a net

profit,” said U Zaw Min, a fisherman from Minbya township.

Local fishermen are searching for small crabs from the rivers and creeks in Rakhine state. Local fishermen bought small crabs for Ks50 or Ks100 per crab and started farming with the small ponds.

“We prohibit catching under 100 gram crabs. But, they are still catching. The local people catch around 30 or 40 gram of crabs. Currently, the local people are farming the crab in townships. It is good,” said Dr. Nyunt Wai, head of state Fisheries Department, Rakhine State.

The crabs are selling for between Ks500 and Ks2,000, depending on the size and weight.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

40 killed, 115 injured on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway accidents this year

FORTY people died in traffic accidents along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway over the first 65 days of this year, with 115 individuals sustaining injuries, according to highway police.

There were 80 road traffic accident cases reported between 1 January and 6 March of this year.

A total of 36 cases occurred in January on the expressway, resulting in the deaths of 12 people and injuring 65 others. In February, the number of cases declined to 25 but the death toll increased to 22, with 37 others injured.

Six people died and 13 individuals were injured in motor

accidents on the road between 1 and 6 March, according to the highway authorities.

The deaths and injuries were due to failure to abide by traffic safety rules and regulations by both drivers and pedestrians, said a police officer, urging drivers to follow the rules to wear seat belts that prevent ejection from the vehicle during a crash.

To reduce road-related deaths and injuries, police are accelerating traffic rule enforcement efforts throughout the nation, with the hopes that the number of car accidents will decrease.—200

LOCAL Business

Myanmar real estate set to cool in 2017

THE Myanmar real estate market remains cool in 2017 and the price of the real estate is expected to decline, according to the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association.

“The price of real estate market is continuing to decline. I thought that the real estate market would go up again in 2017. Now, it does not become what I expected, for various reasons,” said U Than Oo, vice chairman of Myanmar Real Estate Services Association.

“The property market will remain cool because the new government does not change the rate of taxes. On top of that, Yangon region chief minister said that he has planned to con-

trol the property market. The market cooling can affect other economic situations. So, we have already requested the government to change the rate of real estate taxes,” he added.

The property market prices in Yangon declined Ks100,000 per square foot street price from 2015. For example, one square foot of land has decreased to Ks200,000, down from Ks400,000 in Sanchaung.

“Although the real estate market has declined, the market is still cool because of market failure and lack of job opportunities,” said U Myint Sein, owner of Phowa real estate service agency.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

A panoramic view of Yangon City. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Trade value with ITC hits Ks13billion as of 24th Feb

TRADE value with the Individual Trading Card (ITC) reached over Ks13.65 billion as of 24th Feb in the current fiscal year 2016-2017, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry. Export value with the ITC was over Ks1.02 billion, whereas import value with ITC hit over Ks12.63 billion.

Myawady and Kan Pike Tee border trade camps were found to have the largest trade value using the ITC. Border trade values with the ITC as of 24th Feb in this FY were over Ks775million in Tamu, over Ks789million in Muse, over Ks7.36 billion in Myawady, Ks643million in Tachilek, over Ks24million in Lweje, over Ks2.13 billion in Kan Pike Tee,

over Ks364million in Kawthaung, over Ks602million in Reed, over Ks896million in Maw Taung and over Ks24million in Keng Tung and nearly Ks24million in Maese, it is learnt.

The Trade Department issued 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016 and 197 cards as of 24th Feb in this FY, according to an announcement released by the aforementioned ministry.

A businessman can trade Ks3million a day with an ITC, and then, the trade department granted trade up to Ks15million a day, which amounted to a five-day-trade-value.—*Ko Khant*

Enterprises with capital of US\$5mil can seek approval from region and state investment committees

ENTERPRISES with capital of at least US\$5million or up to Ks6 billion no longer need to seek approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), and the regional and state investment committees are granted to permit them in accordance with Myanmar Investment Law, according to an announcement of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The move aims to smooth the flow of business. Only the projects with a capital of above Ks6 billion need to be submitted to the MIC. Previously, all investment proposals were required to be submitted to the MIC, causing long delays.

The MIC has already

revealed the locations of the zones with a three-to-seven-year exemption of income tax on the basis of the region and state's development.

In a bid to attract more investors to Myanmar, the MIC set up three different zones in which the entrepreneurs will enjoy the benefits of tax exemption for a period of three to seven years. The zones are located in: the places which are still weak in development, as zone 1; places which are fairly well developed, as zone 2; and places which are well developed, as zone 3, according to an announcement of MIC with the approval of the Union Government.

Zone 1, the areas that are least developed, include 14 townships from Kachin State, seven townships in

Kayah State, seven townships in Kayah State, nine townships in Chin State, 34 townships in Sagaing Region, four townships in Taninthayi Region, five townships in Bago Region, 13 townships in Magway Region, 10 townships in Ayeyawady Region, two townships in Mandalay Region, two townships in Mon State, 17 townships in Rakhine State and 42 townships in Shan State.

The areas that are fairly well developed, designated as zone 2 areas, are four townships in Kachin State, three townships in Sagaing Region, seven townships in Taninthayi Region, 23 townships in Bago Region, 12 townships in Magway Region, 13 townships in Mandalay Region, eight

townships in Mon State, 13 townships in Yangon Region, 14 townships in Shan State, 17 townships in Ayeyawady Region and eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The developed areas designated as zone 3 are 14 townships in Mandalay Region and 32 townships in Yangon Region.

Zone 1 is granted tax holidays of seven consecutive years, whereas the investors in zone 2 can enjoy tax breaks for five straight years. Zone 3 will have a three consecutive year tax break, it is learnt.

The zones areas can be fixed by MIC depending on the region and state development and needs under the approval of the Union Government.—*Ko Khant*



Samsung introduces Galaxy C9 Pro

SAMSUNG Myanmar launched the Galaxy C9 Pro, its all-new smartphone that comes loaded with 6GB RAM, 16 MP front and back camera and 6th FHD sAMOLED display. The Galaxy C9 Pro sports all metal unibody and is designed for consumers who

demand more from their smartphone.

Dubbed as a feature powerhouse, the Galaxy C9 Pro packs the best of screen, memory and camera into one smartphone. These top-of-the-line features enable consumers to get an immersive viewing, the best multi-

media experience and sharp pictures from their Galaxy C9 Pro smartphone. “The Galaxy C9 Pro will enhance and give users the best multimedia experience with its 6” Full HD sAMOLED display while delivering a powerhouse performance thanks to its advanced processor, 6GB

RAM, huge battery power and storage. And to top it all, the superb 16MP front and rear camera with f1.9 lens will help users capture brilliant photos even in low light conditions,” said Ko Zarni Win Htet, Head of IM Channel, Samsung Myanmar.—*GNLM*

Vietnamese international airport website hacked

HO CHI MINH CITY — The website of Tan Son Nhat international airport in Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City has been hacked, the Civil Aviation Administration of Viet Nam said Thursday.

A hacker successfully penetrated into the website's system on Wednesday night, making it inaccessible and leaving a message which says the system's security is problematic, the administration said.

The hacker did not

deface the website or steal or delete any data, it said, adding the website was restored on Thursday morning.

In July 2016, the computer system of national flag carrier Viet Nam Airlines used for check-in procedures for domestic flights at Tan Son Nhat International Airport and Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi were hacked. As a result, over 10 flights with some 2,000 passengers were delayed by 30-50 minutes.—Xinhua

Widodo meets predecessor, both pledging to solve nation's issues

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Thursday met his predecessor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the presidential palace and both pledged to work together to solve issues faced by the nation.

The meeting came following the request of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, palace spokesperson Johan Budi said. Addressing a joint press conference after their meeting, Susilo spoke

highly of the government's success in hosting the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) summit and in welcoming Saudi Arabian King Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud's visit to the country.

"I and Jokowi sincerely want to further develop this country," Susilo said.

The two's last meeting was on 8 December, 2014 at Jokowi's inauguration as the nation's seventh president.—Xinhua

Philippine environment minister says still has Duterte's support

MANILA — The Philippines' environment minister said on Thursday that President Rodrigo Duterte has assured her he would reappoint her if a congressional panel delays a decision on her confirmation, giving her more time to press her case on mine closures.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez is facing a heated hearing to have her position confirmed by lawmakers after ordering the closure of more than half of the country's mines for environmental infringements.

"The president said he has confidence in me and he would just reappoint (me)," Lopez told reporters, during a break at her hearing.

In the Philippines, confirmation hearings can take place long after ministers start work. On Wednesday, the Commission on Appointments unanimously decided not to approve Perfecto Yasay as foreign minister, the first member of Duterte's cabinet to be rejected by the panel. The congressional panel is hearing from those opposed to Lopez's confirmation and can defer a vote to a later date. Congress will go on recess from 18 March, but Lopez is due to leave the country on Friday. Sessions will not resume until May.



Philippines' Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Regina Lopez gestures as she faces a panel of Commission on Appointment during a hearing at the Senate headquarters in Pasay city, metro Manila, Philippines, on 9 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

If a vote is deferred Duterte could appoint someone else to the role, but Lopez said she would be reappointed. Her decision to shut or suspend 28 of the 41 operating mines in the world's top nickel ore exporter has raised concerns of supply disruptions and boosted nickel prices.

A committed environmentalist, Lopez defended her actions before lawmakers, arguing that she was trying to protect the functions of watersheds where many

of the mines are located.

She noted that some of the 13 mines that passed the environment agency's months-long review were also in watershed zones, but were allowed to stay open as they are not having a negative environmental impact.

Mines in watershed areas that were ordered shut could seek reconsideration and she would look at such cases.

"I'm not going to do anything just to get appointed," she said. "I am not going to

sacrifice my principles just to get appointed."

A mining industry group has said that the mine closures would affect 1.2 million people that depend on the sector for their livelihood.

"(Lopez's) extreme ideology and environmental fanaticism will only cause a mess that will hurt many and benefit no one," Ronald Recidoro, lawyer from the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines told the hearing.—Reuters

Two Malaysian UN staff allowed to leave DPRK

KUALA LUMPUR — Two Malaysians working for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) who were stranded in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) amid a diplomatic fallout had left the country, a WFP spokesperson said on Thursday.

"WFP confirms that two WFP staff of Malaysian nationality have left the DPRK and arrived in Beijing today," a WFP spokesperson confirmed to Xinhua in a written reply.

"The staff members are international civil servants and not representatives of their national government. They work on WFP's programmes in the DPRK," the spokesperson said.

Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Reezal Merican said earlier there were 11 Malaysian citizens stranded in the DPRK.

With the two leaving the DPRK, a total of nine Malaysian citizens are still left behind. In a statement posted on his facebook page,

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said all remaining Malaysians in the DPRK are safe after he had a phone call with the counsellor at the embassy in the DPRK.

"I have given him my assurance that the government will do everything we can to ensure that they return home safely soon. The whole of Malaysia is praying for them," Najib said, adding he was assured by the DPRK government of their safety in the DPRK though they are not allow to

leave.

"The government will continue to work on reaching the best solution on this issue. Let us all pray for the best," he said.

In tit-for-tat moves following the death of a DPRK man at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Malaysia and DPRK have both expelled the ambassador of the other's side and banned each other's citizens from leaving, as investigations into the case strained bilateral relations.—Xinhua

Fiji, India sign new air services agreement

SUVA — Fiji and India have signed a new air services agreement to replace the previous one signed between the two countries over four decades ago, the Fijian government said on Thursday.

"Much has changed in aviation and in the world economy in the time since that original agreement was

signed, and a new agreement was needed that was in line with the modern economies of the two countries and serve the vastly increased need for air transport," Fiji's Department of Information said in a statement.

"The new air services agreement has been negotiated to meet the conditions that exist now and will exist

in the foreseeable future," it said. The new agreement, which ensures ease of travel between the two countries, is expected to spur economic growth and create opportunities for trade, investment and tourism. Earlier this week, Fiji Airways and India's Jet Airways formed a codeshare partnership that offers guests travelling on

both carriers convenient and seamless connectivity.

Fiji is now in the process of reviewing and updating its air services agreements with other countries, with the goal of increasing the scope and quality of economic activity and connectivity while at the same time protecting its civil aviation industry.—Xinhua

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editor

Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Copy Writer Min Zaw

International News Editor

Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Local News Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

Advertising inquiry

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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US says 'all options on table' to deal with North Korea

UNITED NATIONS — The United States on Wednesday said “all options are on the table” to deal with North Korea and dismissed China’s suggestion of a “dual suspension” of US and South Korea military drills and Pyongyang’s missile and nuclear tests.

“We are not dealing with a rational person,” US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un after the United Nations Security Council discussed North Korea’s launch of four ballistic missiles on Monday.

“It is an unbelievable, irresponsible arrogance that we are seeing coming out of Kim Jong Un at this time,” Haley said.

She said the administration of US President Donald Trump was reevaluating how it would handle North Korea and that “all options were on the table,” adding: “We are making those decisions now and we will act accordingly.”

North Korea fired the missiles into the sea off Japan’s coast in response to the annual US-South Korea military drills, which Pyongyang sees as preparation for war. Pyongyang has fired dozens of missiles and conducted two of its five nuclear tests in the past year in defiance of UN resolutions.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Wednesday that the tests by the North and the joint drills across the border in South Korea were causing tension to increase like two “ac-



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised a ballistic rocket launching drill of Hwasong artillery units of the Strategic Force of the KPA on the spot in this undated photo released by North Korea’s Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 7 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

celerating trains coming toward each other,” suggesting a “dual suspension” to allow all sides to return to negotiations.

“We have to see some sort of positive action taken by North Korea before we can ever take them seriously,” Haley said when asked about Beijing’s proposal. She said the drills had been held annually for 40 years and North Korea was always notified.

The Security Council on

Tuesday strongly condemned North Korea’s missile launches and expressed concern over the country’s “increasingly destabilising behaviour”. North Korea has been under UN sanctions aimed at impeding the development of its banned nuclear and missile programs since 2006.

“The most important thing is to implement those Security Council resolutions in a comprehensive way, including reducing

tensions and also not to do anything to exacerbate tension on the Korean Peninsula,” China’s UN Ambassador Liu Jieyi said.

The US military on Tuesday started to deploy the first elements of its Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system to South Korea, which China opposes. Diplomats said China raised the THAAD deployment during Wednesday’s closed-door meeting. British UN

Ambassador Matthew Rycroft also rejected China’s description of the US and South Korean military drills and North Korea’s nuclear and missiles tests as equal threats.

“The threat comes from DPRK (North Korea) and the continued plan to nuclearise the DPRK and it is that programme of nuclearisation that needs to stop immediately,” he said. —Reuters

Six years after Fukushima nuclear disaster, residents trickle back to deserted towns

TOKYO — NAMIE, Fukushima Workers repair a damaged home nearby, and about 60 employees busily prepare for the return of former residents in the largely untouched town hall. Not far away, two wild boars stick their snouts in someone’s yard, snuffling for food.

Signs of life are returning nearly six years after panicked residents fled radiation spewed by the nearby Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, when it was struck by an earthquake and tsunami.

Still, only several hundred of the original 21,500 residents plan to return in the first wave, estimates Hidezo Sato, a former seed merchant who helped draw up a blueprint to rebuild the town.

“As a person who used to sell seeds for a living, I believe now is a time to sow seeds” for rebuilding, said Sato, 71. “Harvesting is far away. But I hope I can manage to help bring about fruition.”

Since November, people who registered have been allowed to spend nights in the town, but residents will not need permission to

stay round the clock after Japan lifts evacuation orders for parts of Namie and three other towns at the end of March.

Just 4 km (2.5 miles) away from the wrecked plant, Namie is the closest area cleared for the return of residents since the disaster of 11 March, 2011.

But the town will never be the same, as radiation contamination has left a big area off limits. And it may never be inhabitable.

More than half — 53 per cent — of former residents have decided not to return, a government poll showed last September. They cited concerns over radiation and the safety of the nuclear plant, which is being dismantled in an arduous, 40-year effort.

More than three-quarters of those aged 29 or less do not intend to return, which means old people could form the bulk of the town’s population in a future largely devoid of children.

“Young people will not go back,” said Yasuo Fujita, a former Namie resident who runs a restaurant in Tokyo, the capital. “There

will neither be jobs nor education for children.”

Fujita said he did not want to live near a possible storage site for contaminated soil, now being systematically removed.

Radiation levels at Namie town hall stood at 0.07 microsieverts per hour on 28 February, little different from the rest of Japan.

But in the nearby town of Tomioka, a dosimeter read 1.48 microsieverts an hour, nearly 30 times higher than in downtown Tokyo, underscoring lingering radiation hotspots.

For the towns’ evacuation orders to be lifted, radiation must fall below 20 millisieverts per year. They must also have functioning utilities and telecoms systems, besides basic health, elderly care and postal services.

Namie, which used to have six grade schools and three middle schools, plans to eventually open a joint elementary-junior high school. So children will need to commute to schools elsewhere initially. —Reuters

JETRO helps Thailand become hub of processed food in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK — The Japan External Trade Organization is beefing up its collaboration with Thailand’s state-owned National Food Institute in a fresh bid to transform the Southeast Asian country into a hub of processed food in the region and beyond. Under a new agreement called “The New NFI-Japan Desk,” JETRO’s Bangkok Office says, the two countries will facilitate wider trading promotions such as consultancy, information resources, business matching and business expansion among Japanese and Thai food entrepreneurs instead of simply promoting bilateral trade in food products.

Hiroki Mitsumata, director of the JETRO Bangkok Office, said the new accord is also aimed at encouraging Thailand to become a key processed food manufacturing base for further boosting exports to other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, India and the Middle East.

To help strengthen Thailand’s food value chain, raw materials from Japan will be shipped to and

processed in Thailand to cater to Thai consumers and export such processed products to third markets as well. Japan’s food exports to Thailand totaled 32.9 billion yen (about \$290 million) last year, down 8.2 per cent from a year earlier, due to the yen’s appreciation against the baht, deep-sea fish shortages in Japan and weak purchasing power in Thailand due in part to the death of King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

But Mitsumata said these factors have had “temporary effects” and predicted that Japanese food exports to Thailand will post annual growth of 10 per cent, as in the past.

By value, Thailand is the sixth-largest market for Japan’s food exports after Hong Kong, the United States, Taiwan, China and South Korea. The main export products last year were pork skins used mainly for shoes and bags worth about 6.1 billion yen, bonito and tuna valued at some 3.9 billion yen and mackerel totaling 3.3 billion yen. —Kyodo News

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Intention, Capacity and Management are equally important for success!

Khin Maung Oo

WE always say that if there is a will, there is a way. Here, we must note that "a way" is just a way, and it does not mean "success". To reach success we must move on "the way." Every individual is working on the way, as per their desires. Students want to pass their exams and get educational attainments. Graduates want to get good jobs and good salaries. Salary-men want to be promoted to higher positions. Businessmen want to improve their businesses and gain much profit. They have their respective desires or hopes. To implement our desires we must work or move on. We learnt a formula in physics, "work done is force into distance—Work= force×distance.

That means our effort is not considered to be work unless it produces results no matter how much effort we have put in. Accordingly, all, from students to those who take responsibilities, must work, in other words move on the way to their desire. To walk on the way, we must have intention, first of all.

To implement an intention, we must have capacity and management skills, according to each profession. These skills are not our inborn gifts of nature. We can and must accumulate them. Without them, no one can reach their destinations. Though we get used to hearing these two words, some take the importance of these skills for granted, whereas some who know their values benefit much from them, running prosperous businesses and enterprises.

These skills can be built. These days, these subjects are very popular across the world, including Myanmar. Let us think about management, firstly. Can we acquire these only from academic centers? Partly, it may be right? Since many years ago, there were many successful entrepreneurs in our country as well as in the world, without any higher education, on one condition that the professional training schools can share knowledge on management subjects, in a short period of time and just in one place, if we can spare time. Nowadays we have had many chances to study these without moving an inch from our places, for those persons who cannot afford huge sums of money. Books of great variety are available in the country. Educational talks

shared by scholars and businessmen from prestigious companies can be heard. We can search for knowledge on the internet by doing systematic online research, provided we know how to do this type of research. For example, Google, Yahoo and Bing are very popular search engines and Wikipedia has a wealth of knowledge for those who wish to do research on the internet.

Schools and books can give us knowledge only. The virtually interchangeable words—capacity, ability and acumen, however, must be cultivated by ourselves. Here, discipline can be said to be the key factor of all. Discipline can lift us to the top positions in the private sector. Undisciplined companies, enterprises and organizations are doomed to fail. Especially,

our people do not know enough about time management. Most people waste much time on roads, in cafes and before TVs. Recreation and relaxation are really needed for all of us. Yet, we should not spend our precious time, more than necessary. Students need to study a lot, and we who work in the private sector need to work harder more than ever. As for the aged, they need to give time to prepare for their last phase of life, according to our religion. We ourselves must study a lot and share our knowledge with the younger generation, as much as we can. Failing that, our meritorious deeds will never be left for our children. To sum it up, we all need to have intention, and then build up capacity and management skills by yourselves.

The Climate Change is not a Hoax

Khin Maung Myint

THE threats of the climate change are becoming great concerns for many who are knowledgeable of their consequences. However, there are a few who do not seem to understand, or should I say, ignorant about them. Thus they are even shrugging off the threat of the climate change as a hoax. That is absolute absurdity, which is very disappointing indeed, and at the same time very threatening to the future of, not only the human beings, but also to all living things on Earth.

I had persistently been advocating to combat the climate change issues by sharing my meager knowledge about them in many of my articles wherever relevant. As I had written quite a number of such articles, I had decided that I had done enough and turned my attentions to other pressing issues. However, I was wrong.

The latest information released by NASA mentioned that the year 2016 was the warmest year on record. This statement may sound familiar, as 2015 too was declared the warmest year on record and the year before that also happened to be the warmest on record. From these records it is quite evident that for three consecutive years the temperatures had been gradually rising. If this trend continues the world would definitely be in great troubles. These conditions proved that the climate change is not a hoax, but a reality.

This fact drew my attention back to the climate change issues

again and prompted me to write this article. In this article I intend to prove that everything said in relation to climate change are facts and not just fantasies or hoaxes.

It is a well proven fact that the global warming is the phenomenon that is causing the climate change. The global warming in turn is caused by the presence of excess greenhouse gases, among which, carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas is the main culprit. The excess of CO₂ gas in the atmosphere are due to many factors. The over-use of fossilized fuels, such as coal and petroleum products, extensive breeding of animals, especially cattle and sheep for human consumptions, and the increase in human populations are the main sources of CO₂ emissions. Also the depletion of forests contributed to the excess of CO₂ in the atmosphere, as the trees are good absorbers of CO₂ and the depletion of the forests led to their excess.

Too much greenhouse gases prevent the sun's rays from being reflected back into space and are trapped in the atmosphere, causing the rise in temperatures. Researches have shown that the temperatures had been gradually rising since the industrial revolution as the use of fossilized fuels increased. Today with the increases in factories and vehicles all over the world, the use of fossilized fuels also soared and the global warming is getting worse at an alarming rate.

The above statement can be proven by the pattern of temperature increases. According to the records, the occurrence of the warmest recorded years were widely

spaced in the past, but the spacing is becoming narrower. For example, 2005 was recorded as the warmest year and again 2010 tied with that year as the warmest on record after a lull of four years, but since 2014 the recorded warmest years were occurring every year. If drastic actions are not taken to reduce the CO₂ emissions, this year, 2017 and many more to come, will also be warmer than their preceding ones.

Because of the global warming, freak weather conditions are also becoming more and more common. The frequent and stronger storms, heavier rainfalls, unprecedented snowfalls, flooding, draughts, extreme cold and warm weather patterns are being encountered all over the world in recent times. Due to the extreme high temperatures, desertification are becoming widespread. Also the glaciers around the world are melting and disappearing at alarming rates, causing the ocean levels to rise and the low-lying areas close to them are being inundated. Thus the inhabitable and arable land masses are decreasing. These situations are cause for alarm if the temperature rises couldn't be put under control, as the melting of ice and rising of the ocean levels will continue.

Experts are of the opinion that such situations could lead to social unrests as people around the world would try to grab whatever available land left. That could lead to armed conflicts and bring about the collapse of the human civilizations. On the other-hand, if the temperatures cannot be curbed in time, the

extreme temperatures would reach a point that would render it totally impossible for human beings to survive. Eventually all living things, including all vegetations would become extinct and the Earth will become another dead planet in the solar system.

These are real facts and not fantasies or just opinions, but have concrete reasons to be believed, though they may take time to become the worst case scenario mentioned above. However, regrettably, according to the factsheet of the TECHTIMES found on the Internet, 37% of the Americans believe that global warming is a hoax and 67% do not believe the climate change would seriously affect their way of life. I must admit that I am not sure how accurate that statement was. However, it is a fact that the present President of the US thought the climate change to be a hoax and had threatened to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which had been ratified during his predecessor's tenure.

Even now, we are learning from the media reports that his administration is planning to increase the oil productions. Also their latest move to stop the ban on disposal of wastes from the coal-fired factories into the streams would affect the environment and hence the climate change too. China, on the other-hand is also still constructing numerous coal-fired electrical power stations. The coal-fired factories not only produce CO₂ gases that contribute to the global warming, but also cause coal pollutions, which lead to hundreds of thousands of premature deaths each

year.

At a time, when the Paris Agreement is requiring it's signatories to reduce the use of fossilized fuels and convert to renewable or green energy sources such as: hydro, wind and solar powers, the world's two most largest emitters of CO₂ gases show no sign of obliging. Though they had pledged large amounts of Nationally Determined Contributions (to reduce CO₂ emissions) that was required to ratify the Paris Agreement, the US and China do not seem to have any intention of fulfilling them.

Such actions are totally unacceptable and should be condemned. The rest of the world, headed by the United Nations should endeavour to push the Paris Agreement through, to be adhered by all the signatories without any exception. If any nation should choose to withdraw from the Paris Agreement because it do not want to abide by them, that nation should be taken some sort of legal or binding action. Just naming and shaming only, as prescribed by the present agreements, wouldn't be enough.

In conclusion, I would like to request every nation, especially the large emitters of CO₂ gases, to be wary of the consequences of the climate change and accept it as a reality. They should also be humane enough to have considerations for the others instead of being selfish and greedy at the expense of others. I sincerely hope they would come to their senses, before it's too late, and accept the fact that the climate change issue is not a hoax but a reality.

Performances in One-Year Period 2016-2017 FY by Printing and Publishing Department

The Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information, has been performing the tasks of printing works of literary development and the State Gazettes, readers for basic education schools which are commissioned by the Ministry of Education, works commissioned by governmental departments and private enterprises, and ballots commissioned by Union Election Commission.

Paper-reading events

PPD under the Ministry of Information, had arranged to hold paper-reading events and book-fair festivals with a view to developing Myanmar literature, increasing printing and publishing literary works and making readers more interested in printed media, holding paper-reading of political literature and monsoon book fair festival for 3 days from 29/7/2016 to 31/7/2016 at the office of Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Street.

At paper-reading session, 18 papers on political literature were read by writers, with those writing papers replying to the questions raised by interested persons present at the reading session.

Collection of the 18 papers read by writers, questions raised by the audience and answers replied by the paper-writers were compiled into books for publication. The first volume contains 485 pages and the second 515 pages.



Writers take part in the paper reading session on history. PHOTO: MNA

Encouragement to Myanmar Literature

WITH a view to developing Myanmar Literature, encouraging writing Myanmar literary works, making neo-writers emerge, Printing and Publishing Department under the Ministry of Information has been celebrating ceremonies for presenting life-long national literary award and national literary award as national level, Sarpay Beikman manuscript award annually. Ceremony for presenting 2015 lifetime national literary award, national literary award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award on 30 November 2016, at the national theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon.

In recognition of writers' outstanding efforts for the development of Myanmar literature, the State awards lifelong national literary awards annually, selecting Sayargyi U Win Mon (Tekkatho Win Mon) and Sayargyi U Tin Kha (Tekkatho Tin Kha) as 2015 lifelong national literary award winners, whom the Board presented 25 lakh each.

In presenting national literary awards, out of the publications published in a calendar

year, books from the 16 kinds of categories eligible for prescribed standards are firstly selected and from them, the best is chosen as the prize. Out of 16 subjects, 5 were not eligible for being awarded and left out in the year 2015. So, 11 awards for 11 categories were presented for the year 2015 with 15 lakh each.

For the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award, manuscripts are invited for 13 categories. For the year 2015, one was left out for being under standardized level. So, for 12 categories, 33 winners were selected and 7 lakh for first prize, 5 lakhs kyats for second prize and 3 lakh for third prize each.

2nd time paper reading session was co-held together with winter season book-fair festival for 4 days, from 1/12/2016 to 4/12/2016 on Theinbyu Street, Yangon, at the office of Printing and Publishing Department. 14 papers on contemporary history were read. Over 200 book-shops had varieties of books at special prices. And, like the first time, 2 volumes of contemporary history papers were published.



Bookstalls are crowded with book enthusiasts on Theinbyu Street. PHOTO: MNA

Monsoon Book Fair Festival

MONSOON Book Fair Festival was co-held together with paper-reading on political literature at the office of Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Street. More than 170 bookstalls sold variety of books on knowledge and aesthetic literature at special rates, attracting

many buyers.

With the aim of spreading more books on knowledge and aesthetic literature among people and developing Myanmar literature, a new Sarpay Beikman selling center (Extension) was opened, in annexation to the Sarpay Beikman Building, sell-

ing books published by Sarpay Beikman Press as well as books published by privately-owned press houses.

Now, attractions of comfortable space and interior decoration have been arranged for buyers to find books through computer system.

Literary activities

PRINTING and Publishing Department has made literary activities as well. Week-end Yangon Books Street was opened on 7/1/2017 at the platforms of Anawrahta Road. It sells books every Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to 6 pm. It has been arranged to open Week-end Book Street till 2017 April.

For the by-election of

2017, ballots commissioned by Union Election Commission, amounting to 2,472,600 were published.

Printing and Publishing Department has managed to timely publish readers of high quality for basic education schools commissioned by the Ministry of Education.

For 2017-2018 academic

year, 21 subjects for the middle school levels, commissioned by the Ministry of Education, amounting to 17.109 million copies were targeted to be published in 6 printing houses in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay not later than 30/3/2017.

PPD of the Ministry of Information has arranged to speed up its activities further.



Book enthusiasts visits the week-end book stalls on the platforms of Anawrahta Road. PHOTO: MNA

As far right reaps votes, immigrants face tougher times in Netherlands



View of floating hotel 'Amanpuri', housing migrants whose asylum procedure has been declined in Groningen, Netherlands, on 10 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

GRONINGEN, (Netherlands) — Dozens of migrants are sheltering on a former hospital ship in a Dutch canal, beneficiaries of a “Bed, Bath, Bread” programme for asylum seekers. But their hopes of settlement are dimming with the anti-immigrant right poised for a surge at the ballot box.

Polls suggest the far-right ticket will double its vote in the March 15 election, riding perceptions that many years of Muslim immigration threaten to erode Dutch national identity.

Despite statistics showing there are fewer foreigners in the Netherlands than commonly believed, many voters feel Muslim immigrants are failing to integrate and running down a once-generous health and welfare system.

Even if firebrand nationalist leader Geert Wilders does not enter the next ruling coalition given the refusal of “establishment”

parties to work with him, he has managed to push the mainstream political agenda to the anti-immigrant right.

In the northern coastal town of Groningen, dozens of mainly Muslim men and women - Africans, Arabs and some Iranians - sit at bare tables and chat quietly in the living quarters fashioned out of a ship where hospital patients were once treated.

They are awaiting decisions on appeals of government rejections of their asylum applications, a process that has dragged on for years during which the Netherlands began to crack down hard on economic migrants. In the meantime, they are grateful for the refuge from the harsh North Sea winter.

Groningen opened its “Bed, Bath, Bread” facility for 100 asylum seekers in January after the government of conservative Prime Minister Mark Rutte cut off BBB funding, and it plans to

expand capacity to 300 people later this year.

About 30 other Dutch cities and towns run BBB shelters too. They accommodate thousands of asylum seekers in legal limbo.

“Four years ago I was alone. You know how life is outside, without help, but at this moment I am grateful,” said Moussa Sall. He said he fled political violence in Guinea, West Africa and drifted across Europe before arriving in Groningen.

Sall and his cohorts were aware and worried about swelling anti-immigrant sentiment represented by Wilders, leader of the anti-Islam Party for Freedom (PVV), but seemed loath to discuss sensitive domestic politics.

“I would like to stay here and work as a hairdresser. I have started learning the language. It’s not possible to go back to my country for the moment. It’s dangerous for me,” said Sall. —Reuters

US general says Russia deploys cruise missile, threatens NATO

WASHINGTON — Russia has deployed a land-based cruise missile that violates the “spirit and intent” of an arms control treaty and poses a threat to NATO, Vice Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Paul Selva said on Wednesday.

It was the first public accusation by the US military of the deployment after reports said last month that Russia had secretly deployed the ground-launched SSC-8 cruise missile that Moscow has been developing and testing for several years, despite US complaints that it violated sections of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty.

“The system itself presents a risk to most of our facilities in Europe and we believe that the Russians have deliberately deployed it in order to pose a threat to NATO and to facilities within the NATO area of responsibility,” Selva said during a House Armed Services Committee hearing. The Air Force general did not say whether the missile was capable of carrying a nuclear weapon.

Selva said the United States had brought up the issue with Russia. He did not say what options were being considered if the discussions did not lead to results, but added that “we have been asked to incorporate a set

of options into the nuclear posture review.”

“I don’t have enough information on their intent to conclude other than they do not intend to return to compliance,” he added.

In an interview with Reuters last month, President Donald Trump said he would raise the issue of the deployment with Russian President Vladimir Putin “if and when we meet.”

In 2014, the United States made a similar accusation. The State Department concluded in a report that Russia was in violation of its obligations under the INF treaty. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tires drop from US military helicopter during drill in Okinawa

NAHA, (Japan) — Tires being transported by a US military helicopter accidentally dropped close to private land during a drill in Okinawa, the Defence Ministry said Thursday.

The helicopter was taking part in a drill Wednesday inside the US Marine Corps’ Camp Hansen and had tires suspended below, according to the ministry. No damage was reported.

The accident occurred only a few months after the flight of a US Marine Corps Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft over a nearby residential area raised safety concerns. In the December incident, the Osprey aircraft flew over houses in the area with a cylindrical object suspended below by a cable, prompting the ministry to lodge a protest. The latest incident could further sour local anti-base sentiment.

The Okinawa Defence Bureau said the US military is investigating the incident. —Kyodo News

US says illegal immigration from Mexico declined last month

WASHINGTON — The number of illegal immigrants crossing into the United States from Mexico declined by 40 per cent from January to February, Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said on Wednesday. The downturn came after President Donald Trump took office on 20 January vowing to deport many of the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

The flow of illegal border crossings as measured by apprehensions and the prevention of inadmissible persons at the southern border dropped to 18,762 persons in February from 31,578 in January, Kelly said in a statement. —Reuters

Hawaii becomes 1st state to challenge Trump’s new travel ban order

LOS ANGELES — Hawaii on Wednesday became the first state to file a lawsuit seeking suspension of the revised travel ban covering six Muslim-majority nations by President Donald Trump, according to US media reports.

A hearing by a federal judge in Honolulu involving both the state and Trump’s administration over the revised executive order signed on Monday was set for 15 March, a day before it takes effect, the reports said.

Hawaii claims its state universities would be harmed by the order as they would have trouble recruiting students, and its economy would be hit by a decline in tourism, according to Reuters news agency.

The new executive order dropped Iraq from the list of the 27 January version and temporarily halts entry into the United States for people from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen who are seeking new visas. The 90-day ban does not apply to those who already have valid visas or green cards. —Kyodo News

German government says takes issue of CIA leaks seriously

BERLIN — The German government on Wednesday said it took the publication of thousands of pages of internal CIA discussions by anti-secrecy group Wikileaks seriously, but could not verify the authenticity of the documents.

German media have seized on documents in the latest Wikileaks documents which show that the CIA used the US consulate in Frankfurt as a major remote hacking base. A spokesman for the foreign ministry said the German government was in close touch with US authorities about the issue. —Reuters

Poland determined to delay decision on EU’s Tusk

WARSAW — Poland’s government said it will do everything possible to postpone an expected decision by European Union leaders to reappoint Polish former prime minister Donald Tusk on Thursday as chairman of their summits.

Diplomats have said European Union leaders, who will meet in Brussels, are virtually certain to extend Tusk’s mandate as head of the council, which groups the EU’s 28 national leaders, by a further 30 months.

Poland’s ruling right-wing Law and Justice party (PiS) accuses Tusk, a soft-spoken centrist, of overstepping his mandate by, for example, criticising the Warsaw government during its stand-off with the opposition over media freedom. Tusk and PiS leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the country’s most powerful politician, are also long-standing bitter rivals in Polish politics. —Reuters

Surviving on the front line in Mosul's street battles

MOSUL, (Iraq) — Mohammed Fathi sat calmly on a plastic chair, twiddling his prayer beads as machine gun fire erupted from a neighbour's house, incoming bullets crackled overhead and helicopters strafed targets nearby in western Mosul.

The 70-year-old grandfather of 10 looked relieved. The day before, death had come much closer.

He described how Islamic State fighters had used the top floor of his home to fire sniper rifles and BKC machine guns at advancing Iraqi forces, while Fathi's family and others displaced by the violence cowered downstairs. If the militants had held out a few minutes longer, an air raid would have brought the building down on top of them.

"Thank God, they retreated from here and troops arrived to find just us.

"One of the soldiers told us they were five minutes away from calling in an air strike because of the resistance coming from our house," he said.

Fathi, wearing a red



Federal police members gather during a battle with Islamic State militants at Dawasa neighbourhood in Mosul, Iraq, on 8 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

and white headscarf, hobbled around his home pointing at damage the Islamic State fighters had done to his property — a children's cupboard smashed up to use as barricades and to rest rifles on, a basket upturned to stand on while they fired at the enemy.

The fighters, some of whom spoke Russian, left their posts in the upstairs bedrooms and retreated

through the next-door house via holes they had knocked through the walls, Fathi said. "As the soldiers arrived, we weren't sure if Daesh (Islamic State) were still there. My son went up to check, and they'd gone."

The Iraqi Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) entered the home around sunset on Monday, and on Tuesday were stationed outside in armoured vehicles, or firing from adjacent buildings at Islamic State positions along the shifting front line.

Fighting to drive Islamic State from western Mosul, its last major stronghold in Iraq, has involved close-quarter street battles, with Iraqi forces advancing block by block as they approach the most densely populated parts of the city.—Reuters

US envoy to UN says 'we need to get Iran' out of Syria

UNITED NATIONS — The United States supports the UN-led Syria peace talks, UN Ambassador Nikki Haley said on Wednesday, saying Syria could no longer be a "safe haven for terrorists" and that it was important "we get Iran and their proxies out."

Haley spoke to reporters after UN Syria mediator Staffan de Mistura briefed the Security Council behind closed doors on 10 days of talks between the warring parties in Geneva, which ended last week.

She did not respond to questions on whether the United States believed Syr-

ian President Bashar al-Assad, backed by Russia and Iran, should step down.

All eyes have been on how Washington would approach ending the six-year war in Syria, given pledges by President Donald Trump to build closer ties with Russia, especially in the fight against Islamic State. Trump's Syria policy has been unclear.

"The United States absolutely supports Staffan de Mistura and the work that he's doing, we support the UN process, we support the talks in Geneva, we want to see them continue," Haley said. "This is very much

about a political solution now ... and that basically means that Syria can no longer be a safe haven for terrorists, we've got to make sure we get Iran and their proxies out, we've got to make sure that, as we move forward, we're securing the borders for our allies as well," she said.

Iran is backing fighters in Syria from Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim group Hezbollah. A crackdown by Assad on pro-democracy protesters in 2011 led to civil war and Islamic State militants have used the chaos to seize territory in Syria and Iraq. Half of Syria's 22

million people have been uprooted and more than 400,000 killed.

De Mistura told reporters after briefing the council that he planned to convene another round of peace talks on 23 March.

He said the most recent round ended with an agenda and a timeline and "some agreement even on substance." "We did not expect miracles and frankly we did not have miracles, but we achieved much more than many people had imagined we could have. No one left, everybody stayed," de Mistura told reporters.—Reuters

Syria's Manbij council urges aid for 130,000 displaced

BEIRUT — Some 130,000 people who have fled to the northern Syrian city of Manbij and nearby rural areas are in dire need of international aid, the head of a Manbij civil affairs council said on Wednesday.

The displaced had mostly left areas near Manbij that were held by Islamic State in the last week, Farouk al-Mashi said, adding that their needs included food and medical aid.

"We urge the international community to take a humanitarian stand," he told Reuters by phone from Manbij. Northern Syria has been a focal point of the

Syrian war in recent weeks with most of the parties to the multi-sided conflict involved in one way or another.

Before the conflict, Manbij and its surrounding areas had a population of around 600,000.

The Russian-backed Syrian army has made a rapid advance against Islamic State to the south of the city, while the Turkish military and Syrian rebel groups it backs have been fighting Manbij-based militia to the west of the city. Manbij was captured from Islamic State last year by an alliance of US-backed militias includ-



Fighters of the Manbij military council, take an overwatch position in the southern rural area of Manbij, in Aleppo Governorate, Syria, on 1 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing the Kurdish YPG, which Ankara views as a threat to its national security because

of its links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).—Reuters

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th MARCH 2017 (Full-moon day of Ta-boung) Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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 (417 Acres) 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.

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)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ARCA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARCA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Newspapers & Journal Printing Service. 09-254435478
Contact: 09-254435478

Fire at Guatemala shelter kills 22 girls, police blame arson

SAN JOSE PINULA, (Guatemala) — A fire tore through a home for abused teenagers and children in Guatemala, killing at least 22 girls on Wednesday after some residents set mattresses ablaze following an overnight attempt to escape from the overcrowded centre, police said.

A crowd of relatives, some wailing with grief, gathered outside the government-run Virgen de Asuncion home for youths aged up to 18, in San Jose Pinula, 25 km (15 miles) southwest of the capital, Guatemala City.

Hospitals reported about 40 people being treated for burns.

The blaze started when a group of young people who had been isolated by authorities after a riot and an escape attempt at the centre on Tuesday night set fire to mattresses, said Nery Ramos, head of Guatemala's national police.

Authorities were investigating whether those who started the blaze were the ones who had tried to escape, Ramos added.

"What happened is extremely serious, and even more so for the fact that it could have been avoided," Anabella Morfin, Guatemala's solicitor general,



Candles are lit for victims after a fire broke out at the Virgen de Asuncion home in San Jose Pinula on the outskirts of Guatemala City, on 8 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

told a news conference.

"This should never have happened."

Burnt bodies partially covered in blankets were strewn across the floor of a blackened room in the home, pictures posted to Twitter by firefighters showed.

"We will fully support the institutions responsible for investigating, and we will contribute to finding the truth," President Jimmy Morales said in a brief statement on national television Wednesday night.

Morales earlier de-

clared three days of national mourning.

Mayra Veliz, secretary general of the attorney general's office, pledged a transparent investigation into the cause of the blaze. She said a group of disabled girls had been bused to another shelter as detectives scoured the site.

Plagued by Latin America's worst rates of child malnutrition and street gangs like the Mara Salvatrucha that often prey on minors, Guatemala can be a traumatic place to grow up. Conditions in the

Central American nation's public institutions are often dismal with widespread overcrowding.

On Tuesday night, riot police went in to quell unrest over the home's conditions. Dozens of residents escaped, but 54 were recaptured and isolated, Ramos said.

The Virgen de Asuncion home has long suffered from overcrowding, with Guatemalan media reporting that more than 500 people were crammed into the centre designed to house 400.—Reuters

Head of Brazil electoral court sees Temer surviving election case

BRASILIA — The head of Brazil's top electoral authority said on Wednesday that President Michel Temer would not necessarily lose power if his 2014 election was annulled on charges of illegal campaign financing because he was not the head of the ticket.

A federal judge is expected to recommend the annulment in the coming months following testimony from executives of engineering group Odebrecht alleging 300 million reais (\$95 million) in illicit donations to the campaign, in which Temer was the vice presidential running mate to Dilma Rousseff.

Centrist Temer took over the presidency following the impeachment of the left-leaning Rousseff in May for breaking budgetary rules.

If he can stay in power it could allow him to press on with fiscal reforms and austerity policies that have lifted Brazil's currency and stocks and raised chances the country will emerge from a deep recession this year.

Supreme Court Justice

Gilmar Mendes, who heads the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) overseeing the case, said a first ruling by the federal judge was not expected before June.

The plenary of the electoral court could then take until next year to reach a definitive decision on whether to annul the election result, said Mendes, who is linked to the PSDB party which is part of Temer's coalition.

Even if the court ruled in favour of doing so, Temer would not lose his political rights because Rousseff would be legally responsible for any wrongdoing as the head of the ticket, Mendes said.

"It is obvious that the vice president takes part in the election campaign but the one who is responsible for the slate is the president, the head of the ticket," Mendes told Reuters.

Because of the proximity to October 2018 presidential elections, Congress would have to choose a candidate to serve out the rest of the term — with Temer eligible to contest the vote in a chamber packed with his allies.—Reuters

IEE Study of 3D Seismic Survey in Offshore Blocks MD-2 & MD-4 by Eni

Eni Myanmar B.V. (Eni) is planning to conduct a 3D Offshore Seismic Survey in Myanmar Offshore Block MD-2, located in the southern part of Bay of Bengal, in the Rakhine Basin & MD-4, located in Gulf of Moattama, Myanmar. These are scheduled to commence in late 2017. An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) for the proposed activity is currently being prepared by Eni Myanmar, Environmental Resources Management (ERM), and Resource & Environment Myanmar (REM) and will be submitted to the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) in April 2017. After the IEE report is completed, it will be publically viewable on Eni's website as follows: <https://www.eni.com/en IT/media/focus-on/eni-myanmar.page>.

In the meantime, questions and comments can be submitted to Eni in writing by contacting the following e-mail address: info.enimyanmar@eni.com.

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

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA No. of the financing agreement is No. H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract for the supply and installation of satellite equipment and high-speed connection in three (3) township offices. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

REFERENCE NUMBER: G 70 – SUPPLY and INSTALLATION of SATELLITE EQUIPMENT and HIGH-SPEED CONNECTION in 3 Township Offices

Reference No.	Lot No.	Item No.	Description	Quantity
G-70	1	1	Supply and installation of Satellite Equipment and High Speed Connection in 3 Township Offices	3 sets
Supply and installation to Township Offices (Project Sites)			Township Offices: Paletwa, Hpasawng, Madupi.	

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Friday 31 March 2017 3pm**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

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

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



Tourists walk away after viewing the site where the Azure Window collapsed. Gozo resident Roger Chessell went to the coastline in the morning to take pictures. 'There was a big raging sea beneath the Azure Window,' he told the *Times of Malta* newspaper. 'Suddenly, the arch collapsed into the sea with a loud whoomph, throwing up a huge spray.' PHOTO: REUTERS

Malta's 'Azure Window' rock formation collapses into the sea

VALLETTA (Malta) — A rock structure in the form of an arch which had featured in countless Malta tourism brochures collapsed into the sea on Wednesday in what Prime Minister Joseph Muscat described as a "heart-breaking event".

Geologists had long warned that the struc-

ture, on the north-western coast of the small island of Gozo, was eroding fast and the authorities had banned visitors from walking on top of it.

The structure, known as the Azure Window because it arched over blue seas popular with divers, collapsed as Malta was hit

by rough seas and stormy weather.

Gozo resident Roger Chessell went to the coastline in the morning to take pictures.

"There was a big raging sea beneath the Azure Window," he told the *Times of Malta* newspaper. "Suddenly, the arch col-

lapsed into the sea with a loud whoomph, throwing up a huge spray."

Prime Minister Muscat said in a Tweet that the famous Mediterranean landmark had always faced destruction because of natural corrosion. "That sad day has arrived," he wrote.—*Reuters*

Famine-hit South Sudan to charge up to \$10,000 for foreign work permits

JUBA — War-ravaged South Sudan has hiked work permit fees 100-fold for foreign aid workers to \$10,000, officials said, despite suffering from famine.

The world's youngest nation has been mired in civil war since 2013, when

President Salva Kiir fired his deputy Riek Machar, sparking a conflict that has increasingly split the country along ethnic lines.

Last month, the United Nations declared that parts of the country are experiencing famine, the first time the world has faced such a ca-

tastrophe in six years.

Nearly half the population, or about 5.5 million people, is expected to lack a reliable source of food by July.

Despite the catastrophe, Juba will now charge \$10,000 for foreigners working in a "professional" capacity, \$2,000 for "blue collar" employees and \$1,000 for "casual workers" from 1 March, the labour ministry said in a decree.

Edmund Yakani, executive director of the local charity Community Empowerment for Progress Organisations (CEPO), said the move aimed to reduce the number of humanitarian workers.

"Actually, the work permit is too expensive for humanitarian workers, since over 90 per cent of the foreigners seeking to work in South Sudan are

humanitarian workers", he told Reuters.

Aid groups say they often face restrictions in South Sudan. In December, Juba expelled the country director of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) after security agents held him without charge for more than 24 hours.

The UN defines famine as when at least a fifth of the households in a region face extreme food shortages, acute malnutrition rates exceed 30 percent, and two or more people in every 10,000 are dying each day.

The fighting has uprooted more than 3 million people. Continuing displacement presents "heightened risks of prolonged (food) underproduction into 2018," the United Nations said in a report last month.—*Reuters*



Women and children wait to be registered prior to a food distribution carried out by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Thonyor, Leer state, South Sudan, on 26 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES- INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT)

[COUNTRY] **The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**
[NAME OF PROJECT] **Myanmar Flood and Landslides Emergency Recovery Project**
Loan No.: **5889 - MM**
Assignment Title: **International Environmental and Social Safeguard specialist**
Reference No.: **C4-IST-IC05**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Myanmar Flood and Landslides Emergency Recovery Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The consulting services ("the Services") include :

- ensuring adequate integration of environmental and social safeguards consideration into the project;
- providing technical oversight, guidance and quality control for the preparation of needed environmental and social safeguards instruments for sub-projects;
- Assisting the CIUs in the preparation of relevant Terms of Reference and in the assessment of preparatory works conducted on the project road sections
- Liaising closely with the CIUs in the design and implementation of safeguard related technical assistance and studies
- Assessing the capacities for safeguards screening, implementation, and supervision/monitoring of relevant staff in the implementing agencies;
- Supporting the design, preparation, and implementation of the Safeguard Training Program for the Project
- Providing technical inputs and quality assurance on the safeguards implementation reports
- Advise the CIUs on stakeholder and community engagement,
- Promote a culture of proactive environmental and social considerations and sustainability in the road sector

This is a part time position. The Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialist is expected to provide his/her services during a period of 3 years (extendable) as follows: 50% of the time during the first 6 months of the contract (3 months of first 6 months), then 25 % of the time (1 week per month). The position is renewable annually based on performance and mutual agreement.

The Ministry of Construction (MOC) and Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) now invite eligible individual consultant ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested individual consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services (e.g. consultant's profile, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, etc.). The minimum qualifications and experience requirements are:

- Must have Master's degree in environmental engineering, environmental management, natural resources management, environmental and social sciences or related field relevant to environmental and social management in the context of the Project.
- Minimum 10 years of international experience in environmental and social due diligence in development projects, preferably in South East Asia. Working experience with the environmental and social safeguards of International Financing Institutions (IFIs) or comparable bilateral financiers. Experience with the World Bank safeguards policies or IFC Performance Standards is a plus.
- Understanding of environmental and social aspects of road and infrastructure rehabilitation.
- Ability to undertake physically demanding travel to the Project sites in remote areas of Myanmar.
- Familiarity with government and foreign aid project operations
- Excellent communication skills, including speaking and writing in English
- Willingness to train local staff on day-to-day basis
- Good working knowledge of computer programs such as word, excel etc.

The attention of interested individual consultant is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers (Consultant Guidelines), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

An individual consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant Selection method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours **[09:30 to 16:00 hours' local time]**.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by **7th April 2017 (16:00 hours local time)**.

Attn: **For Detailed information please contact:**
Daw Tin Moe Myint, Director, U KyawSwaAung (Director)
Department of Rural Development Department of Rural Development
Office no-14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar +95(0) 943434333
Tel: 95 67 409410, 9595118240 ksaung@hotmail.com
Fax: 9567409210
E-mail: rbbdrd@gmail.com, ruralroad.drd@gmail.com

Ukrainian ballet star Polunin aims to help others manage their demons

LONDON — Ukrainian ballet sensation Sergei Polunin shocked the dance world when he quit as the Royal Ballet's principal dancer in 2012 at the age of just 21.

Now a new film, *Dancer*, due to open in Britain on Friday, documents how the tattooed 'bad boy of ballet' came to be one of the best dancers of his generation.

Polunin himself, meanwhile, has set up a company to bring dancers together to perform and help them avoid the stresses he faced.

Polunin, whose demons almost ended his ballet career, wants Project Polunin to help dancers better manage anxiety and prevent burnout. Advice includes employing a team of managers, agents and advisors and working independently of a theater company, as many actors and singers do.

"We are trying to give dancers a platform away from daily work where they can be artists, that's what it's about," Polunin



Ballet dancer Sergie Polunin (L) rehearses at the Royal Opera House for the Project Polunin show in London, Britain, on 1 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

said in an interview with Reuters. "It's about having fun, it's about creation, it's about developing yourself as an artist."

Born in Kherson, Ukraine, Polunin moved to London as a young teenager to join the Royal Ballet, speaking not a word of English. He later became the ballet's youngest ever principal

dancer at the age of 19.

"Dancer", directed by Steven Cantor, showcases his talent for and troubled relationship with dance, his attempt to end his career and the personal transformation that eventually saw him overcome his demons and stay the course as a ballet dancer.

"I thought I will do the docu-

mentary, I will show my best dance and I will move on to a different industry," Polunin said.

"I wanted to apply to an acting school, and then something happened. I realized that I cannot just walk away from it. Something keeps me, something hasn't been done yet."

Polunin will perform in a series of ballets put on by Project Polunin at the Sadler's Wells theater in London, from 14 March to 18 March.

He is also pursuing an acting career and is set to play a supporting role in the film 'The White Crow', about the life of legendary Russian ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev, to be directed by British actor Ralph Fiennes and based on the book by Julie Kavanagh.—Reuters

Laos to host int'l film festival 2017

VIENTIANE — The annual Vientiane International Film Festival is scheduled to be held on 22-26 March with 40 feature and short films from 25 countries and regions, including award-winning productions.

The festival is a well-established annual event including the short film competition awards ceremony that will take place on 26 March along Lao capital Vientiane's Walking Street.

The competition has grown into a real springboard for aspiring Lao filmmakers to showcase their talent with a record-breaking 42 entries submitted this year, including submissions from Luang Prabang, Xieng Khouang and Champassak provinces of Laos, Vientiane Film Festival Co-Director Helene Ourvards was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

Screening of films during this year's Vientiane Film Festival will take place everyday at the Cinema Department while open air cinema screenings will be held at the Walking Street by the Mekong River every night.

The Vientiane awards are growing into a major event in 2017 with a total of 11 awards, including six new categories. The best film will receive prize money of almost 1,000 US dollars, reported Lao state-run news agency KPL on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Scarlett Johansson files for divorce, requests custody of daughter

LOS ANGELES — American actress Scarlett Johansson filed for divorce from French journalist Romain Dauriac in New York this week and asked for full custody of the couple's daughter, as her estranged husband asked her to return to the negotiating table.

Johansson, 32, filed for divorce in New York Supreme Court on Tuesday on grounds of "the marriage being irretrievably broken." She requested joint legal custody and residential custody of the couple's 2-year-old daughter, Rose, according to court documents.

The couple married in 2014. The court documents ask for the enforcement of a prenuptial agreement dated 24 September 2014.

In a statement on Wednesday, Dauriac said it was "unfortunate" that Johansson filed for divorce in court "and made our personal differences so public."

"I would implore her to withdraw her action promptly

and to go back, as uncomfortable as it might be, to the negotiating table," he said.

The "Lost in Translation" actress declined to comment on the divorce.

"As a devoted mother and private person and with complete awareness that my daughter will one day be old enough to read the news about herself, I would only like to say that I will never, ever be commenting on the dissolution of my marriage," Johansson said in a statement. The divorce filing comes after media reports in January that the couple were separated. A lawyer for Dauriac said they both presently live in New York, but not together.

This is the second marriage for "Captain America" star Johansson, who was married to "Deadpool" actor Ryan Reynolds from 2008 to 2011.—Reuters



Scarlett Johansson. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cher wins dismissal of lawsuit over album cover font

NEW YORK — A federal judge on Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit accusing Cher of using a typeface created by Brooklyn, New York, graphic designer for her 2013 album "Closer to the Truth" without permission.

Moshik Nadav had sought to hold Cher, her label Warner Bros Records and other defendants liable for having "copied the artistic elements" of his "Paris Logo" typography for the album, whose estimated sales worldwide top 500,000.

US District Judge Alvin Hellerstein in Manhattan granted Nadav's request to dismiss the copyright infringement case without prejudice, meaning it can be brought again.

Nadav sought the dismissal after the defendants on Monday said typefaces are not subject to copyright protection, and that there were "profound differences" between the logos in question.

Roy Gross, a lawyer for Nadav, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Len Venger, a lawyer for the defendants, said they are happy with the dismissal, and "firmly believe that the lawsuit had no merit."

Warner Bros Records is part of Warner Music Group, which is controlled by billionaire Len Blavatnik's Access Industries.

Cher, 70, was born Cheryl Sarkisian, which is how her name appears in the court docket. She legally changed her name to Cher in 1978.

The case is Moshik Nadav Typography LLC et al v. Genesh Productions LLC et al, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 16-09838.—Reuters

Budget proposes making Delhi a destination for film shooting

NEW DELHI — To promote the national capital as a destination for film shooting, the Delhi government today proposed introduction of a single window clearance mechanism for completion of all formalities under one roof.

The government is planning to bring in a system so that legal formalities to shoot in the city

can be completed by visiting only one government office.

"A smooth system is being developed for granting permission to film producers and to provide them with consolidated information for shooting and to make film shooting a hassle-free experience," Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said while presenting the annual budget.

It remains to be seen whether the government will initiate a move to include all stakeholders under the single window clearance mechanism.

For shooting in monuments in the national capital and Lutyens' Delhi, filmmakers have to apply for permission from the Archaeological Survey of India and the New Delhi Municipal Coun-

cil respectively, that do not come under the Delhi government.

Filmmakers also need to procure a no-objection certificate from Delhi Police, which comes under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is a film buff and regularly praises films on his Twitter handle.—PTI



People feed elephants before a match at the annual King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament at a riverside resort in Bangkok, Thailand, on 9 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Elephants lumber across Thai polo field

BANGKOK — About 30 elephants took part in the opening of Thailand's annual elephant polo tournament in Bangkok on Thursday.

The King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament, now in its 15th year, is a charity event to raise money to help wild and domesticated elephants. It brings polo players from around the world looking for a different challenge.

Asian elephants can weigh more than five tonnes (11,000 lb) and move at more than 25 km (15 miles) an hour.

Mahouts handle the elephants while the players try to strike the ball with a stick that is much longer than the one used when playing on a pony. The ball is the same size as a regular polo ball.

"A lot of my experience lately has been rodeo," said Canadian Adam Janikowski, one of the players. "I don't think I ever want to do rodeo events with any of the elephants."

Elephant polo divides conservationists.

Some say it is cruel. Others say it has helped to raise funds to protect the animals and has highlighted the problems they face through habitat loss, poaching and abuse. Organizers said the King's Cup has raised more than \$1.3 million over 15 years.

The elephants are treated to a buffet of fruits and vegetables.—Reuters

Luxury tycoon Arnault to revamp Paris museum

PARIS — French luxury goods tycoon Bernard Arnault is expanding his art museum empire with plans to renovate a disused public building near his Louis Vuitton Foundation on the outskirts of Paris.

The Musee National des Arts et Traditions Populaires, built in 1972 but sitting vacant since 2005, is to be turned into a arts and crafts centre in a 158 million euros (\$167 million) revamp by architect Frank Gehry.

Arnault, who controls luxury group LVMH, told a news conference alongside President Francois Hollande, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo and Gehry that he viewed the new project as a "cultural start-up".

"We will bring new life to a building that has been sleeping for some time. It will create a great cultural hub and a good partner to the Foundation," Gehry added.

Named "La Maison LVMH/Arts-Talents-Patrimoine", the renovated building will host concert and exhibition halls and workshops after it opens in 2020.

LVMH will pay a fixed annual fee of 150,000 euros, plus a portion of revenue generated, under a 50 year-concession from the City of Paris.

Paris officials last year renewed LVMH's concession for the Jardin d'Acclimatation amusement park behind the disused museum site, opening the way for a renovation of the garden and its attractions.

LVMH, which has managed the park since 1984, holds an 80 per cent stake in a partnership with Compagnie des Alpes, a theme parks and ski resorts developer. The concession contract runs for 25 years.

The announcement comes as Francois Pinault, the founder of rival luxury group Kering, is due to open a museum in the city's Bourse du Commerce building at the end of next year to display works from his art collection.—Reuters

Bangladesh acid attack survivors show new confidence on fashion runway



Acid attack survivors walk on the ramp as they participate in a fashion show titled "Beauty Redefined" organized by ActionAid Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 7 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Siberian pageant shows beauty comes in all sizes

KRASNOYARSK, (Russia) — In Russia's snowy Krasnoyarsk, women preparing for a plus-sized beauty contest parade around a hall dressed in ball gowns and swimsuits — but also take classes in kick-boxing and dancing.

The competition, now in its second year, is organized by a local modeling agency, SibPlus. Inna Sertrakova, who works at the agency, said the pageant in May aims to challenge Russian attitudes that equate beauty with an ultra-slim figure.

"We want to show off our femininity even though it doesn't conform to current fashion standards because we want to be seen as beautiful," said Olga Olesnitskaya, 25, who won the competition in 2016.

Another of last year's contestants, Aleksandra Ryzhenkova, a violinist for the Krasnoyarsk State Opera Theatre and Ballet, said taking part had helped boost her self-image.

"After my children were born I put on a lot of weight and started trying to hide my figure, she said. "But now, after the competition, all of my insecurities melted away." —Reuters

DHAKA — Bangladesh hosted a fashion show with a difference to mark International Women's Day, featuring 15 confident catwalk models fighting to overcome the trauma of acid attacks.

Such horrific violence across South Asia is often prompted by insufficient dowries, rejection of advances or land disputes, disfiguring victims for life and ruining their prospects.

Sonali Khatun, 13, who had acid thrown on her face when she was just 17 days old over a family property dispute, led Tuesday night's parade.

She spent almost three years in hospital undergoing eight operations but never gave up hope of living a full life.

"I want to be a doctor," she told the audience, which was spontaneously cheering and clapping.

In 2008 at aged 24, model Asma Khatun's dreams were shattered when attackers poured acid over her four-member family, including her one-year-old daughter, while they were asleep, again because of a land dispute.

"The attackers were never caught but my whole family had to endure a lot of suffering," she said. "...I am so thrilled to be here."

Farah Kabir, Bangladesh country director of British charity ActionAid, which hosted the show called "Beauty Redefined", said the girls and women showed their inner strength.

"They have come a long way," she said.

In 2002, Bangladesh passed laws restricting the import and sale of acid and imposing the death penalty for acid throwers.

"This is something really close to my heart," designer Bibi Russell said. "I want them to have recognition. Let them have life as a part of this world."

Ganga Dasi, 40, had acid thrown on her face at the age of 17 after she refused a marriage proposal.

"I lost all hope to live. No one came forward to help us," she told Reuters as she was preparing for the show.

"I am now more confident. I will not hide my face any more." —Reuters



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(10-3-2017 07:00am ~ 11-3-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Glance At A Naga Family Life
07:44	Am	Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Gu Pha Ya
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Heart.....Filled With Noble Volunteerism
08:38	Am	Visiting A Serene Village In The Northwest Of Myanmar
08:54	Am	Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Rakhine The Land Of Sublime Pagodas
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Green Corner (Ep-16)
		"Valentine's Day"

10:37 Am Mobile House

10:47 Am Pet Fish Biz

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

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm New

07:25 Pm To The Land Of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (EP-1)

07:50 Pm Scented Buddha Images

07:54 Pm Now in Yangon

08:03 Pm New

08:25 Pm Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin

08:48 Pm Porcelain and Glass

08:54 Pm Now in Yangon

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) -Thursday 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)

Debate rages about Ronaldo, Benzema, Bale despite Real win



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo. PHOTO: REUTERS

BARCELONA — Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane's insistence on Cristiano Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale featuring together is under scrutiny after the Champions League holders were outplayed for long periods at Napoli despite reaching the quarter-finals.

Real's expensively assembled attacking trio, nicknamed the 'BBC', made just seven passes between themselves during the 3-1 come-from-behind win in Tuesday's last 16 second leg, with Ronaldo and Bale not passing to each other once.

Despite a 3-1 lead from the first leg, Real struggled to cope with an onslaught of pressure from the Serie A side in a frenzied San Paolo stadium and trailed at halftime to Dries Mertens' strike after 24 minutes.

The 11-time European champions were stronger after the break and drew level with a header from a corner by inspirational captain Sergio Ramos six minutes into the second half.

An own goal by Mertens six minutes later, triggered by another Ramos header, put Real 2-1 up.

Bale, who has recently returned from a three-month lay-off with an ankle injury, was replaced by Lucas Vazquez 11 minutes later and Benzema came in the 77th for Alvaro Morata,

who got their third in added time, sealing a 6-2 aggregate win.

Real's ragged performance despite the result contrasted with a fluid display in the 4-1 La Liga win at Eibar on Saturday, when Benzema started alongside Marco Asensio and Lucas Vazquez in the absence of the injured Ronaldo and suspended Bale.

Vazquez and Asensio's work rate provided relief for Real's midfield and full backs, who are often overworked when Bale and Ronaldo are both on the pitch.

Real have conceded seven goals and taken five points in their three league games since Bale returned to the lineup.

The season-long debate in the Spanish media about whether Benzema, Bale and Ronaldo can be accommodated in the same team resurfaced before the return leg at Napoli, a poll on the website of the daily AS (As.com) showing the real fans were overwhelmingly against the trio starting together in Naples.

Benzema reacted angrily to criticism of the attacking trio after the game, telling reporters: "They always focus on us three but we don't just score goals, we work very hard for the team, but every time there's a bad game they blame us."

Zidane also leapt to the defense of his forwards.—Reuters

Mourinho out for revenge as Man United visit Chelsea in Cup

LONDON — Jose Mourinho takes his Manchester United side back to former club Chelsea on Monday with a place in the FA Cup semi-finals at Wembley up for grabs and a score to settle with his old employers.

Mourinho endured a chastening return in October when Chelsea crushed United 4-0, a humiliating blow for the Portuguese at the hands of the club who sacked him for the second time last season.



Mourinho.

PHOTO: REUTERS

With Chelsea blazing a trail at the Premier League's summit and United way off the pace in sixth with a battle to ensure Champions League qualification ahead, the incentive is there for Mourinho to inflict revenge on Antonio Conte's side.

Whether United will have the tools to land a glove on Chelsea, however, remains to be seen. A testament to the fantastic job that Conte has done at Stamford Bridge is their 10-point lead at the top, a remarkable turnaround considering they sacked Mourinho 14 months ago with the club hovering above the relegation zone. When Chelsea beat United in October they were just getting into gear, having embarked on a 13-match winning run that would see them put clear water between themselves and their rivals. Since that streak was ended by Tottenham Hotspur in January, Chelsea have remained unbeaten with a watertight defence that has conceded just 20 times all season, the joint fewest in the top flight.

United's hopes of breaching that backline suffered a blow when striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who has scored 26 goals in his first season at the club, was banned for three games for elbowing Bournemouth's Tyrone Mings in their Premier League clash last weekend.—Reuters

Barca complete incredible comeback to sink PSG

BARCELONA — Barcelona became the first team in Champions League history to overturn a four-goal deficit in a knockout tie as a stoppage-time goal by Sergio Roberto completed an extraordinary 6-1 victory over Paris St Germain on Wednesday. Edinson Cavani looked to have wrecked Barcelona's dreams by volleying in an away goal to make the score 3-1 but two late strikes from Neymar set up a thrilling finale before Roberto scored to seal a 6-5 aggregate win for the Spanish side.

Barcelona began to believe in the impossible dream of clawing back their shock 4-0 loss from the first leg when Luis Suarez headed over the line in the third minute and a Layvin Kurzawa own goal gave them further hope before the break. Lionel Messi's penalty five minutes into the second period had the Nou Camp on its feet but Cavani's strike in the 62nd was a sucker punch to Barca's ambitions from which Luis Enrique's side took a while to recover.

A curled free kick from Neymar in the 88th minute gave them hope and the Brazilian converted a penalty before substitute Roberto slid in to knock the ball beyond Kevin Trapp from a chipped free kick and send Barca through to the last eight.

An electric atmosphere gripped the Nou Camp before kick-off after Suarez and Luis Enrique had said they truly believed a comeback was on and the players caught the wave of optimism by swarming all over PSG from the first whistle. Trapp struggled to cope with the early pressure

and flapped at a high ball, allowing Suarez to jump ahead of him and force the ball over the line.

PSG had a penalty appeal turned down when Julian Draxler's low cross struck Javier Mascherano's arm but it was one of few forays forward from PSG in the first half as Barca did all

the attacking. The Catalans owed their second to another piece of slack defending, however, as Iniesta nudged his way past Marquinhos in the area to knock the ball back into the danger zone and it bounced off the swinging leg of Kurzawa and into the far corner.—Reuters



Barcelona players celebrate after the game, UEFA Champions League Round of 16 Second Leg at The Nou Camp, Barcelona, Spain, on 8 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS