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SEVEN DISCUSS FIVE

Union Peace Conference enters second day with seven stakeholders' discussions on five topics

Ye Myint

THE first session of the country's Union Peace Conference, set to run for five days in total, entered its second day with group discussions held by seven stakeholders on five topics of discussion at the political dialogue, the first of its kind in Myanmar after its independence.

Day 2 of the conference brought together representatives on behalf of the stakeholder groups of the government, Tatmadaw, Parliament, ethnic armed organisations, political parties, ethnic minorities and other invitees that include intellectuals and intelligentsia into roundtable discussions on five topics under five separate agenda themes—political, economic and social issues, security and land and natural resources.

The five topics of discussion include the basic principles for establishing a democratic federal Union, resettlement and rehabilitation of internally displaced persons, taxation and revenue sharing, the basic principles for national defence and security and natural resources management and distribution.

U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace



Roundtable discussion of the stakeholder group of ethnic armed organisations is seen at the country's first political dialogue in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO CREDIT TO MPC

Centre, expressed his view on the conference that ongoing political dialogue will be of great benefit to participants, thereby making their objectives clear and contrib-

uting towards better networking and trust among them.

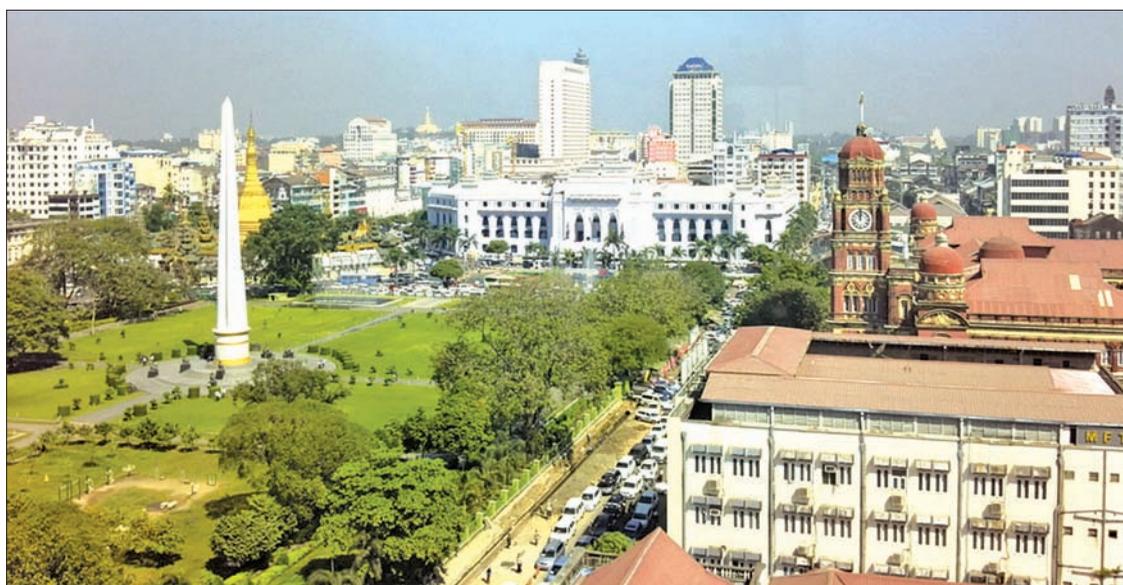
According to the conference's agenda, representatives from respective stakeholder

groups are set to take part in group discussions on each of topics on its third and fourth day. All the discussions on each topic will be read out and the

presentation of proposals for future political dialogue talks will be presented on the fifth and final day.

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Yangon commercial spaces gain attention of foreign investors



The prices of rooms, houses, land and apartments have risen with booming of property market. PHOTO: MON OO NADI

FOREIGN investors have shown more interest in commercial spaces in downtown Yangon after the election period in November, said U Aung Ko Ko, manager of House.com.mm, an online marketplace for property listings in Myanmar.

The number of people who visited the property website to rent commercial spaces has increased by 20 per cent in the few months since the election, he added.

Foreign investors base their decisions about property rentals on location, rental fees and internet access; many investors operate IT businesses in the country. Trading companies have also been seeking commercial spaces near downtown and government

offices.

Mr Balaji Ramaswami of House.com.mm said investors' interest in the country's real estate market and the high demand for commercial property offer encouragement to local builders and skilled workers to speed up their work.

International businesses tend to prefer ready-made office apartments.

The Myanmar property market has boomed over the last several years. Since then, the prices of rooms, houses, land and apartments have skyrocketed. However, since late 2014, the market has been declining due to shrinking demand. The market remained cool in 2015.—Mon Oo Nadi

Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses three bills

THE 13th regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for its 29th day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, discussing three bills.

The three bills are the Remuneration Bill, the Shops and Departments Bill and the bill to amend the Workshop Act of 1951. At the session, U Myo Myint, who was recently appointed as the Union Auditor General, took his oath of office in front of the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

During the meeting, the joint bill committee and other MPs discussed allocation and expenditure policies for the Union Budget Bill for 2016.

Amyotha Hluttaw Round-up

AT yesterday's session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, U Khin Maung Yi, the MP from constituency No. 6 in Ayeyawady Region, asked whether plans are being devised by the government for quick responses and preven-



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

tive measures for terrorist attacks.

In response, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint said the government is

actively cooperating with regional and international organisations to prevent terrorist acts.

"A 24-member central body

led by the Union Minister for Home Affairs has been formed to quickly respond to terrorist acts," the deputy minister said.

During the meeting, four MPs also discussed the Former Presidents Security Bill.—*Myanmar News Agency*

14 fishermen return from Indonesia



Fishermen are being welcomed by authorities on their arrival at Yangon International Airport.

PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

FOURTEEN fishermen rescued from Indonesia's Ambon Island arrived back to Yangon yesterday.

At the Yangon International Airport, authorities welcomed the fishermen who are from Yangon, Magway, Taninthayi, Bago and Ayeyawady regions as well as Kachin and Kayin states.

"We will investigate whether they were trafficked to Indonesia.

If so, we will expose the human traffickers responsible. Even if they can't remember their traffickers, we will record their cases and will try to get compensation for their grievances through the concerned authorities," said Police Col Ye Win Aung of the Yangon Region anti-trafficking police force.

Out of 14, two did not get their salaries as they could not

remember the name of the fishing boat or the company that they worked for.

They are currently being sheltered at the Social Welfare Department in Mayangon Township before they return home.

So far, 1,010 fishermen have been repatriated from Indonesia. There were 24 batches in 2015, and 28 so far in 2016.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*

Myanmar Dental Conference on 26 Jan

THE 36th conference of Myanmar dentists will be held from 26 to 30 January at the University of Dental medicine in Yangon.

In coincidence with the conference, aged dentists and oral surgeons will be paid respects on 26 January at the con-

ference. A meeting for electing new members for a central executive committee of the Myanmar Dental Association will be held during the conference.

New members for the central executive committee for the association will be selected for the 19th committee.

The association has invited its members to attend the conference and to contact U Sein Win Secretary of the commission for selecting new members for the central executive committee of the association, Ph: 09 42117867.—*Myanmar News Agency*

MoFA expresses deep concern on DPRK's hydrogen bomb test

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar expresses its deep concern on the hydrogen bomb test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 6 January 2016.

The test is in violation of the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and undermines the international non-proliferation regime and increases tension in the Korean Peninsula.

Myanmar attaches great importance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Also being a dedicated State Party of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty which aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, Myanmar is working vigorously towards a world free of nuclear weapons. In this regard, Myanmar urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to comply with the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
13 January 2016

Shops from Mingalar Market relocated

WITH the assistance of Yangon City Development Committee, shops affected from the Mingalar Market have been relocated.

Authorities has targeted to relocate more than 4,700 shops in two days, planning to establish temporary location for them at Shwe Pyay Sone market, Mingalar Mon Market and Car Parking.

There will be about 3,000

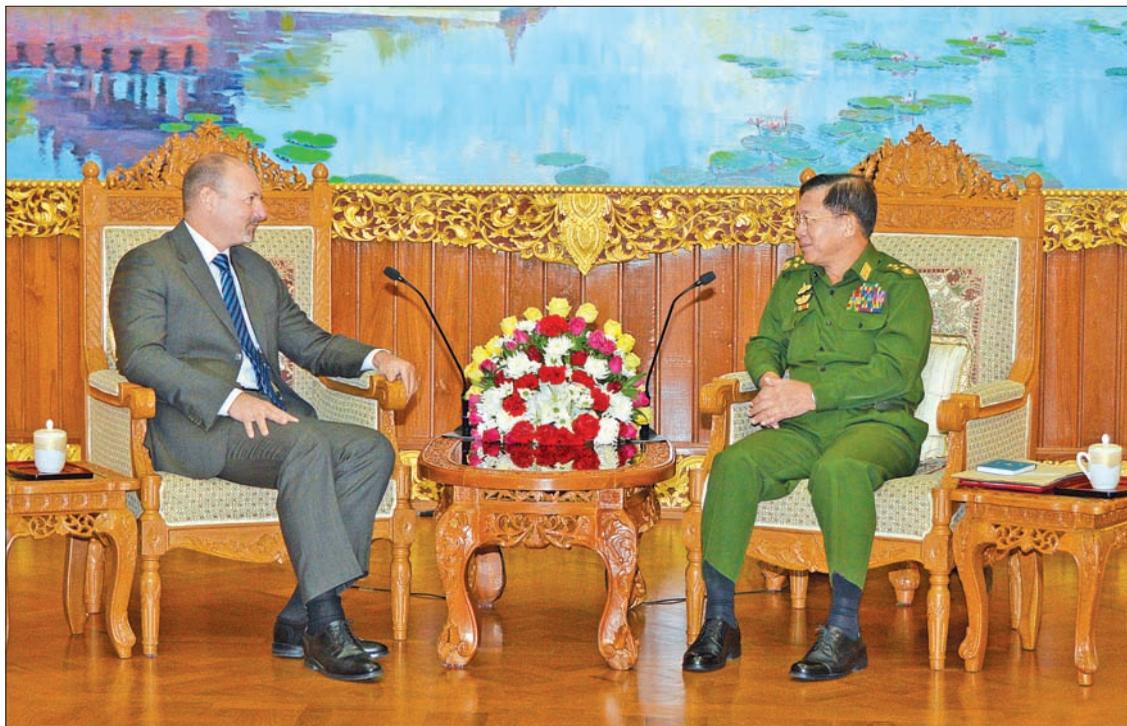
shops of 5x5 feet at the temporary market, but shop owners have to draw lots to get a spot. The January-9 fire engulfed the 3rd, 4th and 5th floors.

The government pledged to grant loans with low-interest rate to shopkeepers who lost property in the fire.

The fire destroyed more than 1,630 shops, causing more than 3.6 billion kyat worth of loss.—*Kay Khaing*

There shall be only one army

Constitution grants equal rights



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives EU ambassador Mr Roland Kobia. PHOTO: MYAWADY

THE Union Peace Conference, a historic and vital step in Myanmar's reform process, is currently under way, and the people have placed high hopes on the conference, said Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing during a meeting with EU ambassador Mr Roland Kobia at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

He explained to Mr Kobia that the peace process is an internal affair, and it will be carried out among local stakeholders.

"In building peace, the livelihoods of indigenous armed group members must be guaranteed," said the senior general.

He added that the government will make arrangements for those wishing to lead civilian lives and for those who wish to enter the Tatmadaw in accordance with rules and regulations.

"The constitution already grants equal rights to all indigenous people, including self-administration, but they will not be allowed to keep arms for their defence or for their efforts to cling to power," said

the senior general.

There shall be one only army, he said.

The senior general also told the EU diplomat that his army is trying to preserve the peace and democracy Myanmar has already achieved.

During the meeting, the EU ambassador discussed the EU's participation in the peace process, the relations between the EU and the Myanmar Defence Services, the progress of democratic reforms and interfaith tensions.—*Myawady*

Bilateral ties between the two armies will be strengthened

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said the willingness to have peace and stability and to live up to honourable rules will make the whole world peaceful during his meeting with Mr Jaroslav Dolecek, the Czech Ambassador to Myanmar, at Zeyar Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Senior General said that

Myanmar is just developing and so, while not entirely in place now, is being worked at by the government and concerned parties. He noted that Myanmar will co-operate with developed nations and maintain friendly ties. He discussed with the ambassador matters relating to the election, peace-building and the promotion of relations between the two armies.—*Myawady*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Mr Jaroslav Dolecek, the Czech Ambassador to Myanmar, at Zeyar Thiri Beikman. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Police arrest four pirates in Ayeyawady River

POLICE arrested four pirates in the Ayeyawady River two days after the gang robbed two anchored cargo boats on 9 January.

Acting on a tip-off, six police units raided a hut on Yaukmasoat (Aik Dai) Island on 11 January and discovered three batteries, two stereos, a Honda engine and a boat buried on the island.

In the afternoon, police arrested the four suspects, who tried to escape by boat in the river.

During the interrogation, the four suspects—Kyaw Moe Htwe (aka Ko Moe), 30, Nann Win San (aka Nan Win Aung), 21, Zaw Min Oo (aka Than Zin Oo), 22, and Aung Min, 30, of Hsetar

Village in Patheingyi Township, admitted to being members of a 12-member pirate gang and to robbing the two cargo boats.

The gang, who robbed the cargo vessels while holding swords and sticks, stole K1 million and nine mobile phones from the "Sein Sun Nyo" cargo boat. They also stole K2 million and 12 mobile phones from and the "Aye Chan Myanmar" cargo boat. The cargo boats were anchored in the river near Thahtaygon Village, Madaya Township.

The police are now pursuing the rest of the gang.—*Myanmar Police Force*



(From L to R) Zaw Min Oo (aka Than Zin Oo), Aung Min, Kyaw Moe Htwe (aka Ko Moe) and Nann Win San. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

MYANMAR GAZETTEE

THE president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Rector Dr Daw Yi Yi Win, Cooperative University (Sagaing) under the Ministry of Cooperatives as the Rector of the Cooperative University (Thanlyin) under the same ministry from the date she assumes charge of her duties.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Seven discuss five

Union Peace Conference enters second day with seven stakeholders' discussions on five topics

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On Day 3 and 4 of the conference, representatives from seven groups of stakeholders will be brought into separate topics of discussion, said the MPC's adviser who represents the group of other invitees at the conference.

For example, 150 or 170 of

700 representatives from seven stakeholder groups to the UPC will gather to partake in topics of discussion under the subject of politics while discussion on land and natural resources will have around 40 representatives, he added.

During the five days of talks

on five topics of discussion under five agenda items in Nay Pyi Taw, the Tatmadaw, ethnic armed organisations and political parties have 150 seats each while 75 seats are given to the current government and Parliament and 50 seats each are set for ethnic representatives and other invitees.

Mingun, Sagaing Region crowded with tourists

LOCATED on the western bank of the Ayeyawady River, Mingun in Sagaing Region is a popular tourist attractions in Myanmar and receives flocks of tourists ever day.

The region is a historic area

boasting the country's famous Mingun Bell, Giant Lion, Pahtoetawgyi Pagoda and Myatheintan Pagoda. The majority of foreign visitors prefer traditional paintings and other handmade materials

from the region. Among the handmade equipment bamboo hats have proven very popular. The bamboo crafts makers have seen their income double during the high season, a maker said.—*Kyemon*

Philippines offers eight bases to US under new military deal

MANILA — The Philippines has offered the United States eight bases where it can build facilities to store equipment and supplies under a new security deal, a military spokesman said yesterday, amid rising tension with China over the South China Sea.

Last year, the Philippines and the United States signed the Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) granting Washington increased military presence in its former colony, rotating ships and planes for humanitarian and maritime security operations.

“The list has been prepared many months ago when we had earlier discussions,” Colonel Restituto Padilla told reporters, saying five military airfields, two naval bases and a jungle training camp were offered to the United States.

“These are still subject for approval and we’re going to hold final discussions about these areas.”

Three of these bases are on

the main island of Luzon in the northern Philippines, including Clark airfield, a former US air force base, and two are on the western island of Palawan, near the South China Sea.

The Americans are also seeking access to three civilian seaports and airfields on Luzon, including Subic Bay, a former US Navy base, a senior defence official told Reuters.

Last year, more than 100 US Navy ships docked in Subic and two advanced nuclear-powered stealth submarines made visits in the first two weeks of this year.

“Subic is important to the Americans because it is one of the few areas in the country where they can actually dock safely,” said a defence official, who declined to be named because he is not authorised to speak to the press.

In Washington, Defence Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said security cooperation with the US had become more intertwined amid increasing tension

over the South China Sea.

The Philippines has filed a protest against China’s test flights from an artificial island in the South China Sea, a foreign ministry spokesman said, describing the actions as “provocative” and a violation of an existing informal code.

Every year more than \$5 trillion of world trade is shipped through the South China Sea, believed to have huge deposits of oil and gas, which China claims almost entirely. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam have rival claims.

China’s official Xinhua news agency, in an English-language commentary, said the EDCA would only escalate tension and “could push the situation to the brink of war”.

“The deal is groundless because China, which sticks to a defensive defense policy, has never coerced any country on the South China Sea issue,” it said.—*Reuters*

Search for missing Malaysian jet finds second 19th century shipwreck

SYDNEY — The search for a missing Malaysia Airlines plane in the Indian Ocean has turned up the second centuries-old shipwreck but no sign of the aircraft which disappeared with 239 passengers and crew nearly two years ago, searchers said yesterday.

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 went missing during a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March, 2014.

The Australian-led underwater search, the most expensive ever conducted, is expected to be completed by the middle of 2016, having scoured more than half of a planned 120,000 sq kms (74,000 sq miles) of seafloor, the agency overseeing the effort said, ruling out any expansion of the search without new leads.

“In the absence of credible new information that leads to the identification of a specific location of the aircraft, governments have agreed that there will be no further expansion of the search

area,” Australia’s Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC), which is overseeing international search efforts, said in a statement.

The search has focused on a remote part of southern Indian Ocean, where the plane is widely believed to have gone down.

A piece of the plane found washed up on the French island of Reunion in July 2015 provided the first direct evidence that the plane had crashed into the sea. No further trace has been found.

In May searchers found the wreckage of what was believed to be a 19th century cargo ship and now sonar imagery has identified what is likely to be a second shipwreck, a steel/iron vessel dating from the turn of the 19th Century, according to JACC.

In the earlier wreckage, searchers found an anchor and other objects believed to be man-made as well as what were thought to be lumps of coal.—*Reuters*

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Politically powerful Thai rubber farmers say latest government help is not enough



Baskets filled with rubber are seen at the central rubber market in Nong Khai, Thailand, in September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Steps announced this week by Thailand’s ruling junta to help rubber producers grappling with plunging prices do not go far enough, some farmers said yesterday.

The cabinet has promised to buy some rubber directly from farmers at rates above market levels and announced piecemeal measures including a plan to open up rubber processing factories.

The moves came after protest threats by rubber farmers galva-

nized a military government that draws much of its support from Bangkok and the south, the country’s main rubber-growing region.

Farmers have been calling for solutions to falling demand for rubber, driven by a slowdown in the economy of China, the world’s biggest importer of the commodity.

The government said it would buy rubber directly from producers at prices of up to 60 baht (\$1.66) a kilogram before the

current tree tapping season ends. But that disappointed some farmers who had been demanding a set price of 60 baht, roughly double current market levels.

Suthorn Rakrong, a spokesman for 16 rubber groups, said on Wednesday that if prices did not reach 60 baht within 30 days protests would take place, but added that the government still had his support.

“Rubber farmers in the south are rooting for the government.

We can see that they are trying,” he said.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha had pledged to wean rice and rubber farmers off expensive subsidies used by the government it ousted, but — under pressure to please politically powerful farmers — it approved more than \$1 billion in rural subsidies last year.

“I have worked almost to death, I have done more than other governments,” Prayuth told reporters in response to questions about demands made by rubber farmers. Thailand has been broadly split along north-south political lines for more than a decade.

A bastion of the conservative, military-royalist establishment, southern Thailand hosts much of the country’s tourism and is also the main rubber-growing region.

The north and northeast holds the support of ousted, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his sister former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, whose government was ended by the army in 2014.

Rubber farmers were among the first groups to protest in 2013 against the civilian government led by Yingluck. Saksarit Sriprasart, a farmer leader, said on Wednesday his group would get rid of “inefficient government officials who cannot solve rubber price problems”. “Our faith in the government has never been so shaken.”—*Reuters*

North Korea's Kim calls for expansion of nuclear arsenal

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for an expansion of the size and power of his country's nuclear arsenal, state media said yesterday, a week after a nuclear test that drew condemnation from its neighbours and the United States.

Last week's nuclear test was North Korea's fourth, although the United States and experts doubt the North's claim that it was of a more powerful hydrogen bomb, as the blast was of about the same size as that from an atomic bomb test in 2013.

"(Kim) called for bolstering up both in quality and quantity the nuclear force capable of mak-

ing nuclear strikes at the US-led imperialists any time and in any space ... if they encroach upon the sovereignty of the DPRK and make threatening provocations," the official KCNA state news agency said.

The North's official name is Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Kim "set forth the important tasks to be fulfilled to bolster up the nuclear force," it said, and called for the "detonation of more powerful H-bomb in the future."

Kim was speaking at a ceremony to award scientists and others behind last week's nuclear tests, which North Korea has

been touting in state media as a major achievement.

In April, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Chinese nuclear experts have warned that North Korea may have 20 nuclear warheads and the capability to produce enough weapons-grade uranium to double its arsenal by 2016. That estimate exceeded most previous US assessments, which ranged from 10 to 16 bombs at the time.

On Tuesday, the US House of Representatives voted nearly unanimously to pass legislation that would broaden sanctions over North Korea's nuclear programme.—*Reuters*



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indian PM to reshuffle Cabinet after re-election of ruling BJP chief

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to reshuffle his Cabinet after his confidante Amit Shah's re-election as ruling party chief, sources said yesterday.

"The election schedule for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s President will be out Friday and with no other contender for the post, Shah is likely to get re-elected by consensus," the sources said. The re-election of Shah, credited for helping the BJP win 72 of 80 seats in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh in 2014 parliamentary elections, is crucial as polls are due in five states this year. "Once Shah gets the top post in the party again, Modi will go for a Cabinet reshuffle.

The four ministries — home, finance, defense and foreign — are unlikely to be touched," the sources said.

However, some new faces may be inducted into the Cabinet and some non-performing ministers are likely to be dropped given Modi is looking to firm up delivery on the governance front,



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: REUTERS

they said. Several key reforms bills are stuck in the Parliament and winning polls in some of the five states are crucial for the government which doesn't have a majority in the Upper House (Rajya Sabha). Any bill needs the approval of both the Lower House (Lok Sabha) — where the government enjoys majority — and Rajya Sabha where the opposition parties, mainly Congress, are playing spoilsport.

"Once the government gets majority in the Upper House of Parliament, all reforms bills will get through easily and the country will be fast-tracked on reforms path," the sources said.—*Xinhua*

Hong Kong leader pushes integration with China in policy speech

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's leader, in an annual policy address that lacked sweeping new programmes, announced steps to boost integration with China, pinning the city's future on the success of Beijing's international "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

Leung Chun-ying, who started a five-year term as chief executive in 2012, said yesterday Hong Kong would play a significant role in promoting the new "silk road" spreading from Western China to Central Asia and Europe.

"Hong Kong is well-positioned to capture the wealth of the Belt and Road," Leung said, adding the financial hub would create a committee to formulate policies on the initiative.

He pledged spending of HK\$1.2 billion (\$154.65 million) to support the push, most of that for scholarships for students from countries targeted by the programme. He mentioned "One Belt, One Road" 40 times in his speech. The policy address

has previously been a platform for leaders in the Chinese-controlled city to hand out billions to the less-advantaged or to signal shifts in economic and other political policies.

Many Hong Kong residents are dissatisfied with Leung's administration. Four lawmakers were removed from the chamber for heckling during Wednesday's speech.

Leung, who pledged in 2012 to make housing more affordable, said Hong Kong's lack of affordable property remained a serious problem.

Prices and rents "are still beyond what people can afford, and have distorted the values of the younger generation," he said. "We should continue to tackle the housing problem head-on and must not concede."

He said about 97,100 public housing units will be built over the next five years.

In tiny Hong Kong, more than seven million people are packed into just 30 per cent of the

territory. The chief executive has presided over some turbulent history as Hong Kong's relationship to Beijing is being contested. Pro-democracy protesters shut down major roads for 79 days in late 2014 and Leung's administration was accused of meddling in academic appointments at the top university.

Five Hong Kong booksellers critical of China's leaders have also gone missing, sparking concerns that they were illegally abducted by mainland Chinese agents.

Now the city's economy — whose growth is closely tied to mainland China's — is slowing.

The Hong Kong dollar's peg to the US dollar has made it an increasingly expensive destination for mainland Chinese who come to shop and buy property.

The former British colony returned to China in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula that gives it some autonomy and a promise of eventual universal suffrage.—*Reuters*

Bullet train billed as running modern art museum to debut in spring

TOKYO — A special bullet train billed as a running modern art museum will debut on the Joetsu Shinkansen line this spring, featuring modern art both on the exterior and in the interior.

The Genbi (modern art) Shinkansen, a six-car train, will run between Niigata on the Sea of Japan coast and Echigo-Yuzawa, a gateway to hot spring and ski resorts, mainly on the weekends and holidays. East Japan Railway Co. unveiled the train's exterior on Tuesday. It is adorned with images of fireworks taken by renowned photographer Mika Ninagawa.

Inside the train will display works such as paintings by Nao Matsumoto and videos by Brian Alfred. JR East said the train will offer not only "the world's fastest art experience" but also a cafe serving coffee and sweets.—*Kyodo News*



The Genbi Shinkansen, a six-car bullet train adorned with images of fireworks taken by renowned Japanese photographer Mika Ninagawa, is unveiled at JR Omiya Station, north of Tokyo, on 12 January 2016. East Japan Railway Co. will run the train, which displays modern art inside, between Echigo-Yuzawa and Niigata stations on the Joetsu Shinkansen Line mainly on the weekends and holidays from this spring. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

South Korea fires warning shots at suspected drone near border

SEOUL — South Korea fired warning shots yesterday near an "unidentified flying object" over its border with North Korea, a military official told Reuters, while a news agency said it was a suspected North Korean drone.

The object returned to the northern side of the border following the warning shots, the official at South Korea's joint chiefs of staff told Reuters.

The South's Yonhap News Agency reported that South Korean forces fired about 20 machinegun rounds at the suspected North Korean drone. The official declined to say how many shots were fired.—*Reuters*

Scotland's Sturgeon says Britain could be heading for EU exit



Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon (C) speaks with Michelle Martin (L) and Wendy Symonds in a rest centre for flood victims at Newton Stewart in Scotland, Britain in December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — British voters may opt to leave the European Union if Prime Minister David Cameron holds a referendum on membership as early as June, Scottish nationalist leader Nicola Sturgeon has said, *The Scotsman* newspaper reported yesterday.

Cameron is pushing for a deal on new membership terms from other EU leaders before a referendum which he could call this summer, though opinion polls have shown that opposition to the European Union is growing in Britain.

Sturgeon was quoted by *The Scotsman* newspaper as saying that if the referendum was called in June there might be too little time to convince voters in the rest of Britain that EU membership was the right choice.

"It would leave barely four months — including the period

of the Scottish election — for the public to fully engage in and for the arguments about EU membership to be heard fully," she told a news conference, according to the report.

"David Cameron needs to get away from the very narrow focus on these renegotiation issues and make the big picture case for staying in," Sturgeon was quoted as saying.

Sturgeon, leader of the Scottish National Party and of Scotland's devolved government, said she was confident Scotland would vote to stay in the EU, but was now less sure about what the rest of the United Kingdom would decide, the paper reported.

Scotland has 5 million people, compared with England which has 53 million and represents about 84 per cent of the

population of the United Kingdom. Scots voted 55-45 per cent against independence in a referendum in 2014, but Sturgeon's party then won 56 of the 59 seats representing Scotland in the national parliament in London in an election last May.

Scottish nationalists have repeatedly told Cameron that he cannot rule out giving Scotland another independence referendum, and that a situation in which Scots voted to stay in the EU but a majority of all Britons voted to leave could be a trigger.

Sturgeon has previously said there could only be another independence vote if a majority of Scots voted for a party which proposed one in a Scottish parliamentary election. Such an election is due in May this year.—*Reuters*

Belgium identifies three Paris attack plot safe houses

BRUSSELS — A number of the Paris attackers used two apartments and a house in Belgium as possible safe houses in the weeks in leading up to their coordinated shooting and suicide bomb assault on the French capital, investigators said yesterday.

Federal prosecutors said in a statement, summarizing some of their findings, that the Paris attack plotters had rented an apartment in Brussels and another in the city of Charleroi at the start of September.

They had also rented a house in the town of Auvelais, some 55

kilometres (35 miles) south of Brussels, at the start of October. All three were rented for a year, and paid in cash.

The tenants gave false identities. Investigators found DNA traces of one of the attackers, Bilal Hadfi, who blew himself up in Paris on 13 November, the prosecutors said.

In the Charleroi apartment they found mattresses and fingerprints of both Hadfi and Abdelhamid Abaaoud, a Belgian who had fought in Syria and was believed to be one of the plot leaders. He was killed after a siege in

St Denis, near Paris, on 18 November.

The house in Auvelais contained several mattresses. Investigators have also established that the Seat Leon hatchback used in the Paris attacks stopped near the suspected safe houses in Charleroi and Auvelais. Another vehicle, a BMW rented by a suspect, stopped near all three locations.

Prosecutors said last week that they had found a possible Paris attacks bomb factory in the Brussels district of Schaerbeek, with traces of explosives and handmade belts.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

US aircraft carrier acted provocatively after Iran arrested sailors: IRGC

DUBAI — A US aircraft carrier acted "provocatively and unprofessionally" for 40 minutes by carrying out maneuvers in the Gulf after Iran arrested 10 American sailors, Iran's Revolutionary Guards Naval commander, Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi, said on state television yesterday.

Separately, a spokesman for the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) said the US sailors were being interrogated, according to the Tasnim news agency.—*Reuters*

Moscow confirms Russians detained in Turkey over Islamic State links

MOSCOW — Russia's Consulate General in Turkish city of Antalya confirmed that three Russians had been detained over suspected connection to the Islamic State, state news agency RIA reported yesterday.

Dogan News Agency reported on Wednesday that Turkish police had detained three Russian nationals following a suicide bomb attack in Istanbul.—*Reuters*

DSS and Dveri form pre-election coalition

BELGRADE — The Serbian Movement Dveri and the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) Tuesday signed a coalition agreement to run for local and provincial elections, stressing that they would be fighting for calling parliamentary elections as well.

Dveri leader Bosko Obradovic and DSS leader Sanda Raskovic Ivic said that they were forming a new patriotic block, so that those in Serbia opposing accession to the European Union (EU) could have someone to vote for.

At the beginning of the election year, the patriotic coalition is officially creating a new force that will be a big surprise in the elections, Dveri cited Obradovic as saying in a release.—*Tanjug*

No concrete clues of 'attack targets' in Germany after Istanbul bomb

BERLIN — German Justice Minister Heiko Maas said yesterday that the security situation in Germany had not changed after a suicide bomber killed at least 10 people, mainly German tourists, in Istanbul on Tuesday.

"We know Germany is also a target for terrorists and so a general danger certainly cannot be denied but at the moment there are no concrete indications of attack targets but the authorities are very, very alert," he told broadcaster ARD.—*Reuters*

Iran sought US apology for 'violating' territorial waters — Iranian official

DUBAI — Iran's Revolutionary Guards said yesterday that Tehran had asked the United States for an apology after its sailors were arrested for "violating" Iran's waters.

"Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was in touch with US Secretary of State Kerry," the Guard's naval commander, Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi, said in an interview broadcast live on state television.

"Zarif took a firm stance as the sailors had violated Iran's territorial waters and asked the United States for an apology," he added.—*Reuters*

Briton charged in carbon trading probe in Germany

FRANKFURT — Frankfurt prosecutors said they have charged a British man with having been a member of a gang involved in fraudulent trading of carbon permits and evading about 58 million euros (\$62.7 million) of taxes.

The move is part of an investigation relating to so-called carousel trades made in 2009 and 2010, in which buyers imported emissions permits in one Europe-

an Union country without paying value-added tax (VAT) and then sold them to each other, adding VAT to the price and generating tax refunds when no tax had been paid. The 35-year-old Briton used his Munich-based company to act as a middle-man in such trades, at the bidding of the carbon trading gang's masterminds, the Frankfurt prosecutor's office said in a statement yesterday.—*Reuters*

Iran released US sailors in international waters

DUBAI — Iran released ten US sailors yesterday after holding them overnight, bringing a swift end to an incident that had rattled nerves days ahead of the expected implementation of a landmark nuclear accord between Tehran and world powers.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said it had freed the sailors after determining they had entered Iranian territorial waters by mistake. The sailors had been detained aboard two US Navy patrol boats in the Gulf on Tuesday.

"Our technical investigations showed the two US Navy boats entered Iranian territorial waters inadvertently," the IRGC said in a statement carried by

state television. "They were released in international waters after they apologised," it added.

IRGC Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi had earlier said that the two US Navy boats entered Iranian territorial waters due to a broken navigation system.

The incident raised tensions between Iran and the United States, which, along with other world powers, reached a deal last year under which Iran will curb its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

Some conservatives in both countries, enemies since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, have criticised the deal that is due to be implemented in the coming

days. Iran's armed forces chief, Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, said the incident should demonstrate Iranian strength to "troublemakers" in the US Congress, which has sought to put pressure on Iran after the nuclear deal.

And at a presidential campaign rally in the United States, Republican frontrunner Donald Trump, who accuses President Barack Obama of being weak on foreign policy, described the incident as "an indication of where the hell we're going".

Attributing the boats' incursion into Iranian waters to a navigation error marked a de-escalation in rhetoric. Earlier, the Guards had said the boats were

"snooping" in Iranian territory and said Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had demanded an apology from Washington.

The IRGC, the Islamic Republic's praetorian guard, is highly suspicious of US military activity near Iran's borders and many senior officers suspect Washington of pursuing regime change in Tehran.

The Guards operate land and naval units separate to the regular armed forces and stage frequent wargames in the Gulf, which separates Iran from its regional rival Saudi Arabia and a US naval base in Bahrain.

Last month, the US Navy said an IRGC vessel fired unguided rockets near the aircraft carrier USS Harry S Truman in the Strait of Hormuz, a critical shipping route for crude oil that connects the Gulf to the Indian Ocean. Iran denied the vessel had done so.

In April 2015, the Guards seized a container ship belonging to Maersk, one of the world's major shipping lines, in the Gulf because of a legal dispute between the company and Iran. The ship and its 24 crew members were released after 10 days.

The Guards have also seized British servicemen on two occasions, in 2004 and 2007, and a civilian British yacht crew in 2009.

On each occasion the sailors were released unharmed after several days.—Reuters



Riverine command boats assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 4, transit open water in the 5th fleet area of responsibilities in this June 27, 2013 handout photo provided by the US Navy, on 12 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Suicide bomber kills at least 10 in Cameroon

DOUALA — A suicide bomber killed at least 10 people and wounded at least one in an attack on a mosque in northern Cameroon yesterday, officials in the Far North region said, in the latest attack linked to an insurgency by militant group Boko Haram.

The Islamist group whose origins are in northeastern Nigeria has stepped up attacks in neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger since last year. Many of the recent Cameroon attacks have been conducted by women.

"The suicide attack took place at 5:40am (0440 GMT) in a mosque at Kouyape. There were 13 deaths including the man who blew himself up and one wounded," said a senior local official who declined to be identified.

Another senior local official said at least 10 people died. Boko Haram has waged a six-year campaign for an Islamist state in northeastern Nigeria.

Neighbouring countries joined an offensive against the group this year and the conflict spilled across their borders, displacing tens of thousands of people. Cameroon is also in an 8,700-strong regional force led by Nigeria against the militants, expected to be operational by the end of the year.

The United States is sending military supplies and troops to the central African country to aid the fight.—Reuters

OIC foreign ministers' meeting requested amid Iran-Saudi tension

BANGKOK — Foreign ministers from member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation will hold an emergency meeting to discuss the rising tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the secretary general of the body said on Tuesday in Bangkok.

Iyad Ameen Madani, who was on a visit to Thailand, said the meeting will take place on 21 January in the Saudi city of Jeddah, and was requested by that country's authorities.

The news came on the same day as Indonesia's foreign minister, Retno Marsudi, departed for a visit to both Iran and Saudi Arabia in a bid to mediate between the two nations.

Indonesia is the country with the largest Muslim population. Tensions flared in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia said on 2 January that it had executed

47 people, including a prominent Shiite cleric, for their alleged involvement in terrorism in opposition to the kingdom's ruling family. Following the Saudi action, the Sunni kingdom's embassy was attacked by protesters in Shiite-majority Iran. Riyadh subsequently cut off diplomatic relations with Iran.

The OIC foreign ministers are expected to discuss this and other issues.—Kyodo News

Suspected suicide blast kills at least 14, injures 20 near Pakistan polio centre

KARACHI — A suspected suicide bomb blast yesterday killed at least 14 people close to a polio eradication center in Pakistan's western city of Quetta, police said, with most of those killed policemen detailed to guard vaccination workers.

At least 12 policemen, one paramilitary officer and one civilian were among the dead, with 20 others injured, officials said, after the explosion ripped through a police van that had just arrived at

the centre. "It was a suicide blast, we have gathered evidence from the scene," Ahsan Mehboob, police chief of Pakistan's province of Balochistan, told Reuters. "The police team had arrived to escort teams for the polio campaign."

Pakistan and neighbouring Afghanistan are the only two countries in the world where polio remains endemic, the World Health Organisation says.

Teams in Pakistan working

to immunize children against the virus are often targeted by Taliban and other militant groups, who say the campaign is a cover for Western spies, or accuse workers of distributing vaccines designed to sterilize children.

The campaign to eradicate the virus in Pakistan has had some recent success, with new cases down last year, but violence against vaccination workers has slowed the effort.—Reuters

Pakistan says arrests militants over Indian air base attack

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan said yesterday it had arrested several members of the Jaish-e-Mohammad militant group, which is suspected of masterminding an attack this month on an Indian air base.

News of the arrests comes 48 hours before a rare meeting of foreign secretaries of the nuclear-armed rivals is tentatively scheduled to take place.

Pakistan has promised it would get to the bottom of who was behind the assault on the air base after India handed over evidence to Pakistan that it said implicated Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad in the 2 January attack, in which seven military personnel were killed.

India's Ministry of External Affairs was not immediately available for comment but said earlier it would decide late on Wednesday whether Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar would travel to Islamabad on Friday.

Pakistan's prime minister's office said in a statement the government had made "considerable progress" in investigating the attack, and it wanted to send a team of special investigators to the Pathankot air base in India.

"Based on the initial investigations in Pakistan, and the information provided, several individuals belonging to Jaish-e-Mohammad, have been apprehended," the office of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said.

"The offices of the organisation are also being traced and sealed. Further investigations are underway," it said.

Jaish-e-Mohammad, or Army of Mohammad, is led by Islamic hardliner Maulana Masood Azhar and has long fought against Indian forces in India's part of the disputed region of Kashmir.

The banned group is blamed for an attack in 2001 on India's parliament that brought the rivals to the brink of war.—Reuters

OPINION

UPC should focus on reaching agreement

Khin Maung Aye

EVERY journey, no matter how long or challenging, begins with a first step. In the case of Myanmar, negotiation is the first step in the journey toward peace. Now that the stakeholders have taken this step, it will be possible to reach a consensus among the government, the armed ethnic organisations and political parties through negotiations.

Some people believe that the goal of interest-based

negotiation is to reach an agreement on common interests. It is natural that all stakeholders involved in a negotiation process would prefer the same results for the same causes. Although it is not impossible for all stakeholders' interest to match, most of the agreements in the current peace process have been complementary ones. This often happens because negotiations themselves support different interests, despite the willingness of stakeholders to achieve the same results.

In negotiations, there are always conflicts of interests because the interests of all stakeholders cannot be identical, particularly when there are many stakeholders with different political ideologies, diverse historical backgrounds and distinct cultural mores.

It is therefore necessary to understand the three 'C's first – conflicting interests, common interests and complementary interests. All stakeholders participating in a negotiation process must build confidence in each other. Only when confidence-building measures have been taken and when mutual trust is strong can the parties pro-

ceed to the stage of negotiation.

The Union Peace Conference is now at the stage of negotiation. The Global New Light of Myanmar is confident that all the parties will be able to focus not on conflicting interests but on reaching an agreement, thereby satisfying all groups' common interests and complimentary interests.

Write for us

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Three Bridges in Myanmar of world fame Part I

Maha Saddhama Jotika dhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

MYANMAR rightly boasts of its three bridges of world renown, namely and chronologically, first the Bridge over the Lake "Taung Tha Man", second Gokhteik Bridge and third the Bridge over the River Kwei. The first belongs to the late Konbaung Period of Myanmar history [1819-1948 A.D] and the third belongs to the Second World War Period [or Japanese occupation of Myanmar 1914-1945].

Each of these three Bridges has its own historical backdrop, and strategic, economic, and socio-cultural significances. We shall deal with the first bridge, the Bridge over the Lake "Taung Tha Man" according to their chorological sequence.

This Bridge is the oldest and longest wooden bridge crossing a vast Lake named Taung Tha Man in the township of old Capital "Amarapura" in Upper Myanmar. Pinya, Inwa, Amarapura and Mandalay, the four old capitals of monarchic times lie from south to north as through in a proper alignment of their historic seniority. Amarapura the second last Myanmar capital is only a little more than 7 miles south of Mandalay. Among several sites and monuments of archaeological interest and historical value in this immortal city Amarapura, the Bridge over the Lake "Taung Tha Man" strikes a unique feature.

Historical back drop is that in 1846 A.D. a young Prince ascended the throne who became Bagan Min [King Bagan]. He showered royal favours upon his childhood playmates and friends and household servants of whom the two who received rank and position were two gentlemen U Bain Sek who became the governor of Amarapura and U Pein appointed a high clerk. These two were the King's playmates and household servants.

Though rain is scarce in the Dry Zone of Myanmar, the River Ayeyawaddy swells at the peak of

monsoon because of the abundant rain water following down from the mountains and hilly regions. At such time the Taung Tha Man Lake in the civility of Amarapura turns into a billowing sea cutting communication with the surrounding villages. Pedlars and hawkers take risk to cross the rough Lake in their little boats overladen with their merchandizes. Observing that yearly natural disaster the governor and his high clerk hit upon a bridge idea—building a bridge across the lake. Around the capital Amarapura there were heaps and heaps of teak timbers and teak posts dismantled from old palaces and great houses. The bridge across the big lake would be the longest and largest ever, but there were more than enough discarded wooden materials at the abandoned towns. Being old friends and household servants of King Bagan, U Bain Sek and U Pein obtained, without much ado permit from their royal master to build the Bridge as well as to make use of the old timbers and posts.

The bridge came to acquire two names. [1] U Pein's Bridge because it was U Pein who supervised the construction of the Bridge. [2] Taung Tha Man Bridge because it was built across Taung Tha Man Lake. In 1849 A.D. the construction began and was completed in 1851 A. D.—only two years it took to finish.

Myanmar's construction engineers used traditional methods of scaling and measuring to accomplish their work. The joints were intertwined and the teak posts supporting the whole Bridge were hammered into the lake bed seven feet deep. At the foot of each post were two props affixed into it. The top of each post was curved conical to let rain water stream down easily. Originally, there were 984 teak posts supporting the Bridge. There were two wide verandas, right and left on the Bridge, and the floor has three layers of teak planks. Later, the two approach brick bridges, each on one end of



U Pein bridge PHOTO: REUTERS

the Bridge were demolished and were replaced by wooden approach bridges. Four wooden pavilions [rest houses for leisure] were installed on the Bridge. If the posts of the four wooden pavilions and two wooden approach bridges are added the total number of posts amounts to 1086. There are nine passage ways in the Bridge for the passage of war boats and Royal Barge called Pyi Gyi Mun. The floors of the Bridge could be easily lifted to let pass the big boats and barges. There are altogether 482 apartments with the floors of nine tiers of planks. The total length of the Bridge measures 3967 feet, ¾ of a mile!

In the month of Tawthalin [September] the annual royal Regatta Festival was held on the lake, followed by boat races. European envoys who visited Amarapura of that time respired in their travelogues that they thought that King Bagan often held naval exercises on this lake.

Romance about the Bridge is that U Bain Sek and U Pein had other motive in building this bridge.

Their royal master King Bagan was a handsome young man fond of sports, hunting gamesm, cock-fighting, drinking fermented toddy juice and individual in other princely pastimes including phi-

landing,. In their school years, these three "musketeers" [Bagan, Sek and Pein] often had good times at the villages on the other side of the bridge where there were pretty girls. On becoming King, Pagan incognito used to make nocturnal visit to his "other places", accompanied by his trusted friends. Thus the Bridge was built across the lake for their royal master's pleasure trip.

The Bridge is indeed romantic. The longest, largest and oldest wooden Bridge in Myanmar it is 165 years old to-day 2016 and a rendezvous for lovers. Loving couples make appointment on this Bridge, newly weds pose for photographing on the Bridge, videomen and film producers shoot love scenes on it.

U Pein Bridge attracts visitors far and near all the year round. Its beauty changes in tune with the three seasons—Summer, Rain and Winter. Dry dusty Summer wind bringing down withering leaves and scarlet blooms of letpan [cotton trees] in the surroundings of the Bridge, cuckoos and doves singing indolent songs make the Bridge eerily romantic. When monsoon arrives, green and white vegetation and water caress each other under the overcast inky sky. Billows of water in the overbrimful lake almost engulfing the

Bridge create on existing romance. As the cold season sets in, fragrances of wild flowers are being wafted in the cool breeze. Foliage laden with dew drops and the morning mist veils the Bridge while smokes from the nearby farms snake up heaven ward. Faint rooster crows and monastic gongs alternate breaking the monotony of buzzing cicadas—a forlorn romance indeed.

At not so far distance, sits a religious monuments of archaeological antiquity and historic value which is none other than "Kyauk Taw Gyi Temple," that shelters one of four gigantic Buddha Statue of Sagyin marble. The temple and the statue acquired the name of the lake. Taung tha Man Kyauk taw Kyi, which originally was at Inwa Capital. But when the capital was moved to Amarapura, the Sagyin marble Buddha Statue was relocated on the bank of the lake and came to be commonly called on the bank of the lake and came to be commonly called "Taung Tha Man Kyauk Taw Kyi" to differentiate it from the others. Three statues of the Temple are paintings depicting religious social and cultural life of that time and presenting the exact designs and measurements of prominent religious monuments of Amarapura.

(To be continued)

130-year-old generator in Nabar to become tourist attraction



130-year-old generator. PHOTO: NGWE OH (KATHA)

SITUATED beside Sawhmaw Creek, Nabar Village in Katha District could become a popular tourist attraction if the 130-year-old generator in the town can be showcased for public observation, residents have said.

According to locals the England-made 25 hp generator was installed 130 years ago at the station to power a railway business in the village. Since then the generator has produced power to supply local businesses from 6 p.m to the early morning hours. The generator

has been out of commission for many years due to a lack of spare parts.

“International visitors wish to observe the antiquated generator but the authorities only showcase the tank and do not permit viewing the generator engine,” said a resident pushing for the local authorities to showcase the generator to benefit the region and tourism sector as well as Myanmar’s railways industry.

Located in Indaw Township in Katha District, Nabar Vil-

lage-tract, which covers six villages and four wards, has a population of around 50,000. An old colonial railroad line named the Nabar-Katha township to township railroad line was opened in 1895. The Myitkyina Railroad was established in 1898.

The 150 foot tank was constructed to supply water to locomotives with the use of a system to draw water from Sawhmaw Creek without the use of motors. The railway station has used the tank to run its daily business since then.—*Ngwe Oh (Katha)*

Myanmar Red Cross to support flood hit victims in Tamu, Haka

MYANMAR Red Cross Society plans to provide cash assistance to flood-hit victims in Tamu of Sagaing Region and Haka townships of Chin State this month, Daw Soe Soe of MRCS said.

The MRCS will provide K500,000 each to 156 households in Minthamee Village in Tamu Township in Sagaing Region and K600,000 each to 150 households in four villages in Haka Township in Chin State this month.

The MRCS selected 1,659 households in 15 villages in Kalay, Tamu and Haka villages to

offer cash assistance for their rehabilitation of flood-affected victims.

The society recently provided K6,76.5 million to 1,353 households in over 10 villages in Kalay Township. The MRCS in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross carried out their rehabilitation programme from 23 December to 6 January.

“With the assistance of the MRCS, I will soon run a small-scale pig production as I have no farmland,” said U Nyo Sein from Ayethaya Village.—*Chindwin Resident*

Property expo aims to develop Myanmar real estate market

A HOUSING and living exhibition will be held in mid-January at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Yangon, focusing on increasing investment in the property sector. It was organised by Dagon Exhibitions Ltd.

The expo is also aimed at facilitating the penetration of products and services into the market, as well as promoting brand awareness.

The event will run from 15 to 17 January, showcasing real estate booths and home decoration appliances Myanmar and

abroad, construction materials, modern furniture, sanitation and kitchen equipment, high quality paints, industrial appliances and tools, electronics and electrical apparatuses.

Local companies and agents will also display ongoing projects, including low-cost housings, middle-cost housings, apartments, condominiums and detached houses.

This is the fourth such exhibition organised by Dagon Exhibitions Ltd, and it will feature a furniture sale throughout the three-day event.

Crime News

Man arrested for uncensored movies

AUTHORITIES seized uncensored movies at a shop in 3 -ward, Mayangon township on 7 January. Acting on a tip-off, member of the

police searched a shop selling the uncensored movies by Phoe Thae (a) Tin Arnt Khine and found total 8440 movies and 10 plastic

baskets and Kyat 2,000 earned through the sale of the uncensored movies. Local police station has filed charges against the man. —

Stimulants, raw opium and heroin seized

A local anti-drug squad has seized 1000 pills of stimulants, two kilos of raw opium and 0.12kilos of heroin at a house owned by Hong Yee Pao in Namatu town on 9 January.

Similarly, members of the

police have seized 600 pills of stimulants and 0.013 kilos of heroin on a motorbike driven by Nyi Kyaw Hlaing on Nankhan-Mone Wee road, Na, Khan.

Local police discov-

ered 0.132kilos of heroin and 600pills of stimulants at a house owned by Moe San Oo in Phakant Township.

The police filed charges against them under the anti-Narcotic Law.—*Mirror*

Five men arrested for drug abuse

AUTHORITIES arrested five men for drug abuse in Inn Gyin Thar village, Pin Le Bu township, Sagaing region on 9 January.

According to the reports, police stopped and searched

Kyi Aung, Win Zaw, Tun Wai, Win Tun and Win Pe and found six grams of heroin powder, 0.162 grams of heroin put in a vial and five used 3cc syringes and five unused 3cc syringes. When interrogated, Win Zaw

admitted he bought them from Pin Laung village for 150,000 kyats.

Action has been taken against them under the anti-Narcotic law.—*Shwe Lin Pyat Sone*

Man arrested for possession of yabba

AUTHORITIES seized yabba from a motorbike driver near Asia World Toll gate in Naung Cho township on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, members of the police stopped and searched the motor-

bike being driven by one Sai Hla Win, 27, and found 1950 yabba pills hidden on the vehicle.

Charges have been filed against him under anti-Narcotic law.—*Police IPRD*



Sai Hla Win. PHOTO: POLICE

Cabinet approves new crop insurance scheme — government source

NEW DELHI — The cabinet yesterday ratified India's first major crop damage insurance scheme for farmers, a government source said, in what is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first significant move to address rural hardship.

The impact of unseasonal rains and two straight years of drought on agriculture that sustains over two-thirds of India's 1.25 billion people has dented Modi's popularity in the countryside, contributing to a humiliating loss for the premier in elections last year in the largely rural state of Bihar.

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said last week that New Delhi will launch the crop insurance scheme in the fiscal year starting 1 April.—Reuters



A farmer winnows paddy crops at a field on the outskirts of Agartala, India in November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Skyscanner says Khazanah, Yahoo Japan among new investors in company

KUALA LUMPUR — Travel search engine Skyscanner said Malaysia's sovereign fund Khazanah Nasional, Yahoo Japan Corp and three other companies would jointly invest about 128 million pounds (\$185.9 million) in the company.

Fund manager Artemis, investment groups Baillie Gifford and Vitruvian Partners were the other investors, Skyscanner said in a statement on Tuesday.

The fundraising values Edinburgh-based Skyscanner at \$1.6 billion, the *Financial Times* reported on Tuesday.

The funds raised include both primary and secondary proceeds, Skyscanner said, though it did not disclose how much stake the investors have acquired.—Reuters

UK industrial output suffers sharpest fall since early 2013

LONDON — British industrial output suffered its sharpest fall in almost two years in November and retail spending disappointed over Christmas, denting hopes that the economy bounced back from a mid-year slowdown at the end of 2015.

Sterling fell to a 5-1/2-year low against the dollar after industrial production dropped unexpectedly as unusually mild weather curbed demand for heating gas and factory output contracted for a second month in a row.

The 0.7 per cent month-on-month fall in production was the steepest since January 2013, official statisticians said.

Britain has been one of the fastest-growing big advanced economies in the world for the last couple of years. But it has relied heavily on domestically focussed services and consumer spending for growth, frustrating hopes for a better-balanced recovery.

Adding to a sense that the economy might struggle to exceed the tepid 0.4 per cent expansion seen in the third quarter of 2015, retail spending over the crucial Christmas period was "disappointing", the British Retail Consortium said.

J.P. Morgan said it now expects the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to wait until the final months of the year before hiking interest rates from record-low levels.

"This ... report is the straw that breaks the camel's back," J.P. Morgan economist Malcolm Barr said. "Recent disappointment in the pay data and the drop in oil prices had already put our call for the MPC to raise rates in May at risk."



Women work on sewing machines at the Fashion Enter factory in London England, on 8 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The BoE will publish its first monetary policy decision of the year on Thursday. Economists do not expect any change to the 8-1 majority of policymakers who want to keep rates on hold.

Compared with a year ago, industrial output was up 0.9 per cent, the weakest annual growth since July, while manufacturing output was 1.2 per cent lower than November 2014.

The Office for National Statistics said industrial production would have to rise 0.5 per cent on the month in December to prevent the sector exerting a drag on economic growth in the fourth quarter.

December's weather was as unseasonably mild as in November, when electricity and gas consumption sank 2.1 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis, the biggest monthly drop since April.

Separately, British retail spending over the Christmas holidays recorded its weakest quarterly growth in more than a year as stores competed to offer discounts,

the BRC said.

Retail spending rose by 0.9 per cent in the three months to December compared with a year earlier, the slowest calendar quarter of growth since the third quarter of 2014.

Price-cutting by retailers and low oil prices are likely to drag further on inflation, which has been stuck in a narrow range of between plus and minus 0.1 per cent since February.

Data from market researcher Kantar Worldpanel also showed no Christmas uplift for the British grocery market, with Sainsbury's (SBRY.L) the only one of the four major firms to grow sales.

Instead, Britons seem to be spending more on eating and drinking outside the home. The hospitality sector led growth in consumer spending in December, according to from payment card provider Visa Europe, whose upbeat figures on Monday contrasted with a more downbeat message from other parts of the economy.—Reuters

Google will add more partners for self-driving cars

DETROIT — Alphabet Inc's Google wants to form more partnerships with established automakers and suppliers this year to accelerate its work on self-driving cars, the head of the Google project said on Tuesday.

John Krafcik, the newly hired president of the Google self-driving car project, did not mention any automakers by name. However, appearing at a media conference at the Detroit auto show, Krafcik surveyed a room packed with hundreds of auto industry executives and said: "We hope to work with many of you guys."

Google officials have said previously the internet search company does not want to build vehicles, but instead supply the software and mapping to allow a car to safely navigate busy streets and highways.

"No one goes this alone," Krafcik said. "We are going to be partnering more and more and more." He said he hopes to form more alliances this year.

Google has worked with automotive suppliers and contract manufacturers to build a small fleet of

prototype self-driving cars — small, light pod-cars that look nothing like the sport utility vehicles and pickups on display at the Detroit show. Google, major global automakers and several auto technology companies such as Delphi Automotive Plc, Continental AG and Mobileye NV are jockeying to define and lead development of vehicles that use machine vision, sophisticated maps and artificial intelligence to take over for error-prone human drivers.

Krafcik said he believed partially automating the operation of a car, requiring drivers to take command under certain conditions, can create safety problems, a key point on which Google and most automakers differ.

The car "has to shoulder the whole burden," he said.

Most automakers, including General Motors Co, Tesla Motors Inc, Daimler AG, and Nissan Motor Co, are pushing to get cars on the road that allow hands-free driving under certain conditions, but require the driver to take over in more complex situations such as city driving.—Reuters



A Google self-driving car is seen inside a lobby at the Google headquarters in Mountain View, California on 13 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Zika virus case confirmed in Texas; person travelled to Latin America

CHICAGO — A traveller who recently returned to the Houston area from El Salvador has a confirmed case of Zika, a virus borne by mosquitoes, health officials in Harris County, Texas, said on Tuesday.

The US Centres for Disease Control said it has confirmed 22 cases of the disease among returning US travellers since it was first reported in 2007, and is still receiving specimens for testing from travellers who recently became ill.

There is no indication that mosquitoes in the continental United States are spreading Zika. But in

December Puerto Rico, a US territory, confirmed the first locally acquired case of Zika virus in a person who had not travelled outside the island.

The Zika virus has gained attention recently because Brazil is investigating a possible link between the infection and cases of infants born with microcephaly, abnormally small head size associated with incomplete brain development, the CDC said. Harris County health officials said they were urging travellers to take protective measures against mosquitoes, such as netting and repellent, if they

travel to areas where the infection is present.

Zika virus outbreaks have occurred in Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, and have been reported in some countries in the Americas, the CDC said. It is transmitted by *Aedes* species mosquitoes, which also spread dengue and chikungunya viruses and are common in Texas, Florida and elsewhere in the United States.

Zika is usually a mild illness with fever, rash and joint pain. There is no preventive vaccine, according to the CDC.—*Reuters*



Male *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes are seen in this picture. Zika virus is among the viruses spread by the species. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iceman mummy reveals new clues about stomach bacteria

BOLZANO — A 5,300 year-old mummified corpse known as the Iceman, or Oetzi, is offering scientists new clues about a stomach infection.

Scientists at the EURAC Institute of Mummies and the Iceman in northern Italy removed the bacteria *Helicobacter pylori* from the mummy and conducted a DNA analysis. It showed the Iceman had an unmixed strain of the bacteria not seen in modern humans.

“He carried a more



Iceman, the mummy that was found perfectly preserved in a Tyrolean glacier, is seen at the European Academy (Eurac) in Bolzano, northern Italy, on 4 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

pure strain, an unmixed strain yet and we can say that the history of *Helicobacter* population genetics in Europe is different from previously thought,” said

Albert Zink, the head of EURAC. Scientists hope to conduct further studies to get more information about the evolution and onset of the bacteria.—*Reuters*

Motion control running shoes prevent injuries in some

LONDON — Runners with flat feet or whose feet roll inward may want to invest in running shoes with motion control to help prevent injuries, according to a study from Luxembourg.

Running shoes with motion control features reduced injuries by about half, but that benefit was limited to runners whose feet rolled inward, which is typical for people with flat feet.

“Our study is the first to compare shoe models with and without motion control system in regular runners with the aim to investigate their impact on injury risk,” said lead author Laurent

Malisoux, of the Luxembourg Institute of Health.

Motion control limits the foot’s natural roll when it strikes the ground.

The technical term for that natural roll is “pronation.” Overpronation occurs when the foot rolls too far inward, and is most common among people with low arches or flat feet. As reported in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, the researchers randomly assigned 386 recreational runners between ages 18 and 65 to wear either normal running shoes or the same shoes with motion control for up to six months.—*Reuters*

41 killed in Nigeria Lassa fever outbreak

ABUJA — The outbreak of Lassa fever in Nigeria has killed 41 people out of 93 reported cases, Health Minister Isaac Adewole said Tuesday.

Adewole however said the spread of the disease had not gone beyond 10 states of the country, denying reports it had spread to 12 states.

It is said to be the worst outbreak of the virus in Nigeria in the past four years.

Nigeria has informed the World Health Organisation of the development and the government is taking measures to curtail further spread of the disease in rural areas, Adewole said, adding no new cases were reported in the last 72 hours.

The outbreak erupted last month and the first reported case was in the northeastern state of Bauchi.

The latest outbreak was “unusual” because the authorities were not quickly informed, Adewole said.

Lassa fever is an acute and often fatal viral disease, occurring mainly in West Africa. It is usually transmitted by contact with the saliva or excreta of rats accessing homes and food stores.—*Xinhua*

Notice

On the 4th of December 2015, Digicel Group Limited and edotco Investments (Labuan) Limited completed the share transfer of 75% of the shares in the Singaporean company, Digicel Asian Holdings Pte Limited. Digicel Asian Holdings Pte Limited, together with its wholly owned Singapore subsidiary, Asian Towers Holdings Pte Limited, holds 100% of the shares in Digicel Myanmar Tower Company Limited (MTC).

Please contact MTC at the following address with any queries:
MTC
Room 301, 3rd Floor, Block D, Pearl Condominium
Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon
(Phone No 01-8604015)

Digicel Myanmar Tower Company Ltd

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (1 / 2016)

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)	IFB-062(15-16)	Data Processing Center and Data Acquisition Serchel (5) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-063(15-16)	Data Processing Software & Hardware Accessories (1) Lot	US\$
(3)	IFB-064(15-16)	2900 Series Well Head Equipment & Accessories (3) Sets	US\$
(4)	IFB-065(15-16)	Explosimeter (2) Nos	US\$
(5)	IFB-066(15-16)	Telecommunication Equipments (2) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-067(15-16)	Portable Welding Machine with Complete Accessories (2) Sets	US\$
(7)	IFB-068(15-16)	High Pressure Pump with Complete Accessories (2) Sets	US\$
(8)	IFB-069(15-16)	Pipe Line Pigs (2) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-070(15-16)	Drill Track Guidance Tool (1) Set	US\$
(10)	IFB-071(15-16)	4" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade A (10,000)Meter	US\$
(11)	IFB-072(15-16)	NDT Services for 20" Domestic Gas Pipe Lines (1) Lot	US\$
(12)	IFB-073(15-16)	Steel Ball Valves (2) Items	US\$
(13)	DMP/L-012(15-16)	Landing Leg (Landing Gear) for CNG Tube Trailer (10) Sets	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 10-2-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13th January, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

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Announcement for Bill of Lading Lost

Kindly informed that our Company (Golden Veneer Co., Ltd) is announce for Bill of Lading Original Set (BL No: LE-151112530001-4) has been lost on the way to Custom House. So if anyone found it, kindly contact our Number.

09 7349 1344

Obama knocks Trump, voices optimism in speech to set 2016 tone

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama took aim on Tuesday at Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump and accused critics of playing into the hands of Islamic State in a speech meant to cement his legacy and set a positive tone for his final year in office.

Obama, delivering his last annual State of the Union speech to Congress as president, called for leaders to “fix” US politics and criticised candidates such as Trump for using anti-Muslim rhetoric that betrayed American values.

“When politicians insult Muslims ... that doesn’t make us safer,” he said, drawing applause from the crowd in the House of Representatives chamber. “It’s just wrong. It diminishes us in the eyes of the world. It makes it harder to achieve our goals.”

Trump, whom Obama did not mention by name in his speech, is leading the Republican field ahead of the 8 November election to pick the next president.

The billionaire busi-

nessman, citing national security concerns, has called for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States and a wall on the US border with Mexico to stop the flow of illegal immigrants, ideas the White House strongly opposes.

Obama sought to contrast his more optimistic view of America’s future with those of the Republican candidates trying to replace him.

He said it was “fiction” to describe the country as being in economic decline. While acknowledging that al Qaeda and Islamic State posed a direct threat to Americans, he said comparing the effort to defeat the militants who control swaths of Iraq and Syria to World War Three gave the group just what it wanted.

“Masses of fighters on the back of pickup trucks, twisted souls plotting in apartments or garages: they pose an enormous danger to civilians; they have to be stopped. But they do not threaten our national existence,” Obama said.

Republicans say the



US President Barack Obama waves at the conclusion of his final State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress in Washington on 12 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

president’s strategy to defeat Islamic State is flawed and insufficient.

“His policies aren’t working. He didn’t have an answer for how to defeat ISIS,” Republican House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan said in a state-

ment after the speech, using an acronym for Islamic State.

Obama’s address to lawmakers, Cabinet members and Supreme Court justices was one of his last remaining chances to capture the attention of mil-

lions of Americans before the November election. The next president will take office in January 2017.

Trump, in a posting on Twitter, called the speech “boring” and lacking in substance. “New leadership fast!”

But South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, who delivered the Republican response to Obama’s address, took her own jab at Trump and other less moderate candidates in her party.

“During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices. We must resist that temptation,” said Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants. “No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country,” she said.

Obama’s address came as 10 sailors aboard two US Navy boats were taken into Iranian custody. Iran told the United States the crew members would be “promptly” returned, US officials said. The event gave Republicans further fodder to criticise Obama’s nuclear deal with Tehran.

Obama did not address the issue in his speech. The White House expects the situation to be resolved quickly.—Reuters

German minister says deportations will rise after Cologne attacks

BERLIN — German Justice Minister Heiko Maas said yesterday more foreign criminals would be expelled once new restrictions are rolled out in the wake of sexual attacks on women blamed on migrants in Cologne.

Maas and Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere outlined plans on Tuesday to speed up the deportation of foreigners who commit physical and sexual assaults, resist police or damage property — crimes which mostly carry probationary sentences but do not trigger expulsion under current law.

“There will certainly be more deportation orders as a result of changes to the law because we are lowering the requirements for a deportation,” Maas told German television channel ARD.

Germany would still not deport people who come from countries where war is raging or where they could face the death penalty or torture, he added.

More than 600 women have complained of being attacked on New Years Eve



German Justice Minister Heiko Maas. PHOTO: REUTERS

in Cologne and other German cities. The complaints range from sexual molestation to theft and police have said their investigations are focused on illegal migrants from north Africa as well as asylum seekers.

The German cabinet still needs to back the proposed deportation plans before a draft law is drawn up to go through the Bundestag lower house of parliament.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (280YFR)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (280YFR) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (024N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (024N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JIN TONG VOY NO (0217)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIN TONG VOY NO (0217) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-1 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (455N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (455N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/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.

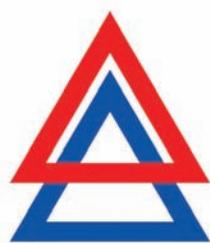
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

Phone No: 2301185

KBZ Group offers its heartfelt congratulations to the people of Myanmar and the UPC

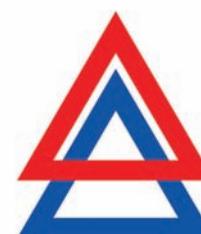
We extend our warmest congratulations along with the entire mass of indigenous Myanmar people for successful convening of the Union Peace Conference at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 (MICC-2) from January 12 to January 16, which will bring about a new environment of peace for Myanmar based on political stability, transparency and freedom never before achieved throughout the history of peace building efforts in Myanmar.



KBZ GROUP

**Chairman
And**

Board of Directors



KBZ BANK

Philips, Singapore's EDBI jointly invest in digital health companies as healthcare demand in Asia rises with ageing population

SINGAPORE — Dutch electronic giant Royal Philips and EDBI, the corporate investment arm of the Singapore Economic Development Board, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly invest in digital health companies to seek break into the Asian market through Singapore, according to a joint press release yesterday.

Under the MOU, EDBI and Philips will focus on

mid-to-late stage digital health companies, allowing them to set up base in Singapore with the goal to serve the Asian market for population health management.

Having been involved in supporting the Biomedical Sciences sector over the last 25 years, EDBI will leverage its investment network globally and in the region to accelerate the awarded companies' growth plans. Companies

will also benefit from EDBI's connections to key local and regional stakeholders to aid their business development efforts and seize new market opportunities in Asia, according to the press release.

Awarded companies will benefit from the Philips HealthSuite Digital Platform — a cloud-based solution that collects and analyzes health data from multiple devices, as well as gain access to Philips'

global network of business partners, customers and channels.

“As the first of many alliances to support open innovation by large corporations in Singapore, we are pleased to partner Philips for joint investments in PHM companies. This partnership seeks effective uses of IT, like telehealth, which empower patients with greater responsibility over their health, in line with Singapore's vision

of creating citizen-centric healthcare services where healthcare is moved from hospitals to community and homes,” said Chu Swee Yeok, CEO and president of EDBI.

“This (partnership) will bring us closer to achieving our vision to improving the lives of 3 billion people a year by 2025, while developing Singapore's workforce to further strengthen the country's position as the leading

medical hub in Asia,” said Fabian Wong, chief executive officer of Philips ASEAN Pacific.

The companies will be jointly evaluated and selected by EDBI and Philips based on their ability to drive disruptive innovations in telehealth, healthcare informatics, technologies and services that will improve healthcare access, outcomes and productivity challenges in Asia.—Xinhua

Iñarritu, Scott get Directors Guild nods ahead of Oscar nominations

LOS ANGELES — Fresh off their Golden Globe wins, Mexican filmmaker Alejandro Iñarritu and veteran British director Ridley Scott were among those nominated on Tuesday for Directors Guild of America (DGA) awards — one of the strongest indicators of success at the Oscars.

Iñarritu, who won the Oscar last year for directing “Birdman,” was nominated this year for his Pioneer-era tale “The Revenant,” which was filmed in freezing conditions and primitive

landscapes. Scott, 78, who has yet to win an Oscar over a career spanning six decades, is nominated for space adventure “The Martian,” about an astronaut stranded on Mars. Iñarritu was named best drama director at the Golden Globes on Sunday while Scott won best comedy/musical film director.

Also nominated by the DGA on Thursday was director Tom McCarthy for “Spotlight,” about the Boston Globe’s probe into the Catholic Church’s cover-up of child molestation; Adam McKay for comedy “The Big Short,” exploring the 2007 US financial collapse, and Australian director George Miller for gritty action film “Mad Max: Fury Road.”

The DGA nominations, voted for by a group of Hollywood directors, many of whom are also

Oscar voters, come ahead of Thursday’s Academy Award nominations.

Since 1948, only seven winners of the DGA prize have failed to go on to win the best director Oscar. The directors of “Carol,” “Bridge of Spies” and “Creed,” were among those failing to make the DGA’s list this time. The DGA also nominated five filmmakers for directing a first-time feature film in 2015, including actor Joel Edgerton, who turned director for thriller “The Gift.” —Reuters



I was scared of everything in my 20s: Reese Witherspoon

LOS ANGELES — Actress Reese Witherspoon has revealed that she was “scared of everything” in her twenties.

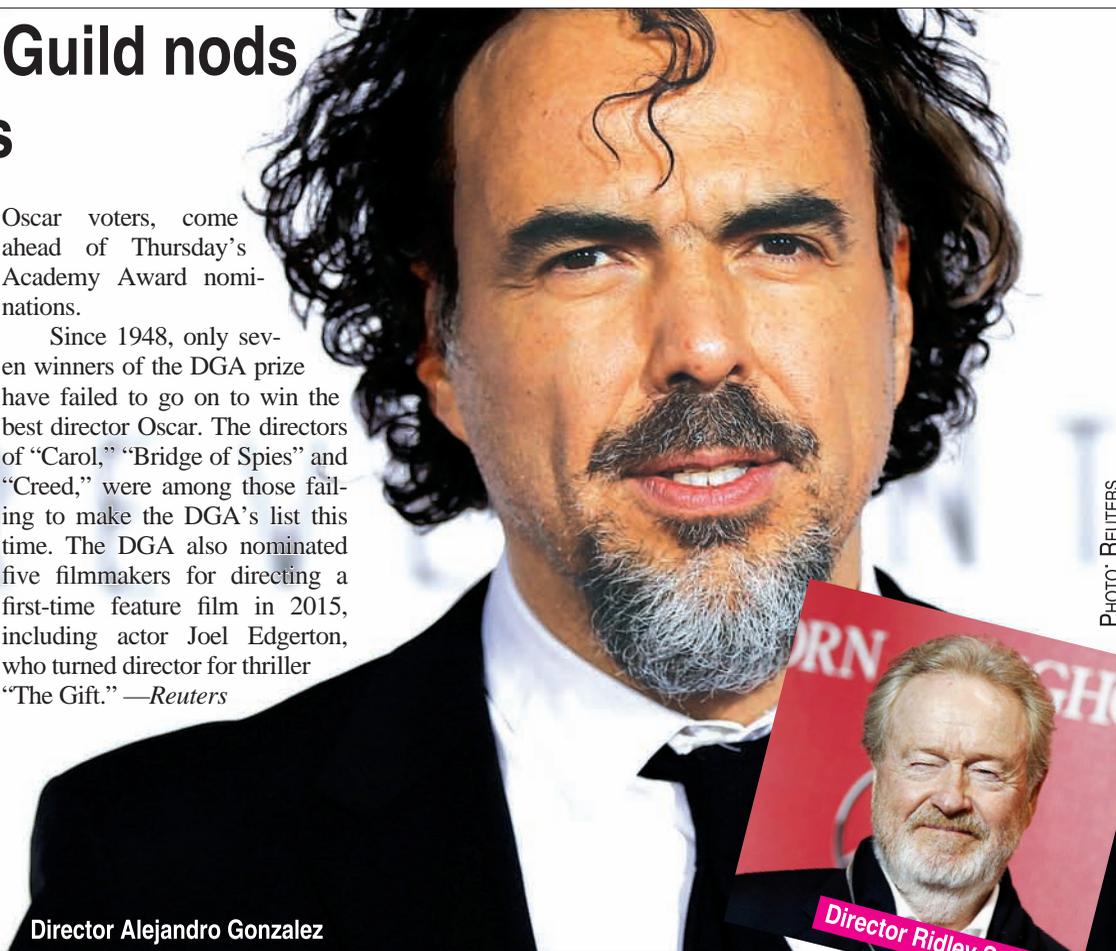
While some celebrities hate the idea of ageing, Witherspoon, 39, is thrilled about her advancing years as she feels more comfortable in her own skin, reported *Us* magazine.

“I’m much more open now. In my twenties, I was scared of everything. I didn’t know what my career was. I didn’t know why people liked my movies. I was wary of interacting with people,” she said.

The Oscar-winning actress said that although three of her biggest films were released during her twenties, she was terrified and unable to enjoy her success.

“I was 25 when *Legally Blonde* came out, 26 for *Sweet Home Alabama*, and 29 for *Walk the Line*. And I was scared, really scared.—PTI

Reese Witherspoon. PHOTO: REUTERS



Director Alejandro Gonzalez

PHOTO: REUTERS

With standing ovation, music veterans bid farewell to Natalie Cole

LOS ANGELES — Music veterans, friends and family have paid tribute to Grammy Award winner Natalie Cole, celebrating the late singer’s life at a star-studded funeral in Los Angeles.

Cole, the daughter of veteran performer Nat King Cole, died aged 65 on 31 December of a rare lung disease that led to heart failure.

Music filled the service on Monday, with Stevie Wonder playing the harmonica and singing the Lord’s Prayer. Mourners

including Gladys Knight, Lionel Richie and Smokey Robinson, who called Cole “my friend, my buddy and many times my confidant” also honoured the singer with a standing ovation.

“As much as I stood in awe of her artistry which ran so deep, when I think of her today I realise that it’s her friendship that I will miss the most,” music producer David Foster said.

Cole’s family last week said the singer had been diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension five years ago

after a successful kidney transplant in 2009.

She had undergone the operation after being diagnosed with hepatitis following a period of drug abuse. The jazz, pop and soul singer, whose career spanned five decades, then returned to perform around the world.

Known for songs such as “This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)” and “I’ve Got Love On My Mind”, her biggest hit was a virtual duet with her late father of “Unforgettable”.—Reuters

Keith Urban announces world tour

LOS ANGELES — Keith Urban has promised fans his upcoming RipCORD World Tour 2016 is the greatest show ending on earth. The 48-year-old singer announced the new tour and said the show is nothing like anything he has done before, reported *Rollingstone* magazine.

“It’s the greatest show ending on earth that I’ve ever heard. That might be my next move. I’m always trying to work more on how to connect and how to do things more intimately in that large setting,” he said.

Urban added he is hoping to combine some of his old favourite tracks with his new material — with hopefully a mind-blowing result.

“I want to bring in some other elements to the show mu-



Keith Urban. PHOTO: REUTERS

sically that are different than what we’ve done before, (think about) how to incorporate some of the old material in a new way, potentially reaching into some album tracks from way back.—PTI

Shanghai Disneyland set to open in June

SHANGHAI — Walt Disney Co’s theme park in Shanghai is slated to open on 16 June, the company said on Tuesday.

The \$5.5 billion resort in Shanghai’s Pudong district is a joint venture between Disney and state-backed consortium Shanghai Shendi Group.

The resort will feature characters with new stories tailored for the Chinese people, with attractions such as Gardens of Imagination, Tomorrowland, Treasure Cove and Fantasyland.

As many as 10,000 people have been working on the project, which Disney said was one of the largest foreign investments in the history of China.—Reuters

Archaeologists hail find of 'best-preserved' UK Bronze Age dwellings

LONDON — Archaeologists said on Tuesday they had discovered what were believed to be the best-preserved Bronze Age dwellings ever found in Britain, providing an extraordinary insight into prehistoric life from 3,000 years ago.

The settlement of large circular wooden houses, built on stilts, collapsed in a fire and plunged into a river where it was preserved in silts leaving them in pristine condition, Historic England said. Discoveries from the dwellings in Whittlesey, in central England, which archaeologists said had been frozen in time and dated from between 1000-800 BC, included pots with food inside and finely woven

clothing. "We are learning more about the food our ancestors ate, and the pottery they used to cook and serve it," Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive of Historic England, said in a statement.

"This site is of international significance and its excavation will transform our understanding of the period."

Among the finds at the site, about two metres (6.5 ft) below the modern ground surface, are exotic glass beads forming part of a necklace, rare small cups, bowls and jars. Archaeologists also said that the site was so well preserved that even the footprints of those who lived at the site had been discovered. There are

also charred roof timbers clearly visible in one of the houses and the excavation team have speculated that those living at the settlement abandoned it in haste when it caught fire.

David Gibson, Archaeological Manager at the Cambridge Archaeological Unit, said they only usually came across a few pits or metal finds at Bronze Age sites.

"This time so much more has been preserved — we can actually see everyday life during the Bronze Age in the round," he said. "It's prehistoric archaeology in 3D with an unsurpassed finds assemblage in terms of range and quantity." —Reuters



Archaeologists from the University of Cambridge Archaeological Unit, uncover Bronze Age wooden houses, preserved in silt, from a quarry near Peterborough, Britain, on 12 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Study shows 7% of 3-year-olds in Japan don't get enough sleep

TOKYO — A recent government survey found roughly 7 per cent of 3-year-olds in Japan were sleep-deprived, getting less than 10 hours of sleep daily, due partly to parents coming home from work later than before.

The Environment Ministry study covering more than 100,000 children also

found about 29 per cent of the 3-year-olds were put to bed at 10pm or later, as were around 13 per cent of 1-year-olds and 16 per cent of 18-month-olds.

It is generally considered appropriate for children aged 3 to 5 to sleep 10 to 13 hours a day including naps. The survey found about 44 per cent of the 3-year-olds

slept 10 to nearly 12 hours, 47 per cent 12 to less than 14 hours, and 2 per cent 14 hours or more. The study even showed 2 per cent of 1-month-olds and 3 per cent of 1-year-olds sleeping less than 10 hours. The Japan Environment and Children's Study polled mothers of more than 100,000 children born in 2011 or later about

their children as of November last year. The tendency for children to be put to bed later was greater among mothers aged 40 or older or less than 20, with University of Yamanashi that analysed the results saying the higher figure for the older parent group may be due to the presence of older children. —Kyodo News



Australian skiers (back) are escorted down Mt. Nekomagatake by police in Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan, at 7:17am on 13 January 2016 after going missing the previous day while back-country skiing. Six Australians — four men and two women — were found around 10:30pm after going missing on the 1,404-metre mountain. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

6 Australians found after going missing on Fukushima mountain

FUKUSHIMA — Six Australians were found Tuesday night after going missing earlier in the day in a mountainous area near Mt. Nekomagatake in Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan, police said.

The four men and two women, who were visiting the Urabandai Nekomagatake ski resort in the village of Kitashiobara, are not in life-threatening conditions, the police said.

The six are believed to have entered a no-go zone near the 1,404-metre mountain Tuesday, according to the ski resort.

One of the six had called a family member, who was staying at a nearby accommodation facility, to ask for help. It was foggy there at the time, according to the ski resort. —Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International

(14-1-2016 07:00 am ~ 15-1-2016 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Kayah Style
07:35	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuha
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Visit To Ye
08:46	Am	Gardener: King Orange Plantation
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products Of Myanmar - Craft Blacksmithing
09:51	Am	Licuala Palm Leaf
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Zaw Latt
10:38	Am	MONASTERY (Shwe In-Pin Kyaung)
10:49	Am	Mobile House

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Alaungdaw Kathapa
07:44	Pm	Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Legacy Of Golden Days
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture Of Pennant Pillar
08:40	Pm	Art Students: Sculpture
08:46	Pm	Living in Off-Season

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(14-1-2016, Thursday)

6:00 pm • The Mirror Image of the Musical Oldies	8:45 pm • Musical Programme
6:10 pm • Pyi Thu Ni Ti	9:00 pm • Myanmar Video
6:25 pm • Nay Ma Win Ah Hla Myar	10:00 pm • ASEAN Cultural Fair-2014
7:05 pm • TV Drama Series	10:15 pm • Myanmar Video
8:00 pm • TV Drama Series	Midnight • Close Down

From 14.1.2016 (Thursday) 06:00 Pm
To 15.1.2016 (Friday) 06:00 Pm
This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

(14-1-2016, Thursday)	
6:00 am • Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw 7:35 am • Weekly Entertainment News	8:35 am • Documentary 9:35 am • Beautiful (ASEAN) 10:35 am • Documentary 11:35 am • Science and
Technology Programme 1:10 pm • TV Drama Series 2:30 pm • Real Story Real Movie 3:35 pm • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Physics) 4:35 pm • Real Story Real Movie 5:15 pm • Weekly Sports Info	6:35 pm • Current Affairs 7:15 pm • TV Drama Series 8:00 pm • News / International News / Weather Report 9:00 pm • News • TV Drama Series • CLEVER • Talk On Old Film (Part-1)
Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)	

Villa win at last, Rooney-inspired United held

LONDON — Aston Villa beat Crystal Palace 1-0 to win a Premier League match for the first time since August while a late goal from Paul Dummett earned a 3-3 draw for Newcastle United against Manchester United on Tuesday.

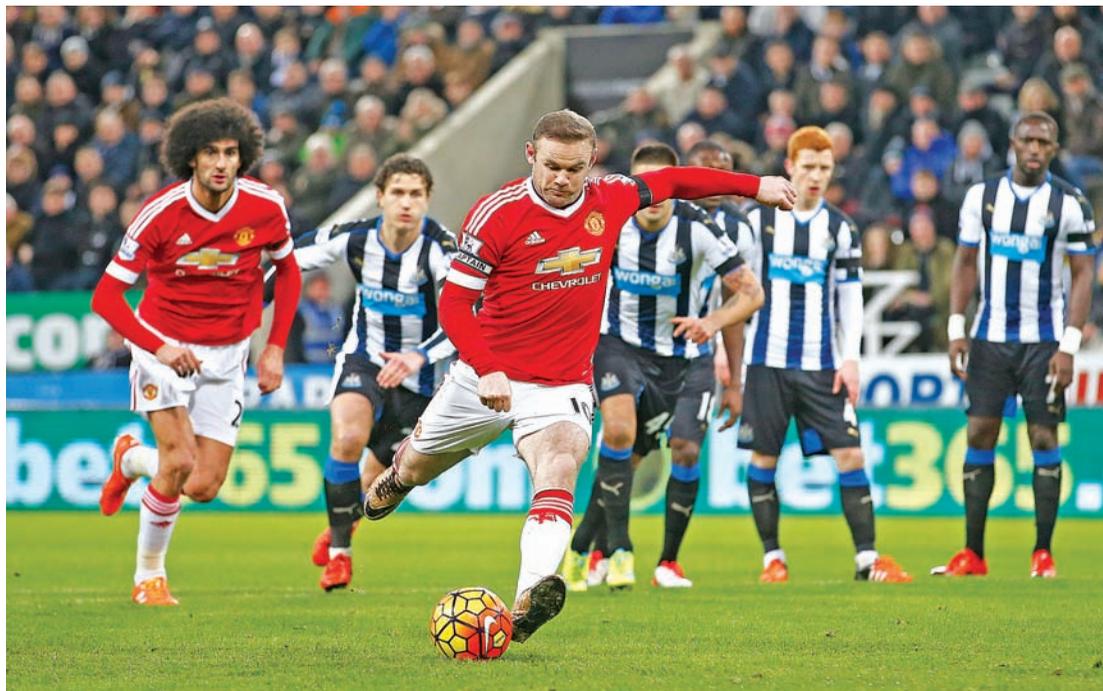
Joleon Lescott's second-half header, fumbled in by keeper Wayne Hennessey, handed Villa manager Remi Garde a first victory in charge, the bottom club's first in the league at home this season, and ended a run of 19 games without a win.

Wayne Rooney's 79th-minute strike, his second goal of the game, put United 3-2 up at Newcastle but Dummett struck in the last minute for the relegation-threatened hosts who had battled back from 2-0 down.

West Ham United moved above Manchester United into fifth place after coming from a goal down to win 3-1 at Bournemouth, Enner Valencia netting twice for the London side.

Villa, still eight points from safety, were gifted victory when Hennessey allowed defender Lescott's 58th-minute effort to squirm through his hands.

The home team had appeared to be in for another 90 minutes of struggle when Palace's Wilfried Zaha struck Villa's post inside



Wayne Rooney scores the first goal for Manchester United from the penalty spot during their Barclays Premier League at St James' Park on 12 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

the opening minute but Garde's men held firm.

The Villa players, abused by their fans after drawing with fourth-tier Wycombe Wanderers in the FA Cup at the weekend, this time received a standing ovation as they left the pitch.

"We suffered so much in the previous weeks and today we are very happy. Definitely

the players showed pride and we deserved to win," Garde told Sky Sports.

"It was a nice feeling to feel the crowd behind the players, it's very important. We cannot be happy too long — we have to build on this one."

Newcastle remain in the relegation zone, one point behind 17th-placed Swansea City, but

manager Steve McClaren was delighted his side had shown "what we are about".

McClaren's side trailed 2-0 after Rooney converted a ninth-minute penalty and laid on the second for Jesse Lingard following a swift counter attack.

Aleksandar Mitrovic nodded down for Georginio Wijnaldum to pull a goal back just before

halftime.

Serb Mitrovic then levelled from the spot after 67 minutes when Chris Smalling was penalised for pushing.

Rooney's neat finish put United back in front but Dummett lashed the ball in from the edge of the box to earn his side a point.

"People said Manchester United were boring and we lacked character but we kept fighting until the end and we have got a goal that feels like a winner," McClaren said.

"People thought it would be a 0-0 and it was a classic at 3-3."

Dimitri Payet kickstarted West Ham's comeback at Bournemouth after they had trailed to a fine first-half strike from Harry Arter.

West Ham lost striker Andy Carroll to injury early on but Payet levelled midway through the second half with a sublime free kick.

The French midfielder then set up Valencia to make it 2-1 in the 75th minute and the Ecuadorian striker thumped in a free kick to seal victory nine minutes later.

Leaders Arsenal visit Liverpool on Wednesday while second-placed Leicester City travel to Tottenham Hotspur.—Reuters

Sharapova fully fit for Australian Open challenge

MELBOURNE — Multiple grand slam champion Maria Sharapova has declared herself fully fit and ready for next week's Australian Open after having her

preparations hampered by a forearm injury.

The Russian world number five was forced to withdraw from the Brisbane International last week with the ailment, sparking fears she might miss the first grand slam of the year which begins on Monday.

The 2008 Australian Open champion and last year's runner-up opted to arrive in Melbourne early to practice rather

than seek matches at one of the other warm-up tournaments taking place across the country this week. "The injury was a bit of a roadblock but the great thing is that I've been healthy the three days and everyone's been away playing so I've had a lot of court time which has been really beneficial," Sharapova was quoted as saying by Australian Associated Press yesterday.

The 28-year-old, who missed the US Open last year because of a leg injury, was among a quartet of top players who were a doubt for Melbourne because of nagging ailments.

World number one Serena Williams (knee), Simona Halep (Achilles) and Garbine Muguruza (foot) all pulled out of matches last week but Sharapova said it was understandable for players to be wary ahead of a major.

"I think everyone sees the bigger picture and that's one of the things that I thought about — you want to do what you can to be healthy and be a part of the grand slam so sometimes that's a decision you have to make." —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Barca appeal rejected against Suarez two-match ban



FC Barcelona's Luis Suarez. PHOTO: REUTERS

MADRID — Barcelona's appeal against Luis Suarez's two-match King's Cup ban for allegedly provoking a fracas in the tunnel after last week's game against Espanyol has been rejected, the Spanish football federation (RFEF) said.

At the end of a bad-tempered last 16 first leg derby at the Nou Camp that Barca won 4-1, the players clashed near the dressing rooms after leaving the pitch and had to be separated by security personnel.

"I am waiting for you, come here. You are a waste of space," said Suarez, according to the referee's report.

The Uruguay striker will be suspended for the return leg at Espanyol on Wednesday and Barca's next King's Cup match should they reach the quarter-finals. Barca did not immediately say whether they planned to file a further appeal to the Spanish government's Disciplinary Committee for Sports (TAD).—Reuters