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ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

New MPs get crash course on legislative procedures



Speakers and lawmakers attend the ceremony to open the induction programme for MPs of the second Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA

A FIVE-DAY workshop on parliamentary procedures kicked off in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, aiming to broaden the knowledge of new lawmakers in Myanmar's second parliament.

Speaking on the occasion, National League for Democracy chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged the lawmakers to serve the interests of the country and its people as much as possible, stressing that the parliament is not a place for MPs to pursue their own interests.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than said the induction programme will help the MPs improve their capabilities to build a democratic system.

Pyithu Hluttaw speaker U Win Myint urged MPs to actively participate in the workshop in order to gain knowledge on legislation.

A total of 18 foreign lawmakers and experts served as trainers to the new MPs at the workshop, which will continue until 19 February.

During the programme, MPs will share knowledge about democracy and leadership, the duties and roles of MPs, the characteristics of a good MP, power-sharing and the role of MPs, sovereignty, checks and balances and challenges facing women MPs.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Merchants evaluate jade stones at Myanmar Jade Fair at the Maniyadana Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw, in December 2015. PHOTO: MNA

Jade exports bring Myanmar \$500 mil up to December

MYANMAR earned US\$567 million from jade exports in the first nine months (April-December) of the 2015-2016 fiscal year, according to a source from the Ministry of Commerce.

Within that amount, border trade accounted for to \$305 million, while \$262 million were earned through navigation channels.

The entire mining sector, whose primary product is jade, earned a total of \$895 million in the same period.

The sector is expected to bring in over \$1 billion by the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year, the ministry source said.

According to official statistics, foreign investment in the mining sector amounted to \$2.87 billion in 70 projects, accounting for 4.85 per cent of the total as of December 2015. Myanmar invited investment into the sector in 1988, and the sector is now the country's fifth-largest target of foreign investment.—*Xinhua*

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets UN Resident Coordinator, Pakistani Senate Speaker



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Manh Win Khaing Than welcomes Mian Raza Rabbani, Speaker of the Senate of Pakistan. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, and Mian Raza Rabbani, Speaker of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, separately

at a hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw Office. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Planning, budget bills submitted to Yangon Region parliament

THE Yangon Region parliament session continued yesterday with submissions of the regional planning bill and the budget bill for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Yangon Region is expected to see growth in many sectors, including agriculture, livestock and fisheries, said Minister for Planning and Economy U Than Myint, stating that the planning bill includes 14 regional projects to ensure 8.2 per cent growth for the upcoming fiscal year.

The bill includes growth targets of 4.3 per cent in the farming sector, 3.6 per cent in the livestock and fisheries sector, 3.7 per cent in the mining sector, 8.9 per cent in the industry sector, 4.8 per cent in the electric power sector, 2.7 per cent in the construction sector, 7.8 per cent in the transport sector, 14.7 per cent in the telecommunications sector, 6.4 per cent in the monetary sector, 4.5 per cent in the social management sector and 7.2 per cent in the commercial sector.

The bill also calls for a reduction in the exploitation of natural resources and energy sources in the region.

The bill proposes the construction of two flyovers at the junction of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Parami Road and at the North Okkalapa junction, as well as Dawbon Bridge, set to be financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

During her explanation of the region's proposed budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, regional Finance Minister Daw San San Nwe said K336.21 billion (US\$273,341,463) is set to be spent in the next fiscal year, including K32.2 billion (\$26,178,862) on the construction of the two flyovers, K50 billion (\$40,650,406) on infrastructure development and K65 billion (\$52,845,528) on improvements to potable water access.

The Yangon Region parliament will discuss the two bills on 17 February. —*Ko Moe*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Pakistani Senate Speaker

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received a Pakistani delegation led by Mian Raza Rabbani, the Speaker of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, at the Zabuthiri Hall in the Hluttaw

Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two parliament leaders held discussions on boosting amity and friendship and promoting cooperation between

the two parliaments. Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office were also present at the meeting. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint meets Mian Raza Rabbani, the Speaker of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. PHOTO: MNA

Relief operations in Namhsam gains momentum

REHABILITATION works in Namhsam have been carried out with momentum through combined efforts of members of social organizations and departmental personnel in clearing debris and cash and kind donated by well-wishers across the country for the fire victims.

Departments concerned stated

that electricity and drinking water supply returned to the town as of 7 February, vowing to complete rehabilitation operations ahead of the rainy season. According to sources, a team from the Ministry of Construction is conducting a survey to draw a town plan for affected wards, focusing on preventive measures against possible

fire outbreaks in the town of Shan State (South) in future. Moreover, construction materials are being delivered to the fire victims, and arrangements are being made to establish new settlements in accord with their desire and build a water storage facility for adequate supply of drinking water in the hilly town. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Catholic community prays for peaceful transition



Myanmar's catholic community celebrates the National Marian Pilgrimage. PHOTO: SOE SOE YU

THE Roman Catholic community in Myanmar celebrated the National Marian Pilgrimage in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, and praying for a peaceful transition in the country.

The 114th anniversary of the pilgrimage attracted more than 50,000 to a meeting with Cardinal Charles Maung Bo on 13 February.

Bago Region Chief Minister U Nyan Win also delivered an ad-

dress at the ceremony, elaborating on constitution's guarantee of freedom of religion.

The chief minister also stressed the importance of friendship among all national people to enjoy the right of freedom of religion.

"We pray for a peaceful transition in Myanmar in this Marian Pilgrimage," said Cardinal Charles Maung Bo. —*Soe Soe Yu*

KBZ offers cash assistance to Kyaukka fire victims

TWO days after a huge fire in Kyaukka Village, Palaw Township, the KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated aid packages of K300,000 to each of the 418 affected households yesterday.

The foundation also sent aid to fire victims in Namhsan, Shan State, and in Labutta, Ayeayawady Region, giving them aid packages including food and cash. The staff of the foundation and local volunteers distributed rice, edible oil, dried fish, beans, drinking water and K500,000 in cash to each affected family in the two areas.

KBZ's aid to 285 households in Namhsam amounted to K170 million (US\$138,211); to 225 households in Labutta—K1.5 million (\$1,220); and to 418 households in Kyaukka—more than K125 million (\$101,626), reaching a total of K445.4 million (\$362,114). —*GNLM*

VP U Nyan Tun arrives in Los Angeles for US-ASEAN Leaders Summit

A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President U Nyan Tun arrived in Los Angeles on Sunday at 11.45 am local time for attending the US-ASEAN Leaders Summit in Sunnylands, California.

The Vice-President and party were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to the US U Kyaw Myo Htut, the Consul-General

and families of Myanmar Embassy in the US at the Los Angeles International Airport.

Next, the Myanmar delegation left for Rancho Mirage where US-ASEAN Leaders Summit will take place, and arrived at Westin Mission Hills Hotel at 4.10 pm local time.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice-President U Nyan Tun being welcomed by a Myanmar diplomat on his arrival at Los Angeles . PHOTO: MNA



Union Election Commission chairman U Tin Aye delivers an address at the post-election review workshop. PHOTO: MNA

Union Election Commission hosts post-election review workshop

THE Union Election Commission CUBC met with sub-commissions from across the country at a post-election review workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, Union Election Commission chairman U Tin Aye called for recommendations for future electoral processes to be submitted to the workshop, acknowledging the efforts of vari-

ous sub-commissions in the 2015 general elections.

Next, UEC members, chairs and members of sub-commissions held discussions on a wide range of matters including voter education and awareness campaigns, the compilation of voter lists and the enhancement of participation in the electoral process.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mr Scot Alan Marciel as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to H.E. Mr Derek J Mitchell.

Mr Scot Alan Marciel joined the US State Department in 1985. He served in various capacities at the US Embassies and Consulates General in the Philippines, Brazil, Thailand, Viet Nam, Hong Kong and Turkey as well as in the State Department in Washington, DC. He served

as Deputy Assistant Secretary and US Ambassador for ASEAN Affairs in the US State Department's Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs from 2007 to 2010. Mr Scot Alan Marciel also served as the US Ambassador to Indonesia from 2010 to 2013. Since August 2013, Mr Scot Alan Marciel has been serving as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US State Department's Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs.

He is fluent in Indonesian, Vietnamese and Portuguese languages. He is married and has two daughters.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Lisu community celebrates New Year festival in Myitkyina

THE second Lisu New Year celebration took place in Myitkyina yesterday with a variety of traditional dances and cultural events.

The New Year festival of the Lisu community was attended by Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Ohn Myint, U Win Tun and U Zeyar Aung, as well as by Kachin State Chief Minis-

ter U La John Ngan Hsai, Commander of the Northern Command Maj-Gen Win Bo Shein, state ministers, Lisu traditional dance and cultural troupes and other officials.

While greeting, Union Minister U Soe Thane urged the Lisu people to continue to take part in the government's development efforts. He stressed the need to

maintain Lisu literature, culture and traditions. Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai and other officials also offered greetings at the event.

The union ministers took part in Lisu traditional dances and viewed the booths featuring traditions and cultures of the Lisu people on display at the festival.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister U Soe Thane is welcomed by Lisu ethnic women at new year festival of the Lisu community in Myitkyina. PHOTO: MNA

Kokang Self-Administered Zone undergoes rehabilitation

UNION Minister U Hla Tun, chairman of the support committee for the rehabilitation of the Kokang Self-Administered Zone (SAZ) in Shan State, visited Laukkai to coordinate regional development undertakings on Sunday.

In a meeting with the governing body of the Kokang SAZ and departmental officials, the

minister stressed the need to monitor border security and to look after local people returning home after fleeing last year's conflict in the region so that arrangements will be made to accommodate and rehabilitate them.

The minister called for public participation in ensuring regional stability, saying devel-

opment is impossible without peace and stability.

Conflict erupted in the regional clashes between the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Tatmadaw on 9 February 2015. Martial law was imposed on the SAZ for the next nine months to maintain security and stability in the region.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Crime News

Deadly blades seized in Yangon suburb

A VARIETY of knives were seized from four young men by police in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon, on 13 February.

Acting on a tip-off, local police searched a house located at No. 19/48 on Wingaba Street in the township, where they found a kendo knife, a cleaver, a long

sword, a dagger and a slingshot, as well as seven mobile phones.

Kalama (a) Thet Paing Soe, Kyaw Soe (a) Kyaw Soe Lwin), Pyi Thein and Ko Phyo (a) Ye Lwin Htet have been charged under the Criminal Law by the police. —Myanmar News Agency



Kalama (a) Thet Paing Soe, Kyaw Soe (a) Kyaw Soe Lwin, Pyi Thein and Ko Phyo (a) Ye Lwin Htet). PHOTO: MNA

Two men stabbed to death in South Dagon Tsp

TWO men were killed on the spot by a young man who resides within the same ward in South Dagon Township, Yangon, on the evening of 13 February.

According to a police investigation, the suspect, Hla Myo Naing, 24, visited the house of Kyaw Kyaw, 26, who was watching movie at home. The visitor stabbed Kyaw Kyaw all over his body with a knife without speaking.

Afterward, Hla Myo Naing stabbed the victim's younger brother Aung Paing Oo, 20, who had just returned home from a nearby store, in front of the house.

Police are still investigating the case. The suspect is facing murder charges at the township police station.—San Maung

Woman tourist injured in car fire



Damaged car seen at the place of accident. PHOTO: HLA KYI

AN automobile fire broke out near mile post No. 27/6 on the Patheingyi-Yangon Road in Kyaunggon Township in Ayeeyawady Region on 14 February, leaving a woman tourist injured.

The fire suddenly broke out at the head of a car that was driven by Ba Phan, 27, and carrying six foreign tourists from the Philippines, Indonesia, the US, Thailand and Sri Lanka near Yaytagyi Village.

A Thai woman sustained a minor injury to her ankle as she

jumped from the car during the fire. She is now being treated at the township hospital near the scene.

A police investigation showed that the fire was caused by the overheating of the car battery.

The fire was extinguished by fire fighters in cooperation with residents of Yaytagyi Village with the use of two fire engines. The Kyaunggon Township Police Station has filed a lawsuit against the reckless driver.—Hla Kyi

Two houses badly damaged in blaze

A FIRE destroyed two houses on Bayintnaung-5 Street in western Mindat Township on the morning of 12 February.

According to an investigation, an overheated cooking wok was the cause of a fire that broke out in a kitchen of a house owned by U Mana Lain, which is located in front of a youth training school. The blaze damaged his house and

spread to the neighbouring building. The fire was controlled by the fire fighters in cooperation with neighbours within 45 minutes. Household members are currently being accommodated at a temporary relief camp arranged by the authorities.

The Mindat Myoma Police Force has filed a lawsuit against the homeowner.—IPRD

Illegal oxen seized in Pyin Oo Lwin

A TOTAL of 17 people were arrested for illegally smuggling of farm animals on 11 February in Pyin Oo Lwin District, Mandalay Region.

Acting on a tip-off, local police searched four vehicles en route from Mandalay to Mogoke one furlong from the Latpanhma

Police Station in Singu Township.

Police found 56 oxen—14 in a car driven by Nyi Nyi Aung; 14 in a car driven by Ko Shine Maung; 13 in a car driven by Zami Aung; and 15 in a car driven by Aung Myo. Police have filed charge against all suspects.—Win Maung



Oxen seized by local police. PHOTO: WIN MAUNG

Four people injured in car accident



FOUR people sustained injuries in a traffic accident on Strand Road in downtown Yangon on 12 February.

A bus driver for the Sanwaila public transport bus line firstly crashed into an Alpha car when he drove on the wrong side

of the road and lost control of the bus at the top of 19th Street.

The bus also collided with the left part of a Light Ace car, damaging both of the small vehicles. During the collision, four people—three in the Alpha car and one in the Light Ace—suffered serious injuries.

They are receiving medical treatment at Yangon General Hospital. The reckless driver and bus-conductor fled the scene. Police are searching for them and have filed charges against all suspects.—Khin Hsaing

Married couple drowned in well

A MARRIED couple drowned after falling inside a well in Mawlamyine Township, Mon State, on the morning of 12 February, police reported.

Acting on public information, police from Mupun Myoma Police Station inspected the scene, where they found two

dead bodies in the well, which is located in front of King Myanmar Drinking Water Factory in Changyisu Street in the township's Zaygyo Ward.

Yan Myo Aung, 35, a worker in a local factory, and his wife Daw Yin Yin Khaing, 48, fell inside the uncovered well during a

quarrel on 11 February.

According to the couple's neighbours, Daw Yin Yin Khaing ran into the compound near her house after her husband kicked and punched her face and body at around 8pm on that day. They then fell inside the well and drowned.—Tin Htut

Man stabbed to death in Taungoo

THE administrator for Kinseik Village, Taungoo Township, was stabbed to death on 13 February, police reported.

Village administrator U Kyaw Win died on the spot of serious injuries after being attacked with knife by a young man named Nyi Lynn Htwe,

24. The attacker was reportedly drunk at the time of the stabbing.

According to the victim's neighbours, U Kyaw Win was accompanied by household leaders and firemen as he inspected the village's fire safety measures. He was encountered by the drunken man holding a knife

near a library in the village. Nyi Lynn Htwe shouted at the administrator, who urged him to go back home. The suspect stabbed U Kyaw Win with a 2-foot-long knife at around 10pm. Nyi Lynn Htwe has been charged with the murder of U Kyaw Win by local police.—Ko Lwin

LOCAL Business

Mandalay Convention Centre soft opening set for next month

Aung Thant Khaing

THE Mandalay Convention Centre and Commercial Complex project is progressing as planned, with the soft opening slated for March, announced the construction company implementing the US\$25 million project.

The Mandalay Convention Centre soft opening will take place on 23 March, said U Zin Min Swe, managing director of CAD Construction Co., which is implementing the project in co-operation with New Star Light Construction Co.

“Every country or city needs to have a convention centre,” added the managing director, saying the centre is necessary for celebrating special events and de-

veloping business networks.

The project is being implemented in three phases on the plot of land of 14.78-acres by the Mandalay City Development Committee and the Mandalay Investment & Development Group.

The first phase of the project is the construction of the Mandalay Convention Centre; the second phase includes the building of a commercial complex including hotels, offices, shopping centres and condominiums; and third phase includes arts and entertainment facilities, including an amusement park.

The project’s first phase is set for completion by this June, and the whole project is expected



Mandalay Convention Centre is under construction. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

to be completed in 2019.

Upon completion, the over 200,000-square-metre, four-storey convention centre will be used to host several seminars and conferences at the same time, said U Zin Min Swe, pointing out

that only one event can be held at Mandalay City Hall at any given time.

The ground floor of the centre will serve as a venue for holding exhibitions, conference and seminars. It will feature one hall

with a seating capacity of 4,500, a conference hall with a seating capacity of 264, plus several seminar rooms. The centre is also set to be fitted with six escalators and lifts that can carry vehicles for automobile shows.



Workers catch fish at a farm. PHOTO: MYITMAKA NEWS AGENCY

Loans elude fish farmers who lack land ownership documents

FISH farmers are facing difficulties obtaining loans for independent fish-breeding activities as fish ponds in Myanmar lack land ownership documents, according to the Okkar Maung Livestock and Fisheries Production and General Trading Cooperative.

“Seventy-five per cent of fish breeding enterprise expenses go toward [fish] feed. Independent fish farmers in Myanmar are currently having a spot of difficulty in securing loans from State-owned and private banks as they are unable to show a land grant for their fish ponds. If the government were able to issue land grants, then fish farmers would

be in a position under which they could approach fish feed processing plants to acquire feed through a credit-based system. They guarantee repayment by showing their land grants,” explained U Myo Aung, chairperson of the aforementioned cooperative.

Fish farmers, for the most part, do not currently possess land grants. As such, those involved in digging fish ponds on farmland are at possible risk of having their land confiscated, which would hamper their fish breeding activities in the long term.

“The government would be able to collect taxes from the fish farming industry were it to issue

land grants. That is why I would like to earnestly urge the new government to provide this as soon as possible,” U Myo Aung continued.

Since 1990-1991, the last documentation that the government issued was the La Na 39, a legal document granting the holder rightful ownership land use. Although there was talk that Form 30(a) act would be included within the newly enacted farmland legislation in the manner of La Na 39, this has yet to be realised.

There are over 200,000 acres of fish farm ponds within Myanmar.—Myitmakha News Agency

Myanmar-China bilateral trade hits over 9bn USD in 10 months of 2015-16 FY

THE bilateral trade between Myanmar and China hit over 9.4 billion US dollars in first ten months (April-Jan) of 2015-16 fiscal year, sources with Ministry of Commerce said Monday.

During the period, Myanmar mainly exports oil and gas, agricultural products to China.

The imports from China include industrial products and commodities.

According to official statistics, bilateral trade between Myanmar and China amounted to over 10 billion US dollars in

2014-15 fiscal year.

Of the total, Myanmar’s export to China hit 4.6 billion US dollars and its import from China reached 5.6 billion dollars.

Meanwhile, according to Myanmar official statistics, China’s investment in Myanmar amounted to 15.418 billion US dollars in 115 projects, accounting for 26.07 per cent of the total as of December 2015 since Myanmar opened to such investment in late 1988 and standing first in Myanmar’s foreign investment line-up.—Xinhua

Yedashe farmers thrive on vegetable gardens

FARMERS in Yedashe Township, Bago Region are planting onions, beans and tomatoes along the Swa Creek, all of which are attracting high demand at the Swa Market.

“My income from this plantation not only covers our kitchen expenses but also allows us to save money. Instead

of doing nothing during our leisure hours, we plant the crops beside the river,” said a local farmer.

“Growing the vegetables and crops on a manageable scale can not only reduce our purchasing requirements but also enable us to save some money,” he added.—Ko Lwin (Swar)

Calls in South Korea for nuclear weapons as parliamentary poll looms

SEOUL — A senior figure in South Korea's conservative ruling party said yesterday his country should have nuclear weapons, as concern over how to respond to rising tensions with North Korea loomed as an election issue ahead of parliamentary polls in April.

Opposition liberals have blamed President Park Geun-hye for lacking a clear strategy to deal with the North, which recently launched a long-range rocket and last month tested its fourth nuclear device.

Park plans to address parliament on Tuesday, where she will seek bipartisan support for addressing the security threat from Pyongyang, the presidential office said on Sunday.

Won Yoo-chul, floor leader for the ruling Saenuri party, on Monday said South Korea should adopt "peaceful" nuclear weapons and missiles against North Korea's "fearful and self-destructive" ones.

He said South Korea should be independent from ally Washington's so-called nuclear umbrella to deter North Korea's nuclear threat, or reconsider deployment of US tactical nuclear weapons, which were withdrawn from



A man chants slogans during an anti-North Korea rally in central Seoul, South Korea, on 11 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

South Korea in 1992 under a pact for the denuclearisation of the peninsula.

"We can't borrow umbrellas from next-door every time it rains. We should wear a raincoat of our own," Won said.

Defence Minister Han Min-koo later told lawmakers Seoul was not considering acquiring nuclear weapons.

A poll of 1,000 people released yesterday by the *JoongAng Ilbo* newspaper showed 67.7 per-

cent favoured South Korea having its own nuclear weapons. A poll released on Sunday by Yonhap news agency found 52.2 per cent in favour of domestic nuclear weapons.

Calls for an independent nu-

clear deterrent tend to crop in South Korea during times of tension with the North.

The *JoongAng Ilbo* poll found 54.8 per cent supported Park's decision last week to pull out of the Kaesong Industrial Complex operated jointly with North Korea, while 67.7 per cent backed the plan to deploy a US-run Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) missile defence system following the rocket launch.

Park's party, which holds 157 out of 293 parliamentary seats, is expected to retain its majority in April 13 elections. Park's single five-year term expires in February of 2018.

However, a poll released by Realmeter on Monday showed Park's support rating fell to 42.2 per cent in the second week of February from 42.9 per cent a week earlier, while her negative ratings rose.

"During and after the Lunar New Year holidays, South and North Korea's super-hardline behaviour against each other ... and political disputes over solutions to the South-North relations appear disappointing to many people," Realmeter said.—*Reuters*

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China urges United States, North Korea to hold direct talks

BEIJING — China's foreign ministry yesterday urged the United States and North Korea to sit down with each other face-to-face and resolve their problems, as tension continues to climb on the Korean peninsula after North Korea's latest rocket test.

While China was angered by the launch, it has also expressed concern at plans by Washington and Seoul to deploy an advanced US missile defence system, saying it would impact upon China's own security.

"The focus of the nuclear issue on the peninsula is between the United States and North Korea," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a daily news briefing.

"We urge the United States and North Korea to sit down and have communications and negotiations, to explore ways to resolve each other's reasonable concerns and finally reach the goal we all

want reached."

North Korea launched a long-range rocket on 7 February carrying what it called a satellite, drawing renewed international condemnation just weeks after it carried out a nuclear bomb test.

It said the launch was for peaceful purposes, but Seoul and Washington have said it violated United Nations Security Council resolutions because it used ballistic missile technology.

North Korea's nuclear bomb test last month was also banned by a UN resolution.

China, while frustrated by North Korea and having signed up for numerous previous rounds of United Nations sanctions on its isolated neighbour, has said it does not believe sanctions are the way to resolve the problem and has urged a return to talks.

Numerous efforts to restart multilateral talks have failed since negotiations collapsed following



A North Korean flag is seen on the top of its embassy in Beijing, China, on 7 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

the last round in 2008.

Chinese popular opinion has become increasingly fed up with North Korea, a country once a close diplomatic ally.

In an editorial on Monday, the official English-language *China*

Daily called for new UN sanctions to "truly bite".

"The threat of a nuclear-armed DPRK is more real than ever," it said, using the North's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.—*Reuters*

India to strengthen financial cooperation framework during BRICS presidency

NEW DELHI — India will focus on strengthening financial cooperation framework of BRICS countries during its presidency this year, said a local newspaper yesterday.

The local daily *The Pioneer* quoted official sources here as saying that New Delhi, which took over the BRICS presidency this year from Russia on Mon-

day, will be "carrying the New Development Bank (NDB) agenda forward."

"In line with the PM (Narendra Modi)'s thinking we will take BRICS to people and to the provinces through trade fair, film festival, wellness festival, yoga, youth and people. That will be the key focus during India's presidency," the report quoted the

sources as saying. The Indian prime minister made 10 suggestions for future cooperation of BRICS countries during the group's last summit in Ufa, Russia, last year.

"Focus will be on integration and consolidation of the announcements made by the PM last year at Ufa. During the chairmanship our focus will be on op-

erationalising and streamlining mechanisms established thus far and imparting them greater focus," the sources was quoted as saying. "Plan is to give further meaningful addition to the financial architecture within the BRICS framework," the sources said. The BRICS groups Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.—*Xinhua*

South Korean army helicopter crash kills three

SEOUL — A South Korean army helicopter crashed during a test flight yesterday morning, killing three soldiers, the country's defence ministry said.

All four crew members aboard were severely injured and three of them later died in hospital, a ministry official said.

The crash of the Bell UH-1H Iroquois helicopter took place at around 10am (0100 GMT) in the eastern city of Chuncheon, about 110 kilometres (68 miles) from Seoul. Officials were investigating the cause of the crash.—*Reuters*

Philippine gov't vows to provide more help to farmers affected by El Niño

MANILA — The Philippine government has allotted 900 million pesos (18.93 million US dollars) to support immediate intervention for the farmers in southern region in Mindanao affected by severe El Niño, a senior government official said Sunday.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala said his office is awaiting the release of the fund.

He assured that the government will continue to provide the best options for farmers, with the Department of Agriculture providing shallow tube wells, water pumps and solar water pumps to farmers' groups and irrigators' association.

Alcala noted that reports reaching his office showed that in southern province of Maguindanao alone, 17,000 hectares for both rice and corn areas have been damaged due to El Niño, affecting over 20,000 farmers. The province has been placed under a state of calamity.

The El Niño phenomenon is expected to be felt until the second quarter of this year.—*Xinhua*

Chinese Uighur was tortured into confessing role in Bangkok bomb — lawyer

BANGKOK — A Chinese ethnic Uighur man arrested in Thailand over a bombing that killed 20 people in Bangkok last year denied yesterday charges of murder or involvement in the attack, retracting an earlier confession his lawyer said he was tortured into making.

Adem Karadag, also known as Bilal Mohammed, is due to appear at a military court on Tuesday, along with a second suspect, Yusufu Mieraili, to formally hear the charges. Police said both men had confessed to having a role in the 17 August explosion.

A lawyer for Karadag, said his client was coerced into confessing that he took part in the attack. Most of the victims were foreign tourists, raising concerns that the country's lucrative tourist industry could suffer.

"At the time he was tortured and under pressure. That is why he confessed to the charges against him," lawyer Schoochart Kanpai told Reuters after visiting Karadag in detention.

"He still maintains he has



Suspects of the 17 August Bangkok blast, Bilal Mohammed (also known as Adem Karadag) and Yusufu Mieraili are escorted by soldiers and prison officers as they arrive at the military court in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

no involvement in this. The only charge he accepts is illegal entry."

Winthai Suvaree, a spokesman for the junta, doubted whether the two suspects had been tortured while in military custody. "I am fairly certain nothing happened

to the suspects while they were in military custody," he said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, which Thai authorities have said was in retaliation for a crackdown on human smuggling gangs and not a terrorist attack.

But some security experts say the bomb was in retaliation for Thailand's forced repatriation of more than 100 Uighurs to China in July rather than in response to a crackdown on human smuggling gangs.

China has long faced criticism for the perceived harsh restrictions it places on religion and culture in Xingjiang, where the majority of Uighurs live.

The two suspects had first been charged by a military court in November, but neither had accepted or denied the charges because of interpretation issues at that hearing, Schoochart said. They were indicted on 10 charges, including murder and illegal possession of explosives, but not terrorism.

The lawyer did not say whether the second suspect, Mieraili, would also deny the charges against him on Tuesday. Police have been issued warrants for 17 people in connection with the attack, he said. Fifteen of those wanted are still at large.—*Reuters*

Remembrance ceremony held to mark World War II in Singapore

SINGAPORE — The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) yesterday held the 49th war memorial service in commemoration of the civilian victims of the Japanese occupation.

Representatives from government organs, uniformed services, diplomatic corps, business associations, religious organisations, as well as veterans and families of the victims, and over 700 students attended this year's memorial.

Monday is also Singapore's annual Total Defence Day. Be-

fore the beginning of the service, the Singapore Civil Defence Force sounded the "All Clear" signal through its public warning system to commemorate the fall of Singapore to the Japanese during World War II.

Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth attended the memorial. She also launched the "NeverAgain Movement", initiated by the Advisory Council on Community Relations in Defence (ACCORD), which aims to raise awareness of the significance of the fall of Singapore

on 15 February, 1942, and to garner family and community support for national security.

On 15 February, 1942, Japanese captured Singapore and occupied it for over three and a half years. According to incomplete statistics, at least 50,000 Singaporeans were killed. On 15 February, 1967, the memorial monument was built by the SCCCI and memorial service is held each year ever since.

Spoken to media, Fu said that the memorial and the NeverAgain Movement are important to remind

the younger generation to appreciate the value of peace.

As terrorism has growing as the new threats to global peace, Thomas Chua Kee Seng, president of SCCCI told Xinhua that the new movement is also a reminder for Singaporeans in the new era.

"Terrorism is the real threat because it can happen anywhere, anytime and cause casualties in Singapore. In face of terrorism, NeverAgain Movement can remind Singaporeans that we should get ready for unexpected disasters," he said.—*Xinhua*

Huge fire breaks out at "Make in India" business forum in Mumbai

NEW DELHI — A huge fire broke out on Sunday evening at a cultural performance for the "Make in India" business forum in the Indian financial hub Mumbai, burning down a whole stage, local TV NDTV reported.

The incident took place during a cultural performance.

Indian officials including the chief minister and the governor of Maharashtra, were urgently evacuated.

So far there is no report of casualty. Fire fighters were trying to put down the fire, according to the local media.—*Xinhua*



Guests leave a stage that is caught on fire during a cultural event in Mumbai, India, 14 February, 2016. A huge fire broke out Sunday evening at a cultural extravaganza for "Make in India Week" business forum in the Indian financial hub Mumbai, burning down a whole stage, said officials. PHOTO: XINHUA

OPINION

The need for socially responsible corporate governance

Khin Maung Aye

IT is undeniable that private sector development plays a crucial role in a country's economic development. Nevertheless, not enough people are aware that private firms are required to be socially responsible. This has been so for decades, with private firms failing to fulfil their corporate social responsibilities (CSR). Mining companies operating in Hpakant and the Mandalay Taung Thaman Inn are notorious examples of this. These businesses' adverse effects on the environment and the casualties and damages they have caused have attracted the attention of the authorities and environmental advocates.

The success of a business must depend upon

good corporate governance, which is linked to corporate culture. Corporate culture is shaped by the proprietors' or stockholders' personal beliefs and values. Although corporations are bent upon the maximisation of profit, they cannot ignore the social factor. Corporations are obliged to set social objectives as well. They need to protect the natural environment in the implementation of their economic objectives. Business must be eco-friendly; a company's economic goals should be achieved in a manner that sustains the environment. In other words, all development ought to be sustainable development.

It would not be improper to point out that ownership should be separated from management in order to ensure good corporate governance. In Myanmar, more than 90 per cent of proprietors tend to be involved in the day-to-day management of their businesses. They are always interested in the details rather than placing an emphasis on the formulation of strategies and long-term plans. This is the reason why, very often, business owners fail to have a bird's eye view of their own activities and their effects on the world around them.

If the government wants businesses to prosper, grow and develop, it should promote the awareness of

the importance of good corporate governance, which emphasises transparency, accountability, honesty and corporate social responsibility (CSR). The members of the boards of directors of all major companies operating in the country should be given training. Their performances ought to be evaluated to assess whether they have made progress upon the completion of their training.

The Global New Light of Myanmar would like to urge all stakeholders to direct their efforts toward the effectuation of good corporate governance in such a way as to contribute toward the development of both the businesses and the national economy.

Write for us

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

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

Nation-building reflects different things to different people

Sayar Mya

At the end of my earlier article entitled "Nation Building through Normative Concept", I have shortly introduced the concept of **Dudley Seers** (1920-1983) who specialized in development economics. After his military service with the Royal Navy he taught at Oxford and then worked for various UN institutions.

Dudley Seers presage and foretell on the concept of human development. In the context of country development, he touched on the issues such as poverty, unemployment and inequality. If all these have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development in a country.

In the 1990s the **UN Development Program** brought out the Human Development Report and the Human Development Index to focus on those aspects of development other than economic, including in the index both health and education. Many UN programs, as well as NGO efforts, focus on these aspects. Moreover the **World Bank** has begun to focus on poverty.

Gabriel Almond and Sidney Verba, two American authors, in 1963 introduced the concept of "The Civic Culture" to the development literature. "The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations" is a 1963 non-fiction political science book.

The civic culture, which combines tradition and modernity, is one of the processes that sustain and protract democracy. Almond and Verba defined as part of this civic culture the obligation to participate and the sense of civic capability, competence and cooperation. They also noted the importance of the role of education in the development of a civic culture.

Alexis de Toqueville (29 July 1805 – 16 April 1859) was a French

political thinker and historian) had noted the importance of various associations in sustaining Democracy in America at its earliest stages.

Robert David Putnam is a political scientist and Professor of Public Policy at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. Putnam in exploring the civil traditions in modern Italy that make democracy work, includes in his notion of the civic community such as civic engagement, political equality, and solidarity, trust, and tolerance, in addition to associations. He finds the presence of choral societies in Italy, bowling leagues in the US, and other associations to be important in democracy.

The importance of **civil society** also became clear as a factor in the movement from authoritarianism toward democracy in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at the end of the Cold War.

The role of civil society received much support in early nation-building as well as democratization efforts in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. However, it has drastically declined since then.

This concept of the importance of civil society as a foundation to democratic nation-building seems to be given lip-service in current efforts. In reality it is not seen as significant by nation-builders when one measures this trend by the yardstick of budget and spending.

If nation-building in the 21st century is to be successful, one may want to look back at some of its early theorists. There are many ingredients such as the importance of the democratic values, of the civic culture and of the civil society that develops and sustains itself.

Moreover, other factors are the importance of increasing social, political, and economic equality in conjunction with that of human development. These are critical in any successful strategy for long-term democratic nation-building.

Nation-building is more than just state-building. To be a sustainable force for peace building, it must incorporate more than just the Western appendages or just adding less important parts of democracy. Mere supplementing the voting systems and free market development and increasing the GNP per capita are not likely to bring stable peace.

Why does nation-building matter?

Nation-building is a complex subject to deal with or multi-faceted matters including intractable conflict or inflexible disagreement because of the theory that a strong state is necessary in order to provide security as a whole. Moreover, that the building of an integrated national community is important in the building of a state. Furthermore, that there may be social and economic prerequisites to the building of an integrated national community.

In addition, when nation-building implies democratization, there is further hypothesis known as the democratic peace hypothesis or theory.

Immanuel Kant (22 April 1724 – 12 February 1804) was a German philosopher who is considered the central figure of modern philosophy. Originally explicated in details by Immanuel Kant in the 17th century, the democratic peace hypothesis says that perpetual peace can be achieved by developing a federation or league of free republican nations. Representative democracies, organized in an international organization, would bring peace.

Political scientists who have explored this hypothesis have focused on one of two versions: (a) democracies do not make war against each other, or (b) democracies do not initiate war at all. There is certainly evidence of the former, and some evidence of the latter.

The other side of the coin is that nation-building may sometimes be simply given another name for external intervention and the extension

of empires.

A "failed state" is a political body that has disintegrated to a point where basic conditions and responsibilities of a sovereign government no longer function properly. Likewise, when a nation weakens and its standard of living declines, it introduces the possibility of governmental collapse.

It can be said that failed states are the cause of national, regional, or world security problems, or that of human rights abuses are so extensive, then intervention is likely to occur. If the situations get worse and if there is the need to overcome the difficulties, then intervention in the name of nation-building can be seen as the justification. Sometimes nation-building may simply be used as a rationalization for the expansion of imperial control. So the nation-building needs a complex and complicated approach.

What can be done?

There is disagreement among current theorists of nation-building as to the relationships between the development of a free market economy and the development of democratic participation. There is a different view as well over the necessity of building a civil society as a prerequisite for the development of state institutions for democratic participation.

Different theories of nation-building emphasize different parts of the arguments. Different versions of nation-building benefit different groups. Some appear to benefit more to the outside countries, or the international governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Some benefit to the elites in the nation being built or rebuilt. Some spread benefits widely in the society; some do not.

Nation-building that is likely to contribute to stable international peace will need to emphasize the democratic participation of people within the nation. It will need to build the society, economy, and

polity which will meet the basic needs of the people so that they are not driven by poverty, inequality and unemployment. This does not mean only in establishing the formal institutions of democracy, but also the underlying culture which recognizes respect for the identities and needs of others both from within and without.

It means development of human rights, political, civil, economic and social, and the rule of law. But it also means development of infrastructure including sewer systems, and roads, and jobs. Perhaps most important, it means the development of education and health.

Nation-building must allow the participation of civil society, and develop democratic state institutions that promote welfare. Democratic state-building is an important part of that. This is a multi-faceted process that will proceed differently in each local context.

Who can do it? The US or the UN?

Another question is whether an outside country can build a nation in another country. Is nation-building more effectively done by a single country, by the UN or UN-related organizations, by regional organizations, or by some combination of these?

Michael Grant Ignatieff is a Canadian author, academic and former politician. Michael Ignatieff has written a convincing article critiquing "nation-building lite" in Afghanistan, prior to the start of the second Iraq war. He acknowledges this as imperialism, arguing that "nation-building is the kind of imperialism you get in a human rights era, a time when great powers believe simultaneously in the right of small nations to govern themselves and in their own right to rule the world." He argues that Afghans "understand the difficult truth that their best hope of freedom lies in a temporary experience of imperial rule."

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Sewage treatment plant in Botahtaung. PHOTO: SOE SOE NATING

YCDC to build sewage treatment plants across Yangon

THE Yangon City Development Committee will build sewage treatment plants throughout the commercial city in cooperation with the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA).

Daw Khin Aye Myint of YCDC said: "The current sewage treatment system in Yangon is no longer able to treat sewage water. We will build sewage treatment plants near Yangon River, Bago River, Hlaing River and Ngamoeyeik Creek in designated zones." JICA's greater Yangon plan covers the construction of

sewage treatment plants around the city, including Pabedan, Kyu-aktada, Botahtaung, Pazundaung, Dala, Tamwe, Bahan, North Okkalapa, Thingyangyun and Mingaladon townships.

"The new sewage treatment plants are expected to cover 49 per cent of Yangon's total population," Daw Khin Aye Myint said. "Currently, only six townships in Yangon have septic tank systems," said a YCDC spokesperson. "The jacking method will be used for future septic treatment system." —Soe Soe Nating

Fourth pedestrian overpass to open in March

A PEDESTRIAN overpass being built by the roads and bridges department under the Yangon City Development Committee on Kaba Aye Pagoda road in Bahan Township in Yangon will be commissioned into services in March.

This is the YCDC's fourth pedestrian overpass in Yangon. Construction began in October 2015. The 99-foot-long bridge includes a pedestrian path measuring 10 feet and six inches wide, plus one ladder and one escalator on each side. Its clearance is 20 feet in height. The construction is more than 70 per cent complete now.

One official working with

the project said: "We are building pedestrian overpasses in crowded places in Yangon. The construction of this overpass aims to ensure the safety of pedestrians." A resident of Bahan Township said: "The authorities are building pedestrian overpasses one after another. The public, on their part, must use these facilities in a disciplined manner. Sometimes, some road users fail to abide by the traffic rules. The authorities should tighten the traffic rules." Other four pedestrian overpasses—Sule Pagoda, near Thanzay, Inya and Mala Hostel—are currently under construction in Yangon.—Maung Sein Lwin



Fourth pedestrian overpass seen under construction in Yangon. PHOTO: MAUNG SEIN LWIN

Women join walkathon to fight anaemia



6000 women participated in Yangon's 3rd Women's Walking Race which was held in Yangon. PHOTO: TIN SOE

THOUSANDS of people joined Yangon's 3rd Women's Walking Race on 14 February, where participants received free examinations for anaemia.

Around 6,000 women walked along Waizayanda Road in Thingangyun Township, Yangon, on Sunday. "I have participated in this event for three years to reduce possible health problems for my body by my changing lifestyle,"

said walker Daw Kyin, 56, who plans to take part in the walkathon event next year. Organised by the Ministry of Sports and a partner medicine company, the event is aimed at promoting awareness on anaemia, a common health problem for women.

As in previous years, the event featured free medical examinations, public health seminars and entertainment programmes.

Dr Thin Naing Oo said: "Anaemia is most common in Myanmar women and remains the country's major health problem." The disease has been found in women in Kayah, Shan and Rakhine states as well as Tanintharyi and Ayeyawady regions.

According to surveys conducted in 2003 and 2005, seven in ten pregnant women were found to be anaemic.—Tin Soe

Nation-building reflects different things to different people

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James Francis Dobbins, Jr. is an American diplomat who served as United States Ambassador to the European Union, as Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, and as Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The 2003 RAND study by James Dobbins and others reviews the lessons learned in US nation-building efforts. By comparing seven historical cases namely Germany, Japan, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan, they concluded by saying "in which American military power has been used in the aftermath of a conflict to underpin

democratization elsewhere around the world since World War II."

Dobbins and colleagues recognize the advantages of a multilateral approach, arguing that while it is more complex and time-consuming, it is less expensive for any one participant. It is more important, and is better at producing both transformation and regional reconciliation. They also recognize the important role of neighboring countries.

The United Nations has participated in nation-building efforts both through the Security Council's authorization of peacekeeping missions involving primarily military, but also civilian and police participants

as well. Among these have been Cambodia, Angola, and Bosnia in the early 1990s, and later Kosovo and East Timor.

Some have been more, some less, successful.

It has also participated in development and human rights efforts completely aside from peacekeeping. Efforts range from those of UNICEF in fostering children's rights, to the UN Development Program in providing human development aid, to the World Food Program, to UNESCO's Education for All programs.

These are also an important component of nation-building. Economic, social, and political development and institutions

that protect human rights have been provided for the rule of law. They are important not only to post-conflict peace building, but to nation-building at any stage of development or any stage of conflict.

And it may be harmless to wind up that the international legitimacy can be provided by a global institution much better for nation-building than efforts by any single country, or a regional organization, or a "coalition of the willing." Accusations of "imperial nation-building" are reduced when there is greater international consensus.

Nation builders are those members of a state who take the

initiative to develop the integrated national unity, social harmony and economic growth through government programs, prioritizing rule of law and sustainable and lasting peace in the country in conjunction with national contented mass schooling in education and basic health care reaching grassroots level. It needs in eradicating poverty, unemployment and inequality.

In conclusion, it is safe to say that **Nation-building** is constructing or structuring a national identity using the power of the state. Nation-building aims at the unification of the people within the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run.

Follow the leader? Germany struggles as Syria, refugee crises rage

MUNICH — Germany, Europe's reluctant hegemon, is trying its best to lead in the face of multiple overlapping crises, but no one is following.

That was a central message from this year's Munich Security Conference, an annual event where leaders and diplomats from Europe, the Middle East and the United States gather to debate the world's problems.

It ended on Sunday on a far gloomier note than it started — with doubts being cast over a fledgling truce plan for Syria, with Russia defiant and confrontational, and Berlin struggling to win over European allies in the refugee crisis.

"You have leaders who are disconcerted and overwhelmed," said Constanze Stelzenmueller, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, describing this year's gathering as "oddly limp".

"The lack of confidence is as pervasive as a damp fog. Germany is doing its best on the diplomatic front, but there is a real struggle to find pragmatic solutions and form effective coalitions."

On the eve of the conference, a meeting of major powers hosted by German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier agreed to a "cessation of hostilities" in Syria, providing a glimmer of hope in a five-year war that has killed at least 250,000 people. But within hours, signatories to the deal itself were calling it into question.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (L) speaks to German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier at the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, on 13 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the chances of it failing were greater than success, and made clear Moscow would not stop its air strikes in support of Syrian forces descending on the northern city of Aleppo.

His remarks and those of Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev appeared to dash hopes of a more constructive approach from Moscow. Medvedev warned of a new Cold War and evoked President Vladimir Putin's confrontational Munich speech of 2007, in which he accused the United States of a destructive drive to become the world's "one single master".

"They were both here to de-

liver a telegram from Putin," said Francois Heisbourg, special adviser to the Paris-based Foundation for Strategic Research. "The message was: we don't take you seriously, and we're going to make life difficult for you 24/7."

On Saturday, US Secretary of State John Kerry and his German counterpart Steinmeier did their best to sound optimistic.

But by Sunday, one of Chancellor Angela Merkel's senior conservative allies in parliament, Norbert Roetgen, was telling the audience that he had no faith that Russia would behave constructively in Syria, accusing Moscow of creating "facts on the ground" there to bolster its negotiating position.—Reuters

Republicans gear up for Supreme Court battle after Scalia's death

WASHINGTON — Republican lawmakers and presidential candidates hardened their positions on Sunday on blocking a move by President Barack Obama to fill the Supreme Court seat left by the late conservative Justice Antonin Scalia, a lifetime appointment that would help decide some of the most divisive issues facing Americans.

The next justice could tilt the balance of the nation's highest court, which was left with four conservatives and four liberals. The vacancy quickly became an issue in the 2016 presidential race.

"We ought to make the 2016 election a referendum on the Supreme Court," US Senator and Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

The normally nine-justice court is set to decide this year its first major abortion case in nearly a decade, as well as cases on voting rights, affirmative action and immigration.

Scalia, 79, died on Saturday at a West Texas resort. The cause of death will not be determined for several days, the top official in the

county where he died, Presidio County Judge Cinderela Gueara, said on Sunday in an interview with local TV station WFAA-TV.

Obama, a Democrat, will nominate someone to fill the empty seat but will wait until the US Senate is back in session, the White House said on Sunday. The Senate returns from recess on 22 February.

"At that point, we expect the Senate to consider that nominee, consistent with their responsibilities laid out in the United States Constitution," White House spokesman Eric Schultz said.

The White House declined to give a more specific timeline for Obama to announce his nominee. The nomination will set up a battle with the Republican-controlled chamber, which must approve any nominee.

Shortly after news of Scalia's death, Republicans vowed not to act on the vacancy until Obama's successor takes office next January. Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid said failure to act would be a "shameful abdication" of the Senate's constitutional duty.

Both sides said history was

on their side.

Reid said it would be unprecedented to have a vacancy on the court for a year. In the modern era, the longest Supreme Court vacancy was 363 days after Abe Fortas resigned in May 1969.

Republicans cited 80 years of tradition in which no Supreme Court nominees were approved in presidential election years. In fact, Justice Anthony Kennedy was approved in 1988, after a bruising battle in which the Senate rejected President Ronald Reagan's first nominee, conservative Robert Bork.

Supreme Court nominations are rare, so neither side has much data to rely on in determining precedents. History is also an unreliable guide as the nomination process has become significantly more politicized in recent years.

For Obama's previous two Supreme Court picks, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, he took about 30 days each to announce the elections after their predecessors, Justice John Paul Stevens and Justice David Souter, respectively, said they planned to step down.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia to deliver S-300 missile systems to Iran in nearest time

MOSCOW — Russian will start the delivery of S-300 air defence missile systems to Iran in "the nearest time", RIA news agency quoted Russia's Foreign Ministry as saying yesterday.

The Islamic Republic is also displaying interest in buying more advanced, S-400 missile systems, but no negotiations are being conducted at the moment on this matter, the agency reported.—Reuters

Bosnia files for European Union membership — EU's Mogherini

BRUSSELS — Bosnia has applied to join the European Union, the bloc's top diplomat Federica Mogherini said yesterday, though Brussels signalled Sarajevo has not met all conditions to submit the application.

Mogherini said 28 EU states will now analyse the application and said it was good news for the bloc and for Bosnia, a former Yugoslav republic where a 1990s war killed 100,000 people.

"At a time when the Union is questioned from within, seeing that with our immediate neighbours there is such an energy and willingness to join and work hard to adapt their countries, society, economy, institutions, systems to the European standards, gives us the sense of responsibility we have also towards our European Union citizenship," she told journalists.—Reuters

Turkish soldier killed in clash with group at Syrian border

ISTANBUL — A Turkish soldier was killed on Sunday evening after Turkey's security forces clashed with a group at the Syrian border seeking to enter Turkey illegally, the armed forces said in a statement.

The Turkish military, which regularly detains people seeking to cross illegally back and forth across the Syrian border, said in its statement on Monday the clash occurred in the Yayladagi area of Hatay province at 7:15pm (1715 GMT).—Reuters

Russian PM says military won't stay in Syria for ever

MOSCOW — Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said in an interview that Moscow does not plan to maintain its military presence in Syria indefinitely.

In an interview with *Time* magazine Medvedev was asked if Russia would help its ally, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, in his stated aim of restoring his control over all of Syria.

"We have no plans... for such a never-ending presence in Syria. We are there pursuing an entirely limited, concrete objective," Medvedev said, according to a transcript of the interview released by the government.—Reuters

EU readies to impose more sanctions on Burundi

BRUSSELS — European Union foreign ministers said yesterday they were prepared to impose more economic sanctions on Burundi following the failure of talks to end a political crisis in the Central African country that has killed more than 400 people.

"The EU ... stands ready to impose restrictive measures against those whose actions might have led or might lead to acts of violence and repression (and) serious human rights violations," ministers said in a statement released during a meeting in Brussels, adding that those hampering a political solution could also be targeted.—Reuters

Former senior Party official indicted for alleged bribe-taking

BEIJING — Wang Min, a former Standing Committee member of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Shandong Provincial Committee, has been indicted for alleged bribe-taking, the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) said yesterday.

Prosecutors in Ningbo City in eastern Zhejiang Province filed the case against Wang with the Ningbo Intermediate People's Court, the SPP said. Wang also served as Party chief of Jinan City, capital of Shandong in east China.—Xinhua

Obama urges Russia to stop bombing 'moderate' Syria rebels

BEIRUT/RANCHO MIRAGE, (Calif) — US President Barack Obama urged Russia on Sunday to stop bombing "moderate" rebels in Syria in support of its ally President Bashar al-Assad, a campaign seen in the West as a major obstacle to latest efforts to end the war.

Major powers agreed on Friday to a limited cessation of hostilities in Syria but the deal does not take effect until the end of this week and was not signed by any warring parties - the Damascus government and numerous rebel factions fighting it.

Russian bombing raids directed at rebel groups are helping the Syrian army to achieve what could be its biggest victory of the war in the battle for Aleppo, the country's largest city and commercial centre before the conflict.

There is little optimism that the deal reached in Munich will do much to end a war that has lasted five years and cost 250,000 lives.

The Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin and Obama had spoken by tele-



Civil defence members search for survivors after airstrikes by pro-Syrian government forces in the rebel held al-Qaterji neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 14 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

phone and agreed to intensify cooperation to implement the Munich agreement.

But a Kremlin statement made clear Russia was committed to its campaign against Islamic State and "other terrorist organisations", an indication that it would also target groups in western Syria where jihadists such as al Qaeda are fighting Assad in close proximity to rebels deemed

moderate by the West.

Russia says the "cessation" does not apply to its air strikes, which have shifted the balance of power towards Assad.

It says Islamic State and the al Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front are the main targets of its air campaign. But Western countries say Russia has in fact been mostly targeting other insurgent groups, including

some they support.

The White House said Obama's discussion with Putin stressed the need to rush humanitarian aid to Syria and contain air strikes.

"In particular, President Obama emphasized the importance now of Russia playing a constructive role by ceasing its air campaign against moderate opposition forces in Syria," the White House said in a statement.

Relief workers said efforts to deliver humanitarian aid were being threatened by the latest escalation of violence.

"We must ask again, why wait a week for this urgently needed cessation of hostilities?" said Dalia al-Awqati, Mercy Corps director of programmes for North Syria.

The situation in Syria has been complicated by the involvement of Kurdish-backed combatants in the area north of Aleppo near the Turkish border, which has drawn a swift military response from artillery in Turkey.

The Kurdish YPG militia, helped by Russian air raids, seized an ex-military air base at Menagh last week, angering Turkey, which sees the YPG as an extension of the PKK, a Kurdish group that waged a bloody insurgent campaign on Turkish soil over most of the past three decades.

Turkey began shelling while demanding that the YPG militia withdraw from areas it has captured from Syrian rebels in the northern Aleppo region in

recent days, including the Menagh air base. The bombardment killed two YPG fighters, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Syrian Kurdish PYD party rejected Turkish demands for withdrawal, while the Syrian government said Turkish shelling of northern Syria amounted to direct support for insurgent groups.

France called on Turkey to stop the shelling, but Turkey said it would continue to respond to Kurdish militia attacks in Syria.

Syria also said Turkish forces were believed to be among 100 gunmen that entered Syria on Saturday with a dozen pickup trucks mounted with heavy machine guns in an operation to supply rebel fighters.

Other fronts were also active on Sunday. Kurdish-backed forces were fighting with insurgent groups near Tel Rifaat in the northern Aleppo countryside, while farther south, government forces renewed their shelling of rebel positions to the northwest of Aleppo city.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULNATEE VOY NO (01/16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULNATEE VOY NO (01/16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 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 KULNATEE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HOANG ANH-26 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG ANH-26 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of O.E.A 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 GLOBAL MARS

Phone No: 2301186

As Indonesia hunts down Islamic State, homegrown jihadis regroup

JAKARTA — As Indonesian counter-terrorism forces hunt down supporters of Islamic State following last month's gun and suicide bomb attack in Jakarta, a quiet resurgence is unfolding of a homegrown radical network with a far deadlier track record here.

That group is Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), whose network was until recently thought to have been severely degraded by a crackdown that put hundreds of its leaders and followers behind bars after a series of attacks on Western interests in the 2000s.

But Reuters interviews with two active and one former member of Jemaah Islamiyah have revealed that it is active again, enlisting new supporters, raising funds and sending men to train in war-torn Syria.

"JI is currently in preparation level. They have not done any operations but they are recruiting people, strengthening their knowledge, education, network and finances," said Nasir Abas, a former mem-

ber. "I would not underestimate them."

Jakarta-based security analyst Sidney Jones believes Jemaah Islamiyah's membership is back to around 2,000, where it was before its most notorious attack, a bombing on the resort island of Bali that killed over 200 people, most of them Australians. JI suspects arrested recently were found with caches of arms.

Experts say there is no evidence that the emergence of the ultra-violent group Islamic State from the crucible of conflict in the Middle East has prompted the revival of Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Jemaah Islamiyah had links in the past to al-Qaeda, which Islamic State sees as a rival, but its resurgence is not being read as intra-jihadi competition playing out in Southeast Asia.

Islamic State stamped its presence in the region for the first time last month when local supporters of the group launched a



Indonesian police stand guard at the site of a militant attack in central Jakarta, Indonesia in 16 January, 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

broad-daylight assault at a busy intersection in central Jakarta with explosives and guns. Eight people were killed, four of them the attackers themselves.

Police are on alert for further strikes by Islamic State followers, but say these are likely to be far from the scale of the attack on Paris last November because the group lacks organisational strength in Indonesia.

They believe Jemaah Islamiyah's sophisticated training, organisation, and funding could pose a big-

ger security threat.

Former Jemaah Islamiyah member Nasir Abas said its ranks still include older men who trained in Afghanistan in the 1980s and returned with combat experience and bomb-making skills. Then there is the more ample funding: Experts estimate that the weapons used in last month's attack on the Indonesian capital cost no more than \$70, a shoestring budget compared to the \$50,000 spent to launch the Bali bombings back in 2002.—Reuters

Afghan gov't concerned over increased civilian casualties

KABUL — The Afghan government has expressed grief over the spike in civilian deaths and injuries, the Presidential Palace said yesterday.

On Sunday, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released in Kabul its annual report on protection of civilians in armed conflict.

The overall civilian casualties hit a record high in 2015 as about 11,000 non-combatants were killed and injured, according to the report that showed a 4 per cent increase in compare with 2014.

“This important report once again confirms the horrifically high price Afghans are paying as a result of conflict, whereby the actions of the Taliban and other terrorist groups are seeking to deny our citizens the right to live in peace and protect their families from harm,” the palace said in a statement.

Some 3,545 civilians were killed and 7,457 injured as the violence spread in different places of the country last year.

The NATO and US forces completed their combat mission in Afghan-

istan by the end of 2014, after 13 years of military presence in the country.

“The Afghan government is particularly saddened by the sharp increase in 2015 of loss of life of Afghan women and girls. The Taliban and their affiliates increasingly trained their sights on Afghan women and girls - maiming them, killing them, and snatching away their constitutional and human rights,” the statement reads.

The UN report has highlighted 37 per cent increase in women casualties and a 14 per cent increase

in child casualties last year in compare with 2014.

Some 850 civilians were killed while 570 others were wounded by targeted killings and attack in 2015.

The government urged UNAMA’s monitoring team to pay particular attention to the increasing number of targeted attacks on civilian personal and institutions, including community elders throughout the country, and especially in the south and southeast.

“Our analysts have identified a pattern in the methods in which these

violent attacks were carried out and concluded that there is a systematic effort underway to terrorize these communities and intimidate anyone who denounces violence against civilian populations,” the statement noted.

The UN report has attributed 62 per cent of the casualties to the Taliban and other insurgent groups, 17 per cent were attributed to security forces while 17 per cent of civilian casualties were unattributed and the rest 4 per cent were caused by explosive remnants of war.—Reuters

In poor, violent enclave of ‘Saint Death’, Pope slams Mexico’s rich

ECATEPEC, (Mexico) — Celebrating Mass for more than 300,000 people in one of Mexico’s poorest and most dangerous cities, Pope Francis on Sunday took a swipe at the country’s rich and corrupt elite.

Decrying “a society of the few and for the few”, he denounced deep inequality and the vanity and pride of those who consider themselves a cut above the rest.

“That wealth which tastes of pain, bitterness and suffering. This is the bread that a corrupt family or society gives its own children,” the pope said at the Mass in the city of Ecatepec.

Francis urged his listeners to struggle to make Mexico “a land of opportunities where there will be no need to emigrate in order to dream” and where drug traffickers, whom he called “dealers of death”, would not ensnare their children.

Mexico is home to one of the world’s richest men, billionaire Carlos Slim, and a wealthy political class stained by corruption even as much of the country is steeped in poverty and violence. A gritty expanse of cinder block homes north of Mexico City, Ecatepec has seen a surge in crime in recent years as it became infested with warring drug cartels.

Fueled by a weak economy and youth unemployment, gang violence has driven the city’s murder rate to one of Mexico’s highest.

It is notorious for the unsolved murders of scores of women, the bodies of many found abandoned in garbage dumps or tossed in a canal only miles from where Francis spoke on Sunday.

The pope warned Mexicans not to succumb to evil: “You cannot dialogue with the devil because he will al-



Pope Francis gestures while wearing a Mariachi hat given to him by someone in the crowd on Zocalo Square in Mexico City, on 13 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

ways win,” he told them.

Ecatepec is home to a giant statue of “Santa Muerte”, or Saint Death, a cult figure followed by millions across the Americas.

The saint is often depicted as a skeletal “grim reaper” draped in white satin robes, beaded necklaces and carrying a scythe, and is believed to grant requests without judging people.

Although he did not address Santa Muerte in his Mass, the Roman Catholic

Church has been dismayed by the cult’s rise at a time it is battling competition from other religions.

“The Mexican Church already was very concerned by expanding Protestantism and now it must contend with a folk saint venerated mostly by Mexicans who still consider themselves Catholic,” said Andrew Chesnut, the author of a book about the cult.

A sea of Catholic faithful greeted the pope

as he flew into Ecatepec aboard a white helicopter, many wearing T-shirts emblazoned with his image, chanting, cheering and waving flags. Tens of thousands of others lined the streets.

“We are living through a period of great violence ... May (the pope) give us strength to continue to bear this, to keep struggling against it,” said Maria Dolores Angeles Martinez, a 26-year-old housewife from Ecatepec.—Reuters

Lavrov to visit Japan in April to prepare Abe-Putin summit

TOKYO/MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will visit Japan in mid-April, the Russian Foreign Ministry said yesterday, as the two countries prepare a summit between their leaders.

The visit was agreed during talks in Tokyo yesterday between Chika-hito Harada, the Japanese government representative and ambassador in charge of Japan-Russia relations, and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov, according to Russian media.

During Lavrov’s visit, he and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida are expected to plan Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s visit to Sochi, Russia around 6 May for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Japanese government sources said.

Through the summit, Tokyo hopes to make progress on the decades-old bilateral territorial dispute over four Russian-held, Japanese-claimed islands off Hokkaido, which has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty after World War II.

“We had a fulfilling and positive exchange of views on Japan-Russia relations as a whole as we prepare a leaders’ dialogue,” Harada told reporters following his meeting with Morgulov.

In a telephone conversation 22 January, Abe agreed with Putin to arrange a visit to Russia, possibly in spring, prior to a proposed trip to Japan by the Russian leader, according to Japanese officials.

The agreement over the phone came after Putin, during talks in Turkey last November, expressed his intention to invite Abe to a Russian city other than Moscow.

Sochi, a resort town on the Black Sea coast, is the location of some official presidential residences. The senior officials were also expected in their talks Monday to discuss North Korea’s nuclear development following its fourth nuclear test last month and what many nations regard as a long-range ballistic missile test on 7 February.—Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ZULAL VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ZULAL VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 BAY LINE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

MYANMAR DAEWOO LIMITED

(In Members Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice of the Final Meeting and Dissolution (Under Section 208 (E) read with Section 206 of the Myanmar Companies Act)

Under Section 208 of the Myanmar Companies Act, Myanmar Daewoo Limited was placed into Members’ Voluntary Winding up on December 18, 2015.

Now that the liquidation process has already been completed, the Company will be finally Wound-Up shortly under section 208E of the Myanmar Companies Act.

As required by Section 208 (E) (2) of the Myanmar Companies Act, notice is hereby given that final liquidation General Meeting will be held on March 18, 2016 at 10:00 am at 64 (B), Shwegon Plaza, Kominkochin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar.

U Maung Maung Aung
Liquidator

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Phone: 09 250107962, 09 251022355

Toyota resumes production at assembly plants



Employees at a Toyota Motor Corp. factory in the central Japan city of Toyota show up for work on 15 February, 2016, as the automaker resumed production there. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

NAGOYA — Toyota Motor Corp. yesterday resumed production at its assembly plants in Japan following a weeklong suspension due to a supply disruption.

All assembly lines at 16 Japanese factories were halted from 8 February through 13 as an explosion in January at a steel plant operated by one of Toyota's affiliates made it difficult for the world's top automaker to secure enough special steel.

The latest stoppage is believed to have affected 70,000 to 80,000 vehicles,

as Toyota normally produces around 13,000 cars a day. The months of February and March are the busiest season for automakers as orders for new cars tend to increase ahead of the beginning of a fiscal year in April. It was the first time Toyota stopped all production in the country since the massive earthquake and tsunami in 2011 hit northeastern Japan and disrupted its supply chain. The affiliate, Aichi Steel Corp, has said it will resume production at the plant in Tokai, Aichi Prefecture, on 29 March.—*Kyodo News*

Global aviation had fewer fatal accidents in 'extraordinarily safe' 2015 - IATA

SINGAPORE —

The number of air accidents and resulting fatalities dropped in 2015 from the previous year, and was well below the five-year average, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said on Monday, making 2015 "an extraordinarily safe year".

Some 68 accidents occurred last year, compared with 77 in 2014 and an annual average of 90 over the last five years, according to IATA's latest annual report on aviation safety. Of 2015's accidents, four were fatal, versus 12 a year earlier.

"In terms of the number of fatal accidents, it was an extraordinarily safe year," Tony Tyler, IATA's director general and chief executive officer, said in a statement released on the eve of this week's Singapore Airshow, Asia's biggest aviation trade fair. The accidents covered by the report killed 136 people, down from 641 in 2014 and a five-year average of 504, according to IATA, which represents some 260

airlines or 83 per cent of the world's total air traffic.

If the losses of aircraft in incidents involving planes operated by German low-cost carrier Germanwings, a unit of Deutsche Lufthansa AG, and Russia's Metrojet last year are included, the total number of deaths rose to 510, according to IATA.

But the Germanwings and Metrojet incidents were

excluded from IATA's accident statistics, as they were classified as deliberate acts of unlawful interference. A pilot of the Germanwings aircraft deliberately crashed that plane in the French Alps, while the Metrojet flight was suspected to have been brought down over the Sinai peninsula by a bomb smuggled on board. "While there are no easy solutions to

the mental health and security issues that were exposed in these tragedies, aviation continues to work to minimise the risk that such events will happen again," said Tyler. IATA said the 2015 global jet accident rate, measured in hull losses per 1 million flights, was 0.32, compared with 0.27 in 2014 and 0.46 in the previous five years.—*Reuters*



An A380 Airbus flies during the International Air and Space Fair (FIDAE) at the international airport of Santiago in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.2.2016 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.2.2016 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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.2.2016 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-503)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-503) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.2.2016 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TAN BINH 39 VOY NO (02/2016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAN BINH 39 VOY NO (02/2016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-2 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 G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

'The Revenant' wins big in Britain's BAFTA awards

LONDON — Survival drama "The Revenant" was the top winner at Britain's biggest movie awards on Sunday, taking the best film prize and honors for leading actor Leonardo DiCaprio and director Alejandro G. Inarritu.

The movie earned five British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards, including for cinematography and sound, at a ceremony in London, two weeks before it vies for Hollywood's top honors, the Oscars.

In the film, which has already picked up several trophies in this awards season and leads Oscar nominations, DiCaprio portrays fur-trapper Hugh Glass, who after being attacked by a bear, is left for dead by his companions during an 1820s expedition. He survives in harsh winter conditions and sets out for revenge.

DiCaprio is heavily favored to win the best actor Academy Award on Feb. 28, which would be his first in five Oscar acting nominations. In collecting his first BAFTA, he paid tribute to his mother and listed actors Daniel Day-Lewis, Gary Oldman and Peter O'Toole among his inspirations.

"All of this was not expected tonight ... Often we have talked about how difficult this movie



The sound engineers of *The Revenant* pose after winning their awards for best sound at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards at the Royal Opera House in London, on 14 February.

PHOTO: REUTERS

was to make, and it was, but we are so proud," he told reporters.

Inarritu, the Mexican director whose film "Birdman" won last year's best picture Oscar, said the prizes were "overwhelming".

Continuing a winning streak for the portrayal of a young mother held captive with her

son in "Room", Brie Larson prevailed in the leading actress category and is also favored to win the Oscar.

Kate Winslet won the supporting actress category for her portrayal in "Steve Jobs" of the late Apple co-founder's colleague Joanna Hoffman, while Mark Rylance was named best

supporting actor for his Soviet spy role in "Bridge of Spies".

Action adventure "Mad Max: Fury Road" was the second biggest winner on the night with four prizes in editing, makeup and hair, costume design and production design.

Financial misdeeds movie "The Big Short" won for adapted

screenplay and "Spotlight", a film about a newspaper investigation into Catholic Church sex abuse, won best original screenplay. Irish immigrant story "Brooklyn" won outstanding British film.

Lesbian romance drama "Carol" went home empty-handed after leading BAFTA nominations with "Bridge of Spies" with nine nods each.

The industry did not shy away from the big theme of the awards season: the outcry over the lack of diversity among Oscar nominees in the four acting categories for the second straight year, which revived the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite. Several guests poked fun at the controversy and the Oscar organizers, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

"I have never been invited to the Oscars because, as you know, they are racist," Australian comedienne Rebel Wilson said as she introduced a BAFTA award.

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" won the BAFTA for best special visual effects while cast member John Boyega was named the EE Rising Star, the only award voted for by the public. "I haven't been doing for a long time," he said. "It's a fluke."—Reuters

Excited to work with Parineeti: Ayushmann

MUMBAI — Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana says he is excited to work with Parineeti Chopra in the forthcoming love story "Meri Pyari Bindu".

The movie, backed by Yash Raj, was announced by Parineeti with a special video where she was seen singing a song.

"I am really excited to work with Parineeti. I think she is one of the finest actress around. She's very versatile too.

And through this film you'll get to know she sings well too," Ayushmann told reporters.

"Meri Pyari Bindu" is produced by Maneesh Sharma while Akshay Roy is making his directorial debut with the film.

The actor was speaking on the sidelines of Kala Ghoda Arts festival where he was performing.

Khurrana has lent his voice to many popular songs like "Paani Da Rang" from "Vicky Donor" and "Saadi Galli Aaja" from "Nautanki Saala". The actor feels performing live gives instant reactions as opposed to working in films.

"I think you get instant reaction while performing live.

Which is a big thing. When you do a film you work hard for a year and then you get reactions. Whether it's singing, anchoring or stand up comedy you get instant reaction which is great.—PTI

Doctor's despairing war letters inspire Portuguese film in Berlin

BERLIN — Letters a then-newlywed doctor wrote to his pregnant wife in Portugal while he served in a futile war to retain Angola as a Portuguese colony inspired the film "Cartas da Guerra" (Letters from War) shown at the Berlin film festival on Sunday.

The letters written in 1971-2 by Antonio Lobo Antunes, who has become one of Portugal's most distinguished novelists, trace the growing despair of a man caught up in a conflict he can see is ruinous to his own country and to Angolans.

"In 1971 everybody knew it was an unjust war without any prospect of success," director Ivo Ferreira said at a post-screening news conference for his film which is in competition for the main Golden Bear prize.

"Through this war the end of dictatorship in Portugal was triggered," Ferreira added, referring to Portugal's so-called "Carnation Revolution" that brought an end in 1974 to more than four decades of authoritarian rule.

Ferreira's film, with Miguel Nunes portraying Lobo Antunes, shows how initial camaraderie among Portuguese

forces newly arrived in Angola gradually gives way to demoralisation and despair in the face of a largely unseen enemy who nevertheless inflicts casualties with landmines and sneak attacks.

The film shows Portuguese soldiers getting their revenge by executing captured Angolan rebels in cold blood. In another scene, a Portuguese soldier cracks and wanders into the jungle naked, after throwing away his identification tag.

The soldiers and officers who returned home, Ferreira said, formed the backbone of the revolution, which took its name from demonstrators stuffing flowers in the muzzles of soldiers' rifles.

"These officers and soldiers started a revolution...that is what this Doctor Lobo Antunes experienced in this war, and they were the fathers of the revolution," Ferreira said.

He said seeing his own wife reading a book by Lobo Antunes gave him the idea of having the letters read out in a voiceover by the doctor's wife at home in Portugal.

"That is the key aspect of the film, without this aspect the film wouldn't exist," he said.



Actors Ricardo Pereira, Margarida Vila-Nova, Miguel Nunes and director Ivo Ferreira (L-R) pose during a photocall to promote the movie *Cartas da guerra* (Letters from War) at the 66th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on 14 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Margarida Vila-Nova, who plays the wife, told Reuters on the red carpet for the premiere that she hopes the film will help younger Portuguese learn about that period of history.

"We know just a little bit about what happened," she said, noting that people of the older generation rarely talk about it.

"I think this movie can be

(a) lesson to the young people."

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa said he was proud the film had been shown in Berlin.

"Not only is it the first time in a long time that we present a long movie, it is also a film adaptation to one of the main works of our literature and our contemporary writers," he said.—Reuters

Ski resort hopes downhill mountain biking can boost business on slopes

NAGANO — Faced with dwindling numbers of skiers, a Japanese ski resort is exploring whether the relatively new winter pastime of downhill mountain biking on snow can help draw more visitors to the slopes.

A nighttime event to showcase the activity at the Togari Onsen ski resort in Iiyama, Nagano Prefecture, on 31 January, drew 55 participants, from children to those in their 60s.

Chizuko Sasaki, a 51-year-old cycling enthusiast from the city of Saitama, north of Tokyo, said she had “never thought of riding a bike (on a ski resort) in winter.”

The event featured “fatbikes,” or off-road bicycles with extra-wide tires suited to riding on snow.

Participants were carried by a lift for about 10 minutes to the starting point at an altitude of 650 meters before descending the slope which reaches a

maximum steepness of 19 degrees.

Shusei Matsuyama, 31, one of the organizers, advised riders to travel carefully as they could reach speeds of up to 50 kilometers per hour.

Among the participants was Tran Trung Kien, a 24-year-old student from Viet Nam, who was thrilled to “ride a bicycle on so much snow.”

Matsuyama, a local signboard maker who has enjoyed sports biking since childhood, said he organized the event to “give a boost to my hometown.”

At present, it is necessary to obtain government permission to load bicycles on a lift. It will also cost to build special biking courses on the snow slopes.

The Togari resort nonetheless wanted to explore the possibility of holding mountain biking events said Shigeru Kihara, 48, managing director at



A participant in an event riding a bicycle on a slope at the Togari Onsen ski resort in Iiyama, Nagano Prefecture on 31 January. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

the company operating the resort.

At the end of the two-hour event, Matsuyama said, “We would like to make Iiyama into the holy place of winter biking.”

According to the Japan Mountain Bike Association, snow downhill

biking in the country can be traced back to Hokkaido in the 1990s.

The sport has gained popularity since a US bicycle maker released fatbikes with tires 10-12 centimetres wide for snow roads during the following decade.—Kyodo News

Body Shop concocts new formula for making money while protecting the planet

BARCELONA — Beauty brand The Body Shop is turning 40 next month and has set an ambitious goal of being “the world’s most ethical and truly sustainable global business”.

Founded in England in 1976 by the late environmentalist and rights activist Anita Roddick, The Body Shop was famous for promoting natural, ethically-sourced products and rejecting animal testing.

But the sale of the brand to French cosmetics giant L’Oréal 10 years ago was regarded by some as a sell-out of its green credentials. Results were disappointing last year, with like-for-like

sales in the fourth quarter falling 5.8 per cent and 0.9 per cent overall in 2015. Now the firm has put in place 14 targets to be met by 2020, based around a commitment to “enrich our people, enrich our products and enrich our planet”.

The targets include doubling the company’s community trade programme — a form of fair trade — to cover 40 ingredients, ensuring 100 percent of its natural ingredients are traceable and sustainably sourced, protecting 10,000 hectares of forest and other habitat, and powering all its stores with renewable or carbon-neutral energy.—Reuters

Record-setting cold chills US Northeast on Valentine’s Day

BOSTON — Residents of much of the northeastern United States woke up on Sunday to bone-chilling cold conditions that shattered Valentine’s Day records in Boston, Hartford and Providence.

Officials warned residents to stay indoors in the face of the -9 degree Fahrenheit (-22.8 Celsius) temperatures, which felt as cold as -40 degrees Fahrenheit with the wind chill.

“It’s fair to say that this is a historic Arctic outbreak for the modern era,” the National Weather Service said in a morning forecast update.

Forecasters warned that frostbite could set in on exposed skin within minutes, and urged residents to check on elderly neighbours.

While the system brought intense cold to the region, little snow has fallen so far this winter, placing less stress on roads and rails than last winter’s record-setting 9 feet (2.75 meters) of snowfall in Boston.

New York was also feeling the coldest weather it had experienced in a year, and Governor Andrew Cuomo urged people to stay inside.

“With bitterly cold temperatures expected to continue through the long

weekend, New Yorkers should remain alert and avoid all unnecessary travel,” Cuomo said.

The cold put a damper on some couples’ Valentine’s Day celebration plans, with walks and other outdoor activities curtailed.

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, Kristen Carlson, 25, and her boyfriend Ross Crory, also 25, were adapting their plans.

“We’re going to brunch,” Carlson said. “We’re going rock climbing later. Indoor activities. Tonight we’re staying in and cooking dinner.”

Others embraced the extremes, with more than 2,000 taking part in the Sea Isle, New Jersey, annual “Polar Bear Plunge,” dipping into the icy Atlantic to raise funds for the city’s revitalisation.

Police throughout the region sought homeless people to urge them to spend the night in shelters, where cots, mats and even chairs were rolled out to give people a place to shelter from the cold.

But Kevin Taylor, a 49-year-old native of Massachusetts living on the street in Harvard Square, outside Boston, said he had coped with the cold on his own.—Reuters



Members of an Iranian traditional music band play at a concert during the 31st Fajr International Music Festival in Tehran, Iran, on 14 February 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(16-2-2016 07:00am ~ 17-2-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

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09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:43	Am	Culture Show: Composer Ma Mya Lay
09:51	Am	Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Martial Art (EP-1) (Bando)
10:45	Am	Writer
10:52	Am	Today Myanmar: Fire Insurance

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5)
07:52	Pm	TECH School
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Welcome To Naga Land

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

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

Barca eye another treble as Champions League resumes



Barcelona's Neymar, Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Barcelona will turn their gaze from domestic honours to Europe in their quest for a second straight treble when the holders return to Champions League duties against Arsenal in the last 16, which starts this week.

Coach Luis Enrique, who led Barca to victory in last season's final with a 3-1 win over Juventus in Berlin, has already seen his men secure a place in the King's Cup final as well as chasing a second successive La Liga crown.

They return to action in the continent's elite competition next week when they travel to London to face Arsenal on 23 February having never lost to them in European competition.

Barcelona face a busy time and, having thrashed Celta Vigo 6-1 helped by a Luis Suarez hat-trick on Sunday, they next face Sporting Gijon on Wednesday in their Liga match in hand left over from a trip to the Club World Cup in December.

"I'm very pleased with how we're preparing and competing in each match. This is the line we must follow each week and if we have this busy calendar it's because we've earned it," said Luis Enrique as the European season moves to its most exciting phase.

Barcelona, Real Madrid, who face AS Roma, and Atletico Madrid, who meet PSV Eindhoven, have all reached the Champions League final in the

last two seasons with Real defeating Atletico 4-1 after extra time in Lisbon in 2014.

Real, bidding for an unprecedented 11th European Cup triumph, have not met Roma since the 2007-08 season when the Italians beat them home and away.

But Real, who travel to Roma on Wednesday, have injury worries with Pepe (foot problem) Gareth Bale (calf) and Marcelo (shoulder) all doubtful.

The match will be Zinedine Zidane's first in the competition he graced as a player since becoming Real's manager in January.

England, like Spain, have three teams in the last 16 and

while Arsenal face the toughest task against Barcelona, both Chelsea and Manchester City face imposing obstacles.

Chelsea, whose season is showing signs of revival after the chaos of Jose Mourinho's last months in charge, have improved under interim Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, even if the English champions remain in the bottom half of the Premier League. They face runaway French league leaders Paris St Germain, who were too good for a much better Chel-

sea team last season, knocking them out at the same stage on away goals.

Chelsea, who beat Newcastle United 5-1 on Saturday, visit Paris on Tuesday amid increased security in the capital after some of their fans racially abused a passenger on the Metro last year.

Manchester City face Dynamo Kiev on Feb. 24 at the start of a hugely significant period before manager Manuel Pellegrini makes way for Pep Guardiola next season.

City's Premier League title hopes are hanging by a thread after successive home defeats by rivals Leicester City and Tottenham Hotspur. Their only previous battle with Dynamo ended in a 2-1 aggregate defeat in the Europa League in 2010-11.

Guardiola, who is in his last few months with Bayern Munich, has been taken on for next season by City who see him as the man to lead them to Champions League glory.

Bayern face last season's beaten finalists Juventus on Feb. 23 and the irony not lost on anyone is that Guardiola's side could face City if both get through this round.

Bayern have injury doubts over their central defenders, with Javi Martinez, Jerome Boateng and Medhi Benatia all sidelined, while Holger Badstuber broke his ankle in training on Saturday and will be sidelined for three months.

The Bavarians signed German defender Serdar Tasci on loan from Spartak Moscow before Badstuber's injury, leaving him and inexperienced Joshua Kimmich as the only options in the heart of the defence.—Reuters

Defar runs year's fastest 3,000m after long layoff

ADDIS ABABA — Ethiopian two-time Olympic champion Meseret Defar ran the year's fastest 3,000 metres as she returned to the track for the first time in more than two years at the Boston indoor grand prix on Sunday.

The 2004 and 2012 Olympic 5,000 metres gold medallist romped to victory in 8 minutes, 30.83 seconds in her first race since 2013. The birth of her daughter in 2014 and injuries in 2015 had kept her off the track.

"I didn't have confidence af-

ter a long break, didn't know my shape, but running 8:30 in my first race - I'm so happy," said the 32-year-old.

Six other 2016 bests were set in the meeting including New Zealander Nick Willis' 3:53.27 victory in the mile and 19-year-old Ethiopian Dawit Seyaum's 4:01.86 in the women's 1,500 metres. American Kurt Roberts upped the 2016 shot put best to 21.57 metres and compatriot Natasha Hastings delivered another top mark in the women's 300 me-

tres, 36.25 seconds.

World indoor record holder Jenn Suhr won the women's pole vault at 4.82 metres before unsuccessfully trying three times at the highest mark ever cleared by a woman indoors or out, 5.07 metres.

"My first attempt felt really good up the pole, but I just didn't have the legs for it today," said the American, whose two-week-old indoor record is 5.03m. Russian Yelena Isinbayeva's outdoor record is 5.06m.—Reuters

Gold medallist Meseret Defar of Ethiopia waves at the women's 5,000 metres victory ceremony during the IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow 2013.

PHOTO: REUTERS

