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EXECUTIVE COMING EARLY

Parliament expected to choose next president ahead of schedule

THE date of Myanmar's presidential election, which was previously scheduled to be held on 17 March, is expected to be held earlier than that date, according to MPs.

Daw Khin Saw Wai, an MP from the Arakan National Party, said the changing of the date is expected to be affirmed at today's parliamentary meeting.

The election can be held earlier because the people are ready to know who will be president, and because representatives from the Tatmadaw are expected to be ready to submit their nomination of a vice-president to the parliament [earlier than expected], she added.

The discussions on changing the date for nominating vice-presidents was found in the agenda of yesterday's parliamentary meeting.

The original date was set only two weeks before the new government is scheduled to take office on 1 April.—GNLM



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Volkswagen looks to increase its presence in Myanmar, set assembling soon

Ko Moe

VOLKSWAGEN cars will be manufactured in Myanmar if their presence in Myanmar increases, said Melvyn Pun, CEO of Yoma German Motors, yesterday.

"We will begin importing parts and assembling them in Myanmar first, said the CEO, adding that a plant will be built here following an increase in the number of customers.

He announced his plan after a signing ceremony between Yoma German Motors and Volkswagen at Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

According to the agreement, Yoma German Motors will become a sole distributor in Myanmar for the German car manufacturer, importing passenger brands, luxury models and spare parts.

A Volkswagen 3S Facility is

set to be launched soon in Yangon, said Michael Rudenmark of Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd, adding that a service centre will also be opened in Mandalay,

where there are many Volkswagen owners.

"Though it is a safe car, its fuel consumption rate is high," said car dealer U Aung Naing.



Workers assemble a Volkswagen Golf Plus in the production line in Wolfsburg, Germany.

UPWC denounces establishment of new brigade by KIA

UNION Peacemaking Working Committee has denounced the establishment of the 6th Brigade by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), warning that the extended establishment will have a negative effect on the government's peace process.

The announcement released yesterday added that the establishment does not serve the effort toward internal peace.

The KIA has established its new 6th Brigade in Mongbaw,

Mongkoe and Phaunghsai, which were previously controlled by the Burmese Communist Party (BCP) in northern Shan State, on 26 February 2016.

The formation comes while the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is implementing a nationwide peace process, which is intended to ensure national reconciliation and national development and bring an end to armed conflicts, said the announcement.—GNLM

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw creates commission, inter-parliamentary joint committees

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its meeting for fifth day in Nay Pyi Taw, proposing to form a commission and two inter-parliamentary committees yesterday.

First, Deputy Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung announced that Myanmar Parliamentary Union-MPU is set to be formed with 18 members including Chairman Mahn Win Khaing Than, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker, Vice-Chairman U Win Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, and U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

Next, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Ko Ko Naing of Yamethin Constituency informed the Parliament of proposed forma-

tion of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

Then Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than named Thura U Shwe Mann, U Ko Ko Naing of Yamethin Constituency, Dr Win Myat Aye of Bago Region Constituency 4 and U Khin Maung Tun chairman, vice-chairman (1), vice-chairman (2) and secretary of the 35-member commission.

During the 5th day session, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw proposed to form Joint Committee on ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and Joint Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Union with 16 members each.

The sixth day session continues today. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA



U Aye Tha Aung. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Htu May. PHOTO: MNA



U Ko Ko. PHOTO: MNA



U Ko Ko Naing. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker U Win Myint receives Czech delegation



Speaker U Win Myint receives Mr Lubomir Zaoralek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received a Czech delegation led by HE Mr Lubomir Zaoralek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, yesterday at the parliamentary building in Nay Pyi Taw. During the meeting, the parties discussed the promotion of cooperation between the two countries' parliaments, strengthening the friendship between the two countries and the two governments and matters

related to political reforms.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Ti Khun Myat, chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Daw Su Su Lwin, secretary U Bo Bo Oo and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.

Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr Jaroslav Doleck accompanied the delegation. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Health warnings to be published on all cigarette packs

AN order to print warning messages and illustrations of the effects of smoking on cigarette packages will come into adverse effects on 1 September 2016, the Ministry of Health announced yesterday.

According to the order, a warning message shall be printed on 25 per cent of one side of each cigarette pack, and an image depicting the adverse effects of smoking will appear on 50 per cent of a side.

The order came after a cer-

emony in Nay Pyi Taw, where Union Minister Dr Than Aung signed an initiative to implement part of the 2006 Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law that contains the ministry's functions and responsibilities.

In his address, the Union minister called for public participation in the implementation of the law. Myanmar is the 11th signatory to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Four-nation meeting in Cambodia set to discuss trafficked Myanmar fishermen in Indonesia

A MEETING focusing on trafficked Myanmar fishermen in Indonesia is set to take place in Cambodia, according to Myanmar's Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force.

The meeting, involving Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia, will last for three days from 9 to 11 March, said the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force, adding that a matter of bringing back trafficked Myanmar fishermen home from Indonesia will be the main topic of discussion.

The meeting is aimed at boosting cooperation among the four countries in an effort to

arrest traffickers and to prevent future human trafficking cases, said Police Captain Min Naing.

Hundreds of Myanmar fishermen were trafficked to Indonesia via Thailand in 2015, and efforts are underway to repatriate them.

There have been delays in the process of determining whether the victims are Myanmar citizens or not, said a police captain from the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force. The Myanmar government has resisted repatriating fishermen who are members of the Rohingya ethnic community, many of whom fled persecution

in Rakhine State, only to be exploited by fishing companies.

The meeting in Cambodia will be the fourth one focusing on anti-human trafficking operations. According to the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force, 1,080 Myanmar fishermen were brought back to Myanmar from Indonesia through the four-nation meetings.

In 2015 there were in total 24 batches of repatriated fishermen numbering 1,010 persons from Indonesia.

There have been 3 batches numbering 42 persons repatriated so far in 2016. — *Thein Ko Lwin*

Carter Center Releases Myanmar Post-Election Statement

MYANMAR's Union Election Commission has addressed post-election complaints in a transparent manner, the Carter Center said in a statement released yesterday, but the country's new government should address legal and structural issues to make it easier for candidates and citizens to pursue complaints in future elections and to further increase the transparency of the tabulation of results.

Forty-five complaints were lodged with the election commission. The cost of filing a complaint—including the cost of traveling to Nay Pyi Taw for a hearing—discouraged some candidates and parties from registering complaints. To date, the election commission has issued a judgment in only two cases. (The lack of deadlines for deciding cases limits the potential for an effective remedy.)

The Center's observers remained in Myanmar after the historic 8 November election to monitor post-election day developments, including the tabulation of results, the dispute-resolution process and the seating of the new government. In most areas the observers visited, tabulation was conducted in a transparent and professional manner. However, results forms were not always made available for public scrutiny in a timely manner, and in several instances, observers were denied access or were restricted in their ability to observe effectively.

The Carter Center offers the following recommendations to the Union Election Commission:

- As possible, minimize additional costs for complainants, including the relocation of hearings to states and regions where appropriate.

- Ensure that cases are heard without delay to minimize the impact on the rights of the complainants and defendants.

- Make decisions available on the UEC website for public review in a timely manner.

- For future elections, the tabulation process should provide for the public availability of all results forms as soon as they are completed to ensure independent verification of results. The process of tabulating results should be fully accessible to accredited observers.

The Center commends the UEC on its post-election review and recommends that the Union legislature place reform of election laws, including the improvement of the post-election dispute system and campaign finance regulation, on the 2016 legislative agenda. — *GNLM*

President U Thein Sein receives Czech delegation

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein received a Czech delegation led by HE Mr Lubomir Zaoralek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they held talks over promoting bilat-

eral friendship and cooperation, investment in energy, mining, agriculture and industrial sector related to food producing.

They also discussed development of tourism sector and achievements in the politics in Myanmar.

Also present together with

the president were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, Dr Kan Zaw, U Ye Htut and officials while the Czech Foreign Minister was accompanied by Ambassador of Czech Republic to Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Thein Sein welcomes Mr Lubomir Zaoralek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

FM holds talks with Czech counterpart

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received HE Mr Lubomir

Zaoralek, Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the Czech Republic, and party at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday

and exchanged views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin holding talks with Mr Lubomir Zaoralek, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. PHOTO: MNA

President felicitates Bosnian Counterpart

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Dr Dragan Covic, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which falls on 1 March 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs felicitates Bosnian Counterpart

U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Igor Crnadak, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which falls on 1 March 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Ministers perform regional development tasks in Shan State

UNION Ministers U Soe Thane and U Ohn Myint performed regional development tasks in eastern Shan State, holding discussions with township-level development and management committees on Sunday.

While meeting with locals at Aung Myat Hall in Tachilek, Union Minister U Soe Thane highlighted the importance of peace, equality, job creation and the power of right thinking to ensure the sustainable development of the country, saying these first steps are very important in creating a gentle, smooth transition.

Next, Union Minister U Ohn Myint elaborated on a rural development strategic framework in which green projects, people-centred projects and village development projects are being implemented across the country.

Then, the Union ministers answered locals' questions about regional development projects.

During their stay in Tachilek, the Union ministers visited Tachilek Airport and heard reports on the upgrading of the Tachilek and Kengtung airports.—*Myanmar News Agency*



U Tin Aye delivers key-note remarks at post-election review conference. PHOTO: MNA

UEC holds post-election review workshop in Yangon

THE Union Election Commission held a post-election review conference involving political parties, CSOs, media professionals and international organisations at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

In his address, UEC chairman U Tin Aye called on those present to present their recommendations for future electoral processes and suggestions on

voter education and awareness campaigns during the conference.

Next, UEC member U Myint Naing made a presentation reviewing the 2015 election, followed by local and foreign election monitoring groups. Group discussions were then held at the two-day conference, which ended today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Waste-to-energy plant in Yangon aims to reduce methane, carbon dioxide transmission

THE country's first-ever waste-to-energy plant is being established in Yangon's Shwepyitha Industrial Zone and it is estimated to be finished by March 2017, according to the Yangon Region Development Department.

Since October last year, the Yangon Waste to Energy Plant Project has been implemented by the YCDC and tender winner Japanese Future Engineering Cooperation agency under the agreement which was signed between Myanmar's Ministry of

Environmental Conservation and Forestry and the Japanese government.

After completion of the project, 300 Kilo Watts from 700 produced by the plant will go to Yangon residents through national grid line, planning to generate electricity from 60 tons of waste materials per day.

The main purpose of establishing such project is to reduce methane and carbon dioxide transmission at a certain degree as both gas badly damage the natural environment and it is a root



The waste-to-energy plant being seen in Shwepyitha. Photo: TIN WIN LAY (KYIMYINDAING)

cause of climate change, said Dr Aung Myat Maw, assistant head of YCDC's Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department.

The waste collection in Yangon is estimated around 1,700 tons per day. The YCDC has collected the garbage from every township and abandoned them

to designated areas in Shwepyitha, Hlawga in Mingaladon, Dagon Seikkan and Dala townships every day.—Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindaing)



The old bud-shaped bomb splinter. PHOTO: KO LWIN (SWA)

Old bomb splinter found in Sagaing

AN OLD bomb splinter covered with rust was found by workers at a construction site in Kaytumat Township in Taungoo of Bago Region on 25 February, when they dug the earth for drain.

The plantain bud-shaped bomb splinter was discovered in

the north-east of the project area to establish a Sitagu Buddha College in Minswegyi Ward in the township at around 12.10 p.m. on that day.

The ward administrator informed it to the township police.

Then the police handed it

over to the local battlefield engineering battalion.

According to police investigation, the bomb splinter is 11 inches long and 10 inches in diameter, and it is believed to be manufactured during the WWII.—Ko Lwin (Swa)

Crime NEWS

Portico collapse kills two in Kalay

THE portico of a building that was under construction collapsed yesterday, killing two people in Kalay.

The two victims have been confirmed as the owner of the

building and his nephew.

Members of the local fire brigade rushed to the scene and extracted the victims from under the debris and sent them to hospital where they were

confirmed dead.

The collapse happened while the iron reinforcing the concrete portico was under construction.—Kalay District Information and Public Relations Department

Woman drowned in Sittaung River

A woman was drowned in the Sittaung River when a car accident occurred on Sunday in Htantabin Township in Taungoo District in Bago region.

A vehicle carrying 12 passengers on board dropped down into the river while passing through the

temporary Sittaung bridge near 15 feet from Myosoe Village in the morning.

Apart from the 40-year-old woman named Daw Cho, who resides in Ywathit Village, villagers could rescue all people who are floating along the river.

The dead body of Daw Cho was discovered near Hlayswelmyaung Village in Ottwin Township at around 8.45 p.m. on that day.

Action is being taken against the careless driver by Zayetgyi Myoma Police Station.—Ko Lwin(Swar)



Villagers nearly seen rescuing the passengers. PHOTO: KO LWIN(SWAR)

Drugs dealers arrested in Myawady border town



A drug dealers seen together with the drugs seized.

PHOTO: TIN WIN HLAING (KAWKAYEIK)

LOCAL authorities arrested a man for drug dealing on Sunday in Myawady border town in Kayin State, collecting seven kilograms of raw opium worth about K15 million (US\$ 12,007) from him.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched a house owned by Zaw Min Than on Myitta Street-9 in Ward-4 and found 1 kilogram of raw opium worth about K2 million (\$1,600).

Likewise, the police also

discovered seven kilograms of raw opium worth K12 million (\$960) from Aaik San in Ward-5. According to the police investigation, Aaik San is a main dealer around the township, who carried raw opium from Pinlaung of Shan State and sold it at K2 million (\$1,600) per kilogram.

All people involved in the case have been charged under the law.—Tin Win Hlaing (Kawkyeik)

LOCAL Business



Delegation of Thailand-based Double A Public Co. holds talks with Union Minister U Maung Myint. PHOTO: MNA

Thai firm eyes paper mill contract extension

THE Thailand-based Double A Public Co. Ltd held discussions with Ministry of Industry yesterday on the extension of its permit to operate a paper mill in Thabaung.

Mr Yothin Dumnernchanvan-

it, managing director of the company, called on Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint to discuss the paper mill, as well as the requirements for the construction of a biomass power plant and for signing a power-purchasing agree-

ment with the Ministry of Electric Power and further cooperation between the two sides.

Double A won a 30-year contract for a state-owned advanced paper plant in Thabaung in 2013.—GNLM

Dala real estate market stays cold

THOUGH the new Myanmar-Korea Friendship Bridge will soon connect Dala Township with Yangon proper, the real estate market in Dala is cold, according to real estate agents who work in downtown Dala.

The bridge will facilitate the transportation from Dala to Phoneyi Street in Yangon and vice versa, said U Than Htay, a real estate agent who works on Yazathingyan Road, Dala Township, saying it will only take three minutes to get to Phoneyi Street once the bridge is complete.

“The government gave compensation to the households in and around the project area on Bo Min Yang Road. Now, our dream of the Dala bridge has come true. However, the property market has not attracted many

investors, as people initially expected,” he added.

The areas near the project in Kyansithar Ward have attracted some entrepreneurs. However, the price has risen from K45 million (US\$36,378) to K50 million (\$40,420) for a 20-foot-by-60-foot plot of land. A plot measuring 40 feet by 60 feet costs around K100 million (\$80,841), which is slightly higher than the previous price.

Many people have made enquiries about the prices of houses in downtown of Dala Township, but few have bought properties. Entrepreneurs are worried about long-term investment because the project will take five years. Furthermore, the government plans to establish a new town (myo-thit) in the east and west ward of

Angyi, including wards 11, 16 and 4 of Dala. The investors are worried that prices will not rise beyond their current level after project is completed, said the estate agent.

In 2014, investors from downtown Yangon purchased houses purchased properties in Dala after the bridge was approved by the regional parliament, expecting large profits. At the time, a plot of land measuring 20 feet by 60 feet that had originally sold for K19 million (\$15,360) rose to K37 million (\$29,911). The price of a 40-foot-by-60-foot plot rose from K30 million (\$24,252) to K50 million.

Homeowners and investors in Dala are closely monitoring the market, according to the local real estate association.—Soe Win

Advanced purchasers of palm oil gain profits

PALM oil is sold for K1,520 per viss at the Yangon palm oil wholesale market on 27 February. The price rose from K1,500 per viss on 26 February, according to workers in the edible oil industry.

The price reached under K1,400 at the end of 2015 in advanced sales. Palm oil sold for

around K1,500 per viss in the domestic market because of the price hike in the export market beginning in mid-February.

The advanced purchasers paid K5,000 per drum in advance as a deposit. Although advance sales are based on trust, there are times when advanced sellers

cheat when the prices fall. Cases of cheating have been reported this year as the prices in the market have risen since advance payments were made.

This year, importers and advance earned profits because palm oil fetches higher prices in domestic market.—Khin Saing

Oway Launches on-demand car service

WITH just two taps on an Android or iPhones, your personal driver will be on the way. With the launch of the Oway Ride service and mobile app, every smart phone user in Yangon can order a personal car service within seconds. The free, user-friendly mobile app is available in English and Myanmar on Google Play and will be available in the App Store within the next few days. Oway Ride also offers a 24/7 call centre service, and customers can also place an order at any time by dialling 09450450606.

Oway Ride will offer a 50 percent discount on every ride from midnight on 27 February until midnight on 4 March. Customers may type OWAYRIDE-NOW into the coupon code field of the Oway Ride app when ordering a personal car.

All partners and drivers who work with Oway Ride hold valid licences and insurance and have undergone extensive training for defensive driving and customer service.

Oway Ride driver vehicles meet high comfort, service and maintenance standards. Once on the way, vehicles are constantly tracked via GPS and monitored by an experienced team of operators around the clock.

Oway Ride 24/7 customer service can be reached by phone easily should a customer wish to order a taxi or speak to an agent. By receiving constant feedback from clients on their drivers as well as systematic driver training, Oway Ride guarantees a consistent high-quality experience to all of its customers in Myanmar.—Soe Soe Yu

Kayin traditional snacks gain popularity

PACKAGED Kayin traditional snacks, including kapyakaya, are gaining popularity in the market.

Kapyakaya is similar to a pancake and is served at religious festivals and ceremonies in villages near Thuwunnawati, Thaton Township, Mon State. Kapyakaya is also known as ‘koephalephale’ among Kayin elders.

Although making the snack is not time consuming, preparations for making it in a traditional way take time, and the snack can taste awful if the snack maker is not skilled in adding ingredients in proper proportions. The snack maker must also control the tempera-

ture while baking. Traditionally, people collectively make the snack at charity events.

“The snack has been offered to monks at charities since my parents’ day,” said to Daw Than Kyi, an ethnic Kayin resident of Winpa Village.

“It has become popular when packed clean. Kaungkyaik restaurant in Thuwunnawati is selling kapyakaya snacks made by machine. It can make over 900 packs with 25 visses of flour. A pack sells for K500, and visitors can buy them as a souvenir since the snack does not expire within a week. The snack is in high demand,” said Ko Yan Naung Soe, a baker at Kaungkyike restaurant.—Khun

Myanmar to begin generating wind energy

THE Ministry of Electric Power signed a memorandum of understanding with China Three Gorges International Corporation on electricity production from wind power in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The ministry’s director general U Aye Hsan and Mr Lu Guojun, chairman of China Three Gorges International Corporation, inked the MoU and exchanged notes. The MoU is aimed at implementing a 30 MW wind power project in Chaungtha, Ayeyawady Region.

Also present at the signing ceremony were Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe, Deputy Minister U Maw Tha Htway and other officials.

According to feasibility studies, there is wind energy production potential in Myanmar, with 10 project areas in Chin State with the potential to produce 1,472 MW, 10 in Rakhine State for 1,484 MW, five in Ayeyawady Region for 478 MW and two in Yangon Region for 274 MW.—Myanmar News Agency

Mahathir quits Malaysia's ruling UMNO party, protesting corruption



Malaysia's former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad. PHOTO: REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's former premier Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he is quitting the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party, as it is being seen as "supporting corruption" under Prime Minister Najib Razak's leadership.

Mahathir, Malaysia's longest-serving leader, remains a highly respected and influential figure and has become the fiercest critic of Najib, who is facing pressure over a graft scandal surrounding state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB). "I won't call it UMNO anymore, this is Najib's party. I feel embarrassed that I am associated with a party that is seen as supporting corruption — it had caused me to feel ashamed," he told reporters at a press conference.

But the leader said he would not set up a new party or join any other party.—Reuters

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Indonesia demolishes capital's largest red-light district

JAKARTA — Bulldozers started demolishing hundreds of buildings in the Indonesian capital's largest red-light district yesterday as part of a nationwide effort to eradicate prostitution in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

Jakarta's Kalijodo, long home to thousands of sex workers, is the latest of nearly 70 red-light districts shut down in Indonesia. The government wants to close the remaining around 100 more by 2019.

Prostitution is illegal in Indonesia but rampant in most major cities.

Under high security, bulldozers were seen destroying dozens of homes and sex-oriented businesses in the Jakarta neighbourhood, which the governor wants to turn into a park.

"First, we need to demolish all houses and revert the land to be used for a green open space, which has been the main function of the area since the very beginning. Once it is all completed, we will rebuild the area immediately," Anas Effendi, West Jakarta Mayor, told reporters.



Civil service police watch the demolition of Kalijodo red-light district in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 29 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

An accident by a drunk motorist that killed four in Kalijodo earlier this month prompted Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama to order the closing of the neighbourhood.

Authorities gave Kalijodo's

3,000 residents a week to clear the area with some relocated to government-subsidised apartments. Evicted sex workers were also given vocational training.

Some of those relocated, however, were finding it difficult

to find employment.

"My husband is still jobless as he already stopped his business," said Kania Fauziah, whose husband was a caretaker at a Kalijodo entertainment business.—Reuters

India, US closer to pact to share military logistics

NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON — India and the United States are closing in on an agreement to share military logistics after 12 years of talks, officials said, a sign of strengthening defence ties between the countries as China becomes increasingly assertive.

The United States has emerged as India's top arms source after years of dominance by Russia, and holds more joint exercises with it than any other country.

It is in talks with New Delhi to help build its largest aircraft carrier in the biggest military collaboration to date, a move that will bolster the Indian navy's strength as China expands its reach in the Indian Ocean.

After years of foot-dragging by previous governments over fears that the logistics agreement would draw India into a binding commitment to support the United States in war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration has signalled a desire to move ahead with the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA).

That would allow the two militaries to use each other's land, air and naval bases for resupplies,

repair and rest, officials said.

Admiral Harry Harris, head of the US Navy's Pacific Command, said the two sides were working on the LSA, another agreement called the CISMOA for secure communications when the militaries operate together, and a third on exchange of topographical, nautical, and aeronautical data.

"We have not gotten to the point of signing them with India, but I think we're close," Harris, due in India this week, told the US House Armed Services Committee on Wednesday.

The progress comes as the countries consider joint maritime patrols that a US official said could include the South China Sea, where China is locked in a territorial dispute with Viet Nam, the Philippines and Taiwan among others.

Both sides, though, said there were no immediate plans for such patrols, which drew strong condemnation from Beijing.

An Indian government official said the main impediment to signing the LSA had been cleared, after Washington gave an assurance that New Delhi was not

bound by it if the US went to war with a friendly country or undertook any other unilateral action that New Delhi did not support.

"It has been clarified that it will be done on a case-to-case basis; it's not automatic that either side will get access to facilities in the case of war," the official familiar with the negotiations said.

Asked whether China was concerned such cooperation was actually aimed at Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said: "We hope the relevant cooperation is beneficial to regional peace and cooperation and should not be aimed at the interests of third parties."

India's previous centre-left government was worried the agreements would undermine India's strategic autonomy and that it would draw it into an undeclared military alliance with the United States.

Concerns linger over the proposed communications agreement, with some branches of the military including the air force fearing it would allow the United States to access their communications network.

US officials said they hoped

that once the logistics agreement was signed, the others would follow.

A US defence industry source engaged in business in India said there were expectations the LSA could be sealed by the time US Defence Secretary Ash Carter visited New Delhi in April.

The source said Modi's office was directly involved in the matter and actively considering the agreements as a key for enhanced cooperation.

India has been alarmed by Chinese naval forays into the Indian Ocean and its involvement in maritime infrastructure on island nations that it traditionally considered its back yard.

It has moved to shore up naval forces and build defence ties with Japan and Viet Nam, besides the United States.

"There is growing convergence between Obama's Asia pivot and Modi's Act East policy," said Saroj Bishoyi, an expert on the proposed India-US collaboration at the government-funded Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi. "The LSA currently appears to be a doable agreement."—Reuters

Ten children stabbed outside school gate in southern China

BEIJING — A knife-wielding attacker stabbed ten school children in southern China yesterday, severely injuring two, before killing himself, state media reported, the latest in a series of school attacks in the country.

The attacker stabbed six boys and four girls outside the gate of an elementary school in the city of Haikou, on the southern island province of Hainan, state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) reported on its microblog.

The children were taken to hospital, with two being treated for serious injuries that were not life threatening, CCTV said.

Police were investigating what they described as a "vicious criminal case brought on by ex-

treme actions", the brief report said. Violent crime is rare in China compared with many other countries, but there have been a series of knife and axe attacks in recent years, many targeting children.—Reuters

Former Tepco execs indicted over Fukushima nuclear disaster

TOKYO — Three former Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) executives were indicted yesterday for failing to take safety measures to prevent the nuclear disaster at Fukushima Daiichi plant in 2011, a Tokyo District Court official said.

The indictments, forced through by a civilian judicial panel, are the first against officials at Tepco and come just before the fifth anniversary of the meltdowns at the Fukushima nuclear station north of Tokyo.

In accordance with Japanese law, the three were indicted by prosecutors on charges of professional negligence resulting in injury and death.

The prosecutors had not taken action against the former executives citing insufficient evidence, but a civilian judiciary panel forced the indictment when it ruled last July that they should be charged.

The three are former chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata, 75, and former executive vice presidents Sakae Muto, 65, and Ichiro Takekuro, 69.

The three, who are indicted without arrest, are likely to plead not guilty and the trial is expected to start next year, local media reported. Reuters could not im-



A worker, wearing a protective suit and a mask, is seen from a bus near the No. 3 reactor building at Tokyo Electric Power Co's (TEPCO) tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, Japan, on 10 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

mediately contact the three for comment.

A Tepco spokesman said the company can not comment on their behalf because they are no longer with the company.

Japanese citizens' panels, made up of residents selected by lottery, are a rarely used but

high-profile feature of Japan's legal system introduced after World War II to curb bureaucratic overreach. They were given the power to force prosecutions if they called for them for a second time.

An earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 destroyed

the plant, 220 km (130 miles) northeast of Tokyo, sparking triple nuclear meltdowns, forcing more than 160,000 residents to flee nearby towns and contaminating water, food and air in the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in 1986. —Reuters

Japanese Emperor Akihito diagnosed with influenza



Visiting Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko waves before boarding a plane during their departure at the international airport in Manila, on 30 January, after their state visit in the country. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — Japanese Emperor Akihito, 82, has been diagnosed with influenza after suffering a fever over the weekend, the Imperial Household Agency said yesterday, without giving further details.

Akihito will rest at his residence in the Imperial Palace, Kyodo news agency reported.

Born in 1933, Akihito was heir to Emperor Hirohito, in whose name Japan fought World War Two. His heir is Crown Prince Naruhito, age 56.

The soft-spoken Akihito has often urged Japan not to forget the suffering of the war and has tried to promote reconciliation with Asian countries.

Last August, Akihito marked the 70th anniversary of the conflict's end with an expression of "deep remorse", a departure from his annual script which some saw as a subtle rebuke of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has sought to adopt a less apologetic tone.

Akihito was also the first royal heir to marry a commoner, Empress Michiko, now 81, and his efforts to draw the imperial family closer to the people in image, if not in fact, played into a carefully crafted picture of a "middle-class monarchy" that has helped shield it from the harsh criticism suffered by flashier royals abroad. —Reuters

North Korea says detained US student confessed to stealing political slogan

SEOUL — An American student held in North Korea since early January was detained for trying to steal a propaganda slogan from his Pyongyang hotel and has confessed to "severe crimes" against the state, the North's official media said yesterday.

Otto Warmbier, 21, a student at the University of Virginia, was detained before boarding his flight to China over an unspecified incident at his hotel, his tour agency told Reuters in January.

North Korea has a long his-

tory of detaining foreigners and has used jailed US citizens in the past to extract high-profile visits from the United States, with which it has no formal diplomatic relations.

"I committed the crime of taking out a political slogan from the staff-only area of the Yanggakdo International Hotel," the North's KCNA news agency quoted Warmbier as telling media in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

A video clip posted on CNN

correspondent Will Ripley's Twitter account showed a sobbing Warmbier saying: "I have made the worst mistake of my life, but please act to save me."

Warmbier said a "deaconess" had offered him a used car worth \$10,000 if he could present a US church with the slogan as a "trophy" from North Korea, KCNA said.

The acquaintance also said the church would pay his mother \$200,000 if he was detained by the North and did not return,

KCNA quoted Warmbier as saying.

"My crime is very severe and pre-planned," Warmbier was quoted as saying, adding that he was impressed by North Korea's "humanitarian treatment of severe criminals like myself".

Warmbier's family have not heard from him since his arrest, according to a statement provided to the *Cavalier Daily*, the University of Virginia's student-run newspaper.

"He seems to be in good

health, although we won't know for sure about his condition until we have a chance to speak with him," the statement said.

Other Westerners detained in North Korea previously have confessed to crimes against the state.

North Korea's state media said in January that Warmbier "was caught committing a hostile act against the state", which it said was "tolerated and manipulated by the US government". —Reuters

'Radical' candidate in Hong Kong poll exposes underlying tensions

HONG KONG — Hong Kong residents voted on Sunday in a legislative council by-election, with a "radical" pro-democracy candidate who was arrested in a recent riot running in what is being seen as a barometer of political tension in the financial hub.

The poll, to fill a single seat vacated by a former pro-democracy politician, is being watched for signs of growing support for a burgeoning "indigenous" movement that backs more extreme protests, including violence, to push for greater democracy.

Candidates from across the political spectrum contested the poll that was narrowly won by Alvin Yeung of the pro-democracy Civic Party, but most attention focussed on Edward Leung, a leader of "Hong Kong Indigenous" and one of the first street activists to make a foray into mainstream politics.

Leung placed third, after Yeung and Holden Chow, a candidate from the city's biggest pro-Beijing party, with about 15 per cent of the 432,000 votes cast, a surprisingly strong showing.

"We, the young generation, are determined to sacrifice ourselves for Hong Kong's future," Leung told Reuters on the campaign trail, as supporters held banners reading: "Vote for a revolution".

Hong Kong, a former British colony that returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula that gives it a high degree of autonomy, was rocked by massive protests in 2014 demanding Beijing's Communist Party leaders grant the city full democracy.

Beijing's refusal of concessions has embittered a younger generation of activists, including Leung, who have pledged to fight on.

Some of the tension surfaced this month, when hundreds of protesters clashed with police in a night-long riot. Leung was among the dozens arrested in the worst violence on Hong Kong's streets for years. —Reuters

OPINION

Governance cannot be understood in isolation

Khin Maung Aye

NOWADAYS, the word governance has become a buzz word, which explains the changing role and rules for the state. For some scholars, governance refers to the retreating of the state's role and more of a democratic alignment of various other social agencies. For other scholars, governance means the growing need of state action in alliance with various non-state actors and social agencies. Whatever the case may be, definitions of governance by leading

institutions like the World Bank, UNDP and OECD are referred to as a process under which power is exercised. Their definitions reflect an understanding of the term that includes the management of social and economic resources and administrative supervision.

It is worth recalling that the concept of governance can never be understood in isolation. In order to enrich ourselves with the meaning of the term, we need to reflect upon the political developments that led to the shift from government to governance in some places. This is why governance is referred to by scholars as a slippery term. It is in vogue in the field of public affairs. Nonetheless, it is worth considering in the context of a specific state and society, as it will not only help improve management but also lead to better understandings of the needs of that particular society.

It would, therefore, not be inappropriate to say that governance is reflective of the fact that the role of the government, which was traditionally

believed to be one of control and coercion, has changed. Today, we see a greater role for societal actors in policy consultations, formulations and implementations. The world has recognised that there is a growing need for public participation in fostering the democratic spirit.

In a nutshell, governance has become a very important process that can foster the democratic spirit, accountability, transparency and the improved management of resources.

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Valuable Visiting Lectures at NRDC

Dr. Nyan Tun

2015-2016 Academic Year of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (NRDC) which is run under the Ministry of Border Affairs commenced on 3rd December, 2015. It is an institution that produces youth resources for the nation especially for border areas. The name itself indicates whose welfare the institution provides for. NRDC is not the second one institution in Myanmar that paves the way only for young boy students to learn arts, science, computer and engineering subjects especially to those boys who are under privilege and live in border areas as well as who live in remote places in Myanmar.

The most significant academic activity that gives direct knowledge to the students is visiting lectures which are conducted by higher level officers from the respective ministries in Myanmar. The officers discussed and shared about policy, objectives, projects and the tasks carrying out from the respective ministries. We come to know that this visiting lecture was laid down from the time when the college was opened. The objective of this task is for gaining knowledge about capacity building to final year students. Actually, the students who are studying at NRDC are civil servant-hood for the nation in the future because they are entrusted respective duties to the respective ministries as soon as they graduated from the college. So, they should know the works and processes of related ministries.

The students have to attend regular lectures as scheduled time table but for visiting lectures, only final year students have to participate. In this academic year, the first ever visiting lecture was conducted by **Daw Khin Thu Zar Aye, deputy director (border area), Ministry of Education.** The lecture was conducted at our

gracious convocation hall. The students actively paid attention to the lecture and they raised the questions as to they wanted to know after the lecture. Nationalities Affairs Department (NRDC) led by acting head arranges the function to be convenient for the visiting lecturers. I believe that educational as well as enthusiasts should know the project and the task formulated by the ministry.

She explains the process of education sub-committee especially the development works of education sectors in border areas by showing Power Point slides as well as sharing her knowledge and experiences in education field. The lecture is invaluable not only for the students but also for everyone to learn what education sub-committee is conducting for the people of border areas. I am also one of the participants in the lecture hall and come to know the works and processes carrying out the department of basic education (DBE).

To save the time and cover the whole works of the department she has to discuss her topic by showing data and figures through Power Point. Before delivering lecture, she suggested the students how they should keep their attitude on the lecture. This is the most important aspect that everyone should keep in mind whatever they are learning. What she said is, "You should keep in your mind what knowledge I will acquire by attending this lecture instead of coming and sitting down idle in the lecture hall as a duty". The piece of advice that she pointed out reflects the present day of our younger generation in the country because the respective ministries, universities, colleges, organizations, and companies manage to run respective classes, lectures for their staffs, students to gain much more capacity building for the fields but most of them attended those respective lectures not earnestly but just dutifully.

The trainees or students do not think that the conducting capacity building is for the welfare of them so most of them waste their times and energies.

By nature the learned and wise persons irrespective of creed and color in our Myanmar community wanted to share their knowledge and experience willingly so they are conducting most of classes free of charges. I don't know what to say if it is our weak point but it is due to our environment or tradition that influenced to us that is latent in our soft and generous mind. Actually, it is Buddhist spirit which has been inscribed in our heart since Buddhism has been flourishing in our land. We are influenced to take up voluntary works serving the welfare of people.

The first title or slide that appeared on the screen of projector is 'Education' that reflects the historical background, environment and education system. Giving outline, she focuses on the concept of education with three words "ASK" commonly approved by educators. 'A' means **attitude/mindset**, 'S' indicates **skill** and 'K' means **knowledge**. Whatever educational concept either formal and informal education or vocational training we pursue, we must keep in our mind by setting up the three words. Among the three words, mindset or attitude plays the most important role for everyone. Most of our younger generation could not change their mindset even though studying in higher level. This is due to stereotype that influenced to our education system- i.e., learning by heart method and never has created and critical thinking how to approach it to understand. She emphasized that education must be continuous process. Education never ended so life long learning makes you to be learned person and the more you learn, the more you understand in related fields. Only created and critical thinking and changing attitude, the educa-

tion or knowledge and skill that we pursue will take effect.

I would like to mention one educational method called 'Action Oriented Teaching and Learning Method'. In our degree college, any teaching staff who has got a chance to go abroad to seminar or programme through scholarship scheme have to share his or her knowledge and experience to students and staff after back in from the respective programme. One of our senior lecturers from Computer Science Department had attended "International Leadership Training for TVET Professionals" in Germany sponsored by GIZ. She shared her experienced and knowledge about the programme she had performed in Germany. Actually, TVET is the promotion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training. The teaching and learning method that approached at the training make us alarm to our education method. She printed in her pamphlet step by step sentences focused on Action Oriented Teaching and Learning Method. It goes on 'I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.' I think we should apply in our teaching career that affect in our daily life.

Then, the visiting lecturer proceeded to the second slide showing the rate of school enrolment and reduction in the rate of leaving schools, free education, the programme of providing educational aid and scholarship scheme. The government has been providing free education from primary up to high school level. She focused on the reform education system that will begin coming 2016-2017 academic years in basic education level kindergarten plus twelve (KG+12). All children get a head start on their learning pathway. We come to know that ASEAN and other developed or developing countries have been implementing it along time ago.

The next slide pointed out 1989-1990 academic year in

border areas especially in Self-administered Regions where the department is carrying educational work. We learn that there are six Self-administered Regions- Kachin, Wa, Paoh, Palaung, Dhannu and Naga. Among the regions, Kachin Special Region 1, Kokant, Wa, Shan and Mopha regions were mentioned. The next sheet showed the number of primary and middle schools that were opened in those regions. From the time the department undertaking the educational tasks in those regions even the present academic year 2015-2016 the development figures of schools, students and teaching staff were given in the following slide.

The lecturer went on her lecture that gives us knowledge about the term used 'sub-township' in the past and 'the town' in the present according to 2008 State Constitution. She said that there is no village that does not have a primary school and there is a high school in every sub-township in the region where it is difficult to go. The task was undertaken in 28 sub-townships in 2002 and extended up to 84 sub-townships in 2015 with 2763 schools in those regions. What she said is that we can't say that they are poor in education as well as uneducated persons because we are conducting summer basic educational activities (3R) in those places. That activity was started in 1996 with 1124 adult illiterate students in number and it was performed successively even today.

There are over 135 national races living in the country through thick and thin and every ethnic group has its own tradition, customs, literature, culture and so on. Among the eighteen states and regions (except Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw), forty kinds of literature of national races are taught in their respective schools and basic education department provides some supporting of those schools.

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Japanese cherry blossoms to be planted around Shwedagon Pagoda



JAPANESE cherries will be planted within the precinct of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the most sacred Buddhist pagoda in Myan-

mar, according to a member of the pagoda's board of trustees.

The Japan Cherry Blossom Association donated its native

species to the board of trustees on Sunday with an aim to beautify the pagoda precinct as well as promoting friendship between the two countries.

Eighty-eight saplings and both liquid and dry fertilizers were handed over to the pagoda's board of trustees, with the Japanese association members saying the saplings can thrive around the pagoda located on Singuttara Hill, west of Kandawyi Lake, which dominates the Yangon skyline. The golden pagoda is the most famous landmark in Yangon, and it is one of the most visited tourist attractions in the country.—*Zaw Min Latt*

Women artists present works in Mandalay

A COLLECTIVE art exhibition of women artists is being displayed in Mandalay Hill Art Gallery starting from 1 March from 9am to 5 pm daily. The works primarily depict Myanmar landscapes.

The second "Colourful Flowers, Women Artists" art ex-

hibition will run until 4 March at the gallery, showcasing works by 20 artists with wide range of styles and media, inviting art enthusiasts to come to the event.

The subject matter of the works includes seasonal flowers, summer, still life and natural landscapes across Myanmar.

This is the second time the women artists, including Artist Khin Nan Hsan, have held the event in Mandalay.

The gallery is located at the base of Mandalay Hill, near the prominent lion statues of Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay City.—*Khin Khin Win*

Cartoon exhibition raises public HIV awareness in Mandalay Region



Cartoon exhibition seen with the visitors. PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU (MDY)

A CARTOON exhibition was held in the Kuthodaw Art Gallery in Mandalay jointly by the regional Health Department and Marie Stopes International from 26 to 28 February in order to raise public awareness on HIV.

More than 130 cartoons

by 68 Mandalay-based cartoonists were showcased at the exhibition. The cartoons will also be showcased at basic education schools around the region and will be accompanied by educational talks on HIV.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mdy)*

Valuable Visiting Lectures at NRDC

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The language and literature that students are studying in those schools are Red Shan, Gig Shan, Gyein phaw, Shan, Law waw, Lacheik, Kachin, Rawam, Zeinwar, Lisu, Kayan, Kayaw, Kayah, Sakaw Karen, Pwakanyaw, East Po Karen, Paoh, Mon, Gaybar, Chosarpay, Khumee, Teetein, Htardo, Dai, Phalan, Matupi (Chin), Matupi (Dvam), Marrar, Yindu, Haka, Hwarlango, Tupu, Naga, Lushawn (Mizo), Asho Chin, Rakhaing, Larhu, Lisu, In and Arkhar. How lovely languages we have! How proud of we are! We learned that the department publishes the text books of nationalities.

Teaching methodology is very important and apart from it, she went on her lecture that sometimes the department is carrying the tasks demanded by respective regions (i.e appointing native teachers who can speak their mother tongue). Besides part-time teachers, PPTT and DTED are appointed on demand. She urged students, "You come to attend this college representing your region so you have to go back to your regions and develop your regions" The department arranges mobile schools for students who have no chance to go to school such as elephant sanctuary especially in Bago division. The workers who are working there have their children and there is no school for those children in forest so mobile schools play a vital role in those places.

She shed light on what type

of the environment that the basic education schools in border areas should be by pointing out four factors: the environment should be standard teaching and learning; creative thinking and innovation; adaptation teaching and learning method in their respective regions; and the level of education should be examined (test validity). Dealing with adaptation, she gave the best example by proofing living creature- two animals: dinosaur and cockroach. Once upon a time, the two types of species existed in the world and now a day dinosaur had disappeared but cockroach species has been living on the earth due to adaptation in accordance with the environment.

The next slide plays a pivotal role for rural development laid down by the department and ministry. She said that not only formal education but also informal education has been carried out targeting for poverty reduction. The programme was carried out for the children especially those who are working in tea shops without schooling. The programmes for technical and vocational education on demand in the regions are planned by the department and ministry.

On account of advanced science and technology material development can be seen everywhere around the world but the moral principle which lead peace and harmony among the people degrade little by little. We can witness the crisis what is happening around the world. New

generations are the future leaders of the country so ethics and moral principles play the most important role for those who are going to shoulder the nation. To uplift of the morale and morality as well as good manner of the young people she showed the next slide by selecting the outstanding and morally youth, training scout, giving lecture for life skill such as good manner, customs and finally forming school council. For development of border areas related ministries, states and regions governments, local people, those who are enthusiast in education, NGOs and INGOs join hands together. Among the border areas, the tasks are carried out separately in the region such as Kachin special region (1), and (2), Naga and Palaung Self-administered Regions and so on.

She emphasized the three key points for everyone who wanted to improve one's life while sharing national education sector plan (NESP). They are co-operation, co-ordination and contribution. Before conclusion her lecture, she wishes to appear reliable good citizen who can sacrifice their lives from border areas in 21st century to be recorded the development task of education in the history. As I mentioned earlier, the students who are pursuing their studies at NRDC will become civil servants to serve with various ministries. So by giving them such valuable lectures they can acquire prior knowledge about the projects and works of respective ministries.

Traditional Arts and Crafts of Myanmar **POEM:**

Ten traditional Arts and Crafts of Myanmar the common generic terms of which are "The Ten Pans" or "The Ten Flowers" literally, the names start with the word "Pan" collectively. The ten are, Pan Tain (gold smithy, silver smithy), Pan Be (black smithy), Pan Yan (masonry), PanTawt (decorative stucco), Pan Put (turnery), Pan Chi (painting), Pan Yun (lacquer-ware making), Pan Tamawt (stone sculpture), Pan Bu (wood or ivory carving), Pan Tin (making items cast or wrought from bronze, copper or brass)

The traditional Artists and Craftsmen of Myanmar since ancient times made items for sale or barter. Renowned Master Craftsmen, were by the Royalty often chosen to serve in the construction and decoration of Temples, Pagodas and other Religious Edifices, and the Grand Palaces of the Kings, and their Cities as can be witnessed by the still standing structures and excavations of ruins of religious edifices and sculptures, palaces, cities, and artifacts of ancient times long since buried

in the earth with the passing of time, going unnoticed. The traditional Arts and Crafts were handed down from generation to generation of artists and craftsmen through a system of apprenticeship by which the master craftsmen took on young persons who wished to join the vocation, as apprentices often without payment, but provided board and lodging and after long years of workplace learning the apprentice acquired knowledge and skills of the profession and continued working for the Master or set up shop of his own.

Rudiments of the traditional apprenticeship system is practiced still though it needs to be modernized for there to be a will to preserve the ten traditional Arts and Crafts of Myanmar

to be one of the standard bearers of Myanmar's culture.

Lokethar

Conservatives call for truce in EU campaign

LONDON — Senior ministers called on Sunday for a truce in a heated debate on Britain's membership of the European Union, saying the ruling Conservative Party must be civil if it wants to stay in power.

The party is deeply split over whether Britain should vote to stay in the EU at a referendum on 23 June, and several allies of Prime Minister David Cameron, who supports EU membership, are campaigning to leave the 28-member bloc.

Some lawmakers have criticised Cameron for accusing

London Mayor Boris Johnson, a leading Conservative, of putting his own ambition above his beliefs by backing the "Out" campaign.

They said the thinly veiled attack last week on Johnson, the most prominent party member in the "Out" camp, violated an unwritten rule that both sides respect each others' opinions.

"There are different opinions in the party. Everyone has to go out of their way to make sure that the debate within the Conservative Party is a constructive one, an amicable one and

one that doesn't involve attacks on each other," said Christopher Grayling, leader of the House of Commons (the lower house of parliament) who supports leaving the EU.

"And then from a Conservative point of view after the event we've really got to make sure that when the result comes in, we come together, we heal the party, we move beyond the discussions at the moment and we win in 2020," he told Sky News, referring to the year when the next parliamentary election is expected.—*Reuters*

German foreign minister says common EU path is only way to tackle migrant crisis



Syrian and Iraqi refugees wait to cross the Greek-Macedonian border on 27 February 2016 as the border crossing is briefly reopened near the Greek village of Idomeni. PHOTO: REUTERS

ATHENS — European Union countries must work together to deal with the migrant crisis troubling the bloc and avoid blaming each other, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told Greek daily Ta Nea in an interview yesterday.

EU members have started to pull in different directions in recent weeks as they argue over how to deal with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of people fleeing war in the Middle East and beyond.

"We must fight for Europe. We must stop blaming each other. On the contrary, we must unite forces and work together for a European solution to the refugee crisis. This is the only way for Europe to emerge stronger from this crisis," Steinmeier said.

Greece, whose islands are the primary gateway to Europe

for new arrivals, has been inundated with refugees and migrants after border shutdowns cascaded through the Balkans.

Austria last week hosted a summit of Balkan nations on how to regulate the migrant flows without inviting Athens.

This prompted Greece to recall its ambassador to Austria in anger over the border closures and threaten to block European Union decision-making unless the bloc comes up with concerted action to deal with the crisis.

Steinmeier said unilateral moves by EU countries could not support a sustainable solution to the problem and that a common course was needed.

"Neither side can benefit when inside the EU one blames the other. In this way we are not moving ahead by even one step in managing the refugee crisis. The rifts that are being formed

now must be laboriously healed again," he told the paper.

Last week, NATO envoys set out how ships already deployed in the Aegean, including Turkish and Greek vessels, will pass intelligence and reconnaissance information to Turkish and Greek coastguards and to the European Union border agency, Frontex, as well as returning to Turkey any migrants NATO crews rescue.

Steinmeier said it was crucial for Turkey to meet its commitments and move decisively against smugglers to reduce the flows of migrants from Turkey to the EU.

"This is the only way we can move to the next stage. The negotiations in the 7 March (EU summit) will take stock of where we are and what other possibilities are available," the foreign minister said.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hungary's Orban says no automatic extension of sanctions against Russia

BUDAPEST — The European Union is expected to hold discussions about whether Russia has fulfilled the Minsk agreement on Ukraine and there will not be an automatic extension of sanctions against Moscow, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said yesterday.

"At the end of the first half of the year a serious debate can be expected within the EU about the fulfilment of the Minsk agreement," Orban told Hungarian ambassadors.

"In other words, there won't be an automatic extension of sanctions against Russia, and whatever decision we will make, that should be preceded by a calm and objective analysis about the Minsk agreement," he added. Orban's government has granted a deal to Russia's Rosatom to build new reactors at Hungary's nuclear power plant, and has promoted what it calls a "pragmatic" good relationship with Russia. Orban visited Moscow earlier this month.—*Reuters*

Brazil justice minister to quit as Lula probe tension grows

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's Justice Minister Jose Eduardo Cardoso plans to resign, fed up with rising attacks from his Workers' Party over a police probe into the activities of former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, two Brazilian newspapers reported on Sunday.

Cardoso will quit this week, *Folha de S.Paulo* said. Cardoso, who took office with Lula's PT successor Dilma Rousseff at the beginning of her first term in 2011.

Leading members of Cardoso's party, known by its Portuguese initials PT, have raised pressure on the minister in recent days after Lula was notified that Brazilian courts plan to subpoena his bank, telephone and financial records, *Folha* and *the Estado de S.Paulo* reported. Lula, the PT's historic leader, a five-time PT presidential candidate and two term president from 2003 to 2010, has come under investigation in the wake of a giant and widening corruption scandal at state-led oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA.

Lula has already faced police questioning over the financial dealings of his children and friends and now faces questioning of his alleged ownership of a beach-front penthouse triplex and country estate. The penthouse and country home were allegedly renovated by construction companies involved in the price-fixing, bribery and political kickback scandal at Petrobras, as the oil company is known. Lula has said the properties don't belong to him.—*Reuters*

Dodik: We want to bolster ties with Serbia

BELGRADE — Republika Srpska (RS) wants its citizens to live in freedom, and wants to bolster ties with Serbia as much as possible, RS President Milorad Dodik said in Belgrade Sunday at a reception marking the RS Day and the anniversary of its first constitution.

The ceremony, held at the Old Court, was also attended by Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic and Patriarch Irenaeus of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

"We believe in the strength of Serbia, which is proving to be a regional factor of peace and stability. We would have integrated a long time ago had it been up to us," Dodik said.

Srpska is a place of freedom for all — for people of different religions and nations that want to live in it, he said.

"The RS has only one objective - that we live in freedom and that we bolster our ties with Serbia as much as possible. Srpska loves Serbia," he said.—*Tanjug*

Two killed, one injured in South Korean embankment collapse

SEOUL — Two people have been killed, and one severely injured in an embankment collapse in South Korea's southeastern city of Gimhae, Yonhap news agency reported yesterday.

The embankment in an industrial complex's construction site in Gimhae abruptly collapsed for an unidentified reason at about 9:21am local time (0021 GMT).

Four workers, who were doing reinforcement work at the retaining wall being 15 meters high, were buried below soil as land became wet due to the Sunday rain. One escaped from the soil, but two were confirmed dead after being rescued. One was severely injured.

Firefighting authorities dispatched more than 100 of rescuers and dozens of equipments to rescue the buried, but the rescue operations were delayed for fears of further collapse at the site. The exact cause of the accident is under investigation.—*Xinhua*

Syria rebels say attacks by army and Russian planes threaten truce

BEIRUT/ GENEVA — The Syrian opposition warned on Sunday that attacks by the army, backed by Russian warplanes, threatened a US-Russian deal for a cessation of hostilities with collapse and endangered future peace talks.

The agreement, which is in its second day and has drastically curbed violence but not stopped it entirely, is the first of its kind to be attempted in four years.

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the opposition said violations would undermine international efforts to guarantee the continuation of the truce and lead to the collapse of the UN-adopted political process.

The Riyadh-based opposition body said Russian war planes on Sunday staged 26 bombing raids on areas where rebel groups abiding by the truce were operating and accused Moscow of deploying cluster bombs on residential areas it alleged caused many civilian casualties.

A Syrian military source on Saturday denied the army was violating the truce agreement. Russia's defence ministry declined to comment.

Under the accord accepted by President Bashar al-Assad's government and many of his foes, fighting should cease so that aid can reach civilians and talks can open to end a war that has killed more than 250,000 people and made 11 million homeless.

The head of the Russian coordination centre in Syria, Sergei Kuralenko, said the plan was holding "in general" but said there had been nine violations of the truce in the past 24 hours.

Insurgents and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory

for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict, said war planes struck at least six towns and villages in west and north Aleppo and a village in the central Hama province.

Warplanes believed to be Russian pounded the town of Teir Maalah, just north of the city of Homs, in the second round of bombing within a few hours of the strategic town that the army has tried to capture in the past to enter rebel held northern countryside of Homs Province, insurgents said.

Rebels said the attacks across Syria were more intense than Saturday but still not as bad as those before the cessation of hostilities took effect.

"We are awaiting the response of states to these violations, the situation is in the balance now and self restraint will not last long," colonel Fares al Bayoush told Reuters.

The Saudi-backed opposition group had earlier accused Russia of carrying out the strikes and said it would complain to the United Nations and countries backing the peace process but said it remained committed to the truce.

"The decision is to remain quiet, not to do anything, and I believe they will stick to the truce," said Syria's opposition spokesman Salim al-Muslat. "Yesterday was the first day people can really go out and walk in the streets."

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir also accused Russia and the Syrian government air force of violating the truce and said Riyadh was discussing the issue with international powers.

Speaking during a joint news conference with visiting Danish Foreign Minister Kristian Jensen



Residents stand near a damaged car in the town of Darat Izza, province of Aleppo, Syria, on 28 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

in Riyadh, he said there would be a "plan B" if it became clear that the Syrian government and its allies were not serious about the truce. He gave no details.

The deal, which is less binding than a formal ceasefire and was not directly signed by the Syrian warring sides, does not cover action against militants from Islamic State or the Nusra Front, an al Qaeda affiliate which called for an escalation of attacks on Friday.

Moscow and Damascus say they will continue to fight them. Other rebels say they fear this stance may be used to justify attacks against them too.

Muslat, who is spokesman for the opposition's High Negotiating Committee (HNC), said it was waiting for answers about how the cessation of hostilities in Syria was being monitored, particularly since there was no map with a common understanding of the location of various fighting groups.

"This really worries us because we don't know how to deal with any violations and what are the areas that should not be targeted," he said.

On Saturday, Russia said it would suspend all flights over

Syria for one day to ensure no targets covered by the truce were hit by mistake.

But insurgents said on Sunday several people were wounded when Russian war planes struck several villages and towns in Aleppo province and Idlib province.

The Observatory's head Rami Abdulrahman said some of the towns which were attacked, including Daret Azza, were controlled by Nusra Front and other Islamist groups. In the city of Jisr al Shuquour, three aerial raids caused civilian casualties.

Other attacks hit the villages and towns of Qabtan al-Jabal, Andan, Hreitan, Kfar Hamra and Ma'aret al-Arteek, the Observatory said, all in the west of the province where insurgents from the Free Syrian Army have operated.

It was not clear if these towns were included in the truce, Abdulrahman said.

Syria's state news agency accused "terrorist groups" of shelling rural areas of the coastal Latakia province, causing casualties. It said that the shelling came from hills close to the Turkish border "where terrorists mostly from Nusra Front deploy".

A Syrian rebel group denied

the state media reports. Fadi Ahmad, spokesman for the First Coastal Division, an FSA group operating in the rural Latakia area, said rebel groups were committed to the truce.

He said helicopters had dropped six barrel bombs and fired dozens of rockets in the area on Sunday, and the Nusra Front had no presence in the area targeted by government forces.

Abdulrahman said a number of civilians were also killed in the air strikes in Aleppo province and other areas. He did not have a figure.

Videos sent by a rebel commander to Reuters shows a strike in another town, Harbnafseh, at 6.30am (0430 GMT) and another at 07:00am (0500 GMT) according to the voice in the video. The footage shows plumes of smoke rising into the sky.

Russia's coordination centre in Syria received from the United States a list of 69 armed opposition groups which agree with the terms of the truce, Interfax news agency reported.

Russia had itself received declarations of agreement from 17 armed groups from Syria's "moderate opposition", the centre said in a statement.—Reuters



People gather at the site of suicide blasts in Baghdad's Sadr City, on 28 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Twin suicide bombing kills 70 in Baghdad's deadliest attack this year

BAGHDAD — A twin suicide bombing claimed by Islamic State killed 70 people in a Shi'ite district of Baghdad on Sunday in the deadliest attack inside the capital this year, as militants launched an assault on its western outskirts.

Police sources said the suicide bombers were riding motorcycles and blew themselves up in a crowded mobile phone market in Sadr City, wounding more than 100 people in addition to the dead.

A Reuters witness saw pools of blood on the ground with slippers, shoes and mobile phones at

the site of the blasts, which was sealed off to prevent further attacks. In a statement circulated online, Islamic State said it was responsible for the blasts: "Our swords will not cease to cut off the heads of the rejectionist polytheists, wherever they are," it said, using derogatory terms for Shi'ite Muslims.

Iraqi forces backed by airstrikes from a US-led coalition have driven Islamic State back in the western Anbar province recently and are preparing for an offensive to retake the northern city of Mosul.

But the militants are still able to strike outside territory they control, often targeting members of Iraq's Shi'ite majority, most recently on Thursday when two Islamic State suicide bombers killed 15 people at a mosque in the capital.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said the attacks were in response to Islamic State's recent defeats: "This gang targeted civilians after it lost the initiative and its dregs fled the battlefield before our proud fighters," he said on his official Facebook page.—Reuters

As sea levels rise, economic damage piles up even faster

OSLO — As sea levels rise, threatening cities from New York to Shanghai, the economic damage will increase even faster, scientists said yesterday.

Extreme floods whipped up by storms will become ever more costly for cities as ocean levels edge up around the world's coasts in coming decades, they wrote in a study that could help guide governments budgeting to protect everything from buildings and basements to metro systems.

"The damage from sea level rise rises faster than sea level rise itself," co-author Juergen Kropp, part of a team at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, told Reuters of the findings.

For the Danish capital Copenhagen, for instance, a moderate sea level rise of 11 cm (4 inches) by 2050 from 2010 levels would cause

about a billion euros (\$1.1 billion) a year in extra damage if no protective action is taken, the study estimated.

But the costs would quadruple to 4 billion euros if the rate of sea level rise roughly doubles to 25 cm by 2050, in line with the worst scenarios projected by a UN scientific panel, they wrote in the journal *Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences*.

World sea levels are creeping higher, the UN panel says, partly because global warming is adding water to the oceans by melting glaciers from the Andes to the Alps and parts of vast ice sheets on Greenland and Antarctica.

The Potsdam scientists said that mathematical models they developed to estimate rising costs would work around the world. "You can apply it in Tokyo, New York or Mumbai," Kropp said.



Buildings damaged by high waves are seen in Coyuca de Benitez, on the coast of Guerrero state, Mexico, in this 4 May, 2015 file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

The exact costs of sea level rise, which could in the worst case reach about a metre by 2100, are extremely uncertain.

One study in 2014 estimated it could cost anywhere from 0.3 per cent to

9 per cent of world gross domestic product a year by 2100.

Jochen Hinkel of the Global Climate Forum in Berlin, the lead author of that study, said it illustrated vast risks but was based on

the implausible assumption that governments would take no protective action.

Building coastal barriers would be far cheaper, Hinkel said.

"People have adapted to sea-level rise in the

past and will do so in the future," he said, noting protective measures for cities such as Tokyo or Jakarta, which have been sinking relative to sea level because of local subsidence.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DYNAMIC OCEAN-02 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN-02 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.2.2016 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Ancient trees found in Beijing demolition site

BEIJING — Arborists have discovered 10 trees believed to be over 100 years old in a demolition site in east Beijing.

The trees, which were spotted and reported by a citizen with keen interest in trees near Baiziwan, Chaoyang District, include eight jujube trees, one elm and one Chinese scholar tree, experts with the Beijing Forestry University and Beijing Botanical Garden said.

It is rare to find such a group of ancient trees this close to the downtown area.

The municipal bureau of landscape and forestry has begun to clear the construction waste from around the trees so they can be further studied. Some of their branches have already been fractured in the demolition work. There are around 40,000 trees over 100 years old recorded in Beijing.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1015W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO (1015W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.2.2016 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN-29 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN-29 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANURGE VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANURGE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.2.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.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 GLORY SHIPPING MARING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

NATO chief says concerned about Russian military build-up in Syria

KUWAIT— NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday that a fragile truce in Syria appeared to be largely holding but the alliance was concerned by a Russian military build-up in Syria.

France, though, said it had information about fresh attacks on zones held by moderate rebels, and called for an immediate meeting of the Syria task force to address breaches of the cessation of hostilities that came into force on Friday.

The cessation of hostilities deal is the first of its kind to be attempted in four years. Syria's conflict began in 2011. Stoltenberg told a news conference in the Gulf

Arab state of Kuwait: "We have seen some encouraging developments that the ceasefire is largely holding but at the same time we have seen some reports about violations of the ceasefire. "This agreement and the full implementation of the agreement is the best possible basis for renewing the efforts to find a political negotiated peaceful solution to the crisis in Syria," he added. The deal, which is less binding than a formal ceasefire and was not directly signed by Syria's warring government and rebel forces, does not cover action against militants from Islamic State or the Nusra Front, an al Qaeda affiliate.—Reuters



Russian warplanes fly in the sky over the Mediterranean coastal city of Latakia, Syria, on 28 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan to lease MSDF training aircraft to Philippines

TOKYO — The Japanese government intends to lease Maritime Self-Defence Force training aircraft to the Philippines to help improve its surveillance capabilities in the South China Sea amid China's rising maritime assertiveness, government sources said yesterday.

The Japanese and Philippine governments are expected to officially sign an agreement over the planned lease of the TC-90 aircraft as early as April, the sources said. The planes had previously been in service with the MSDF.

The move is aimed at beefing up security ties between Japan and the Philippines to provide counterbalance to China's military buildup in the sea where Beijing and Manila have competing territorial claims.

Tokyo and Manila will sign later Monday an accord for the transfer of defence equipment and technology, which will lay the groundwork for the provision of the aircraft, the sources said. The two countries agreed on the accord last November.

Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani is scheduled to pay a visit to the Southeast Asian country as early as April, when both countries will likely sign the agreement for the lease, according to the sources.

Japan agreed to provide the MSDF aircraft at the Philippines' request. Tokyo decided to lease them at a reduced price because under Japanese law it is unable to supply defence equipment to other countries without compensation.—Kyodo News

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 2nd March (Wednesday) PEASANTS' DAY 2016, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

INVITATION ON REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR THE FIXED BROADBAND NETWORK PROJECT

Yatanarpon Teleport Public Co., Ltd. (YTP) is a registered public company providing ISP services in Myanmar, located at Hlaing Universities' Campus, Yangon. Currently holding NFS (I) license, YTP provides broadband Internet, IP-VPN services and data center facilities and is now in progress to utilize FTTx technology as the main platform to offer high speed, comprehensive Internet services in near future. Anticipated the successful launch, YTP hereby invites eligible bidders for the supply of equipments, installation and associated services for the "Fixed Broadband Network Project" in Yangon and Mandalay Regions.

The schedule is:

Newspaper Announcement	1~3 March 2016
Availability of RFP	3~9 March 2016
Last date of written queries by interested companies	10 March 2016
Response to the queries	16 March 2016
Deadline of submission of proposal	24 March 2016
Evaluation of proposals	25 March ~ 28 April 2016
Announcement of winning bidders	29 April 2016

Interested companies can submit proposal for one or more lots as mentioned below:

- Lot1 . Supply and Installation of Metro IP Core Equipment and Services
- Lot2. Supply and Installation of DWDM System
- Lot3. Supply and Installation of OLT and ONT
- Lot4. Supply of Optical Cable
- Lot5. Supply of ODN Equipment
- Lot6. Supply of Accessories for Optical Cable
- Lot7. Supply and Installation of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment

Please be requested that to observe all instructions, terms and conditions and project requirements. Documents will only be available at Tender Committee Office, Yatanarpon Teleport Public Company Ltd. (YTP) and queries will be responded as mentioned in the schedule. Failure to furnish the correct and complete information will be void and incomplete submission of documents after the deadline is not exchangeable.

For queries and submission of documents, please contact "Tender Committee Office"

Tel:+951 4421190 Fax:+951 652300

Monday to Friday (10am to 3pm)

Yatanarpon Teleport Public Co., Ltd. (YTP)

No. 25, Universities' Hlaing Campus; Hlaing Township, Yangon Region, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, P.O Box 909.

Email: ytp-tender@teleport.net.mm

www.yatanarpon.net.mm/proposal-for-fixedbroadbandnetworkproject2016

ILO's new contact telephone and fax numbers

Due to the changes of Myanmar Post and Telecommunications (MPT) services for its auto telephone customers, Yankin RSU Exchange needs to upgrade its mechanical functions. MPT advised that the old system will be replaced with modern MSAN Exchange urgently. Hence, the first three digits of the ILO's telephone have been changed. The following are the new telephone numbers of the ILO Liaison Office for the general public's record and information.

Liaison Officer International Labour Organization (ILO)

Office address : No # 1/A, Kanbae (Thitsar) Road
Yankin township, Yangon, MYANMAR
Telephone : 01 233 6538, 01 233 6539
01 578 925, 01 579 956
Fax : 01 233 6582
P.O Box : 679
E-mail : yangon@ilo.org

ILO takes this opportunity to inform the general public of its other numbers in different locations.

Forced Labour complaint

Contact number in Bago Region : 09 73 22 02 06
Contact number in Magway Region : 09 44 80 59 036
Contact number in Mon State : 09 42 11 75 562
Contact number in Chin State : 09 45 26 59 346
Contact number in Mandalay Region : 09 45 26 59 345

Contact number 24/7 : 09 45 26 59 344

Peace Project (Shan State)

Office address : No # 14, Nawarat Road, Thittaw
Ward, Taunggyi Township, Shan State (South)
Contact number in Shan (South) : 09 25 07 86 411

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV STAR CAPELLA VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV STAR CAPELLA VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-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.

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'Spotlight' takes top Academy Award, #OscarsSoWhite other big winner

LOS ANGELES — Catholic Church abuse movie "Spotlight" was named best picture, the top award at Sunday's Oscars ceremony, after a night peppered with pointed punchlines from host Chris Rock about the #OscarsSoWhite controversy that has dominated the industry.

In a ceremony where no single movie commanded attention, Mexico's Alejandro Inarritu nabbed the best directing Oscar for "The Revenant", becoming the first filmmaker in more than 60 years to win back-to-back Academy Awards. Inarritu won in 2015 for "Birdman."

"The Revenant" went into Sunday's ceremony with a lead-

ing 12 nominations, and was among four movies believed to have the best chances for best picture after it won Golden Globe and BAFTA trophies.

The ambitious 20th Century Fox (FOXA.O) Pioneer-era tale, shot in sub-zero temperatures, also brought a first Oscar win for its star Leonardo DiCaprio, who got a standing ovation from the A-list Hollywood audience.

"I do not take tonight for granted," DiCaprio said, taking the opportunity in his acceptance speech to urge action on climate change.

Yet voters in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences chose Open Road

Films' (RGC.N) "Spotlight," which traces the Boston Globe's 2003 Pulitzer Prize winning investigation of child sex abuse by Catholic priests, for best picture. The movie also won best original screenplay.

"This film gave a voice to survivors, and this Oscar amplifies that voice, which we hope can become a choir that will resonate all the way to the Vatican," said producer Michael Sugar.

Rising star Brie Larson, 26, took home the statuette for best actress for her role as an abducted young woman in indie movie "Room," adding to her armful of trophies from other award shows.

Racial themes and barbs



Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, winner for Best Director for "The Revenant", poses with his Oscar backstage at the 88th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, on 28 February. PHOTO: REUTERS



Mark Rylance, winner of the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for the movie "Bridge of Spies", poses backstage at the 88th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, on 28 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

about the selection of an all-white acting nominee line-up for a second year were a running theme of the show, dubbed "the white People's Choice awards" by Rock, an outspoken black comedian.

He questioned why the furor over diversity in the industry had taken root this year, rather than in the 1950s or 1960s, saying that black Americans had "real things to protest at the time."

"We were too busy being raped and lynched to care about who won best cinematographer," Rock added. In a taped section, Rock visited the Los Angeles neighbourhood of Compton — the heart of the hip-hop music industry — to ask residents if they had heard or seen the Oscar-nominated movies. None had.

Several nominees gave Rock a thumbs-up for striking the right balance on a tricky theme.

"I thought it was jabbing at Hollywood, yet at the same time even-handed, and kind of dealing with a new era of how we discuss diversity," said Adam McKay, director and co-writer of best picture nominee "The Big Short." "Really impressive and really funny."

Rock wasn't alone in putting people of color in the spotlight on the movie industry's biggest night.

"I (am) very lucky to be here tonight, but unfortunately many others haven't had the same luck," Inarritu said, expressing the hope that, in the future, skin colour would become as irrelevant as the length of one's hair.

Among surprises, Britain's Mark Rylance beat presumed favorite and "Creed" actor Sylvester Stallone to win the Academy Award for best supporting actor for "Bridge of Spies."

"Sly, no matter what they say, remember, to me you are the best, you were the winner. I'm proud of you," Arnold Schwarzenegger, a fellow action star, said in a short video he posted online.

British singer Sam Smith's theme song for James Bond movie "Spectre" beat Lady Gaga's sexual assault awareness ballad "Til It Happens to You."

Swedish actress Alicia Vikander won the supporting actress Oscar for transgender movie "The Danish Girl" while documentary "Amy," about the late and troubled British pop star Amy Winehouse was also a winner.

Warner Bros (TWX.N) "Mad Max: Fury Road" was the biggest winner, clinching six Oscars, but all were in technical categories such as costume, make-up and editing.—Reuters



Alicia Vikander holding her Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in the film "The Danish Girl" arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California, on 29 February. PHOTO: REUTERS



Actress Brie Larson holds her award for Best Actress in a Leading Role for the film "Room" during the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California on 29 February. PHOTO: REUTERS



Actor Leonardo DiCaprio holds his award for Best Actor in the "The Revenant" as he arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California, on 29 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chris Rock transforms Oscars into biting racial commentary

LOS ANGELES — Comedian Chris Rock launched his return stint as Oscar host on Sunday by immediately and unabashedly confronting the racially charged elephant in the room — the furor over the all-white field of performers nominated for Hollywood's highest honors.

In an opening monologue peppered with biting commentary about what he described as "sorority"-style discrimination pervading the film industry, Rock set the stage for a night of running gags that repeatedly returned to themes of racial politics.

In doing so, he transformed a glittering awards show long known for self-reverential pomp into a 3

1/2-hour live ABC telecast punctuated by withering satire riffing on issues of inclusion and diversity raised by the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite social media campaign and the Black Lives Matter movement.

But the issue of race was just one element that made the 88th edition of the Academy Awards likely to go down as one of the most socially conscious shows in Oscar history. Messages ranged from Vice President Joe Biden's special appearance urging a stand against sexual violence on college campuses to best actor winner Leonardo DiCaprio's impassioned appeal to take care of the planet.

The difference in tone was evident from the start. Strolling on

stage in a white dinner jacket and bow tie, Rock welcomed the audience to a show "otherwise known as the white People's Choice awards," adding, "You realize if they nominated hosts, I wouldn't even get this job."

From that moment on, it was clear Rock would be pulling no punches, and that his no-holds-barred message could help the film Academy come to grips with its diversity problem.

Wondering with mock bemusement why blacks' anger over a lack of Oscar diversity never boiled over in the 1950s or '60s like it did this year, he answered his own question, "Because we had real things to protest at the time.

We were too busy being raped and lynched then to care about who won best cinematographer."

Rock did not confine his barbs to Hollywood alone. He drew one of his biggest laughs joking that the Oscars' annual "in-memoriam" montage tribute to deceased film luminaries would instead be devoted to "black people who were shot by the cops on their way to the movies."

It was a motif that stretched beyond Rock's monologue into bits of comedy in between award presentations through the night.

In one pre-taped parody of a scene from "The Martian," the Oscar-nominated sci-fi drama about an astronaut marooned on

the Red Planet, Rock was substituted for the stranded star of that film, Matt Damon, as NASA officials argued whether it was worth the expense to try to bring a black astronaut back to Earth. In another, Rock ventured in a tuxedo to the predominantly black Los Angeles suburb of Compton to ask several African-American movie-goers outside a cinema whether they had seen various films nominated this year for best picture. None had.

However, all said they had seen the critically acclaimed hip-hop drama "Straight Outta Compton," whose failure to earn a place in the best picture contest helped stoke the #OscarsSoWhite uproar.—Reuters

Fukushima plant manga artist sees progress for deactivation work

TOKYO — A manga artist who has been involved in decommissioning work at the disaster-hit Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has highlighted the need for effective deployment of skilled workers in parts of the premises that still have high doses of radiation.

Kazuto Tatsuta, 51, also said in a recent interview with Kyodo News that he feels progress has been made since the Tokyo Electric Power Co. complex suffered triple meltdowns on 11 March, 2011 in an operation that will take decades.

"It is not hard to collect a large number of ordinary workers, but lower wages resulting from multi-layered (breakdowns in supply chains) is a problem that could, in severely bad cases, have an impact on their motivation," Tatsuta said, noting that about 7,000 people are working at the plant every day.

Tatsuta, who uses a pen name for fear of being prevented from working at the plant again, commuted to the complex intermittently between June 2012 and November 2014 to engage in such work as managing rest stations for other workers, plumbing within the No.3 reactor and taking care of robots operating within the units.

His manga stories "ichiefu(1F)", published by

Kodansha Ltd., portray the ordinary lives and attitudes of workers at the complex. For example, they were irritated by itchy noses as a result of wearing full face masks and were more afraid of the heat in summer than of radiation.

Ichiefu is an abbreviation of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant commonly used among local people and those related to the industry.

Tatsuta, who has frequently changed jobs since graduating from university, said work at the Fukushima plant is by no means lucrative. "Initially, I didn't aim to work in 1F. After seeking a job in disaster-hit areas including Miyagi or Iwate, I just found one at the nuclear plant."

But he said, "The construction company I worked for was a sixth subcontractor (of TEPCO) and the salary was no different from that for ordinary work. My dream of making a lot of money in a short period was destroyed."

His pay started at 8,000 yen (about \$70) a day working in the rest houses, and rose to 20,000 yen per day for work within the reactor buildings.

His three-volume book series depicts workers from all across Japan having to bear their own living costs in their uncomfortable lodgings before work is officially allocated, or not



Kazuto Tatsuta, who has been involved in decommissioning work at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, works on a new manga story at his office in a Tokyo suburb on 16 February, 2016, for an upcoming book. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

receiving any pay when accidents or other problems cause operations at the plant to be abruptly suspended.

Tatsuta also notes the need for experts, in addition to ordinary workers. "In order to get experts who have experience and skills relating to nuclear plants to work as long as possible, the management of radiation is crucial. The longer these workers are exposed to radiation, the shorter they are able to stay in higher dose places."

Measures against radiation including decontamination of such areas and the setting up of protective barriers around them are essential, he said.

Ahead of the fifth anniversary of the nuclear crisis, many media outlets were allowed to enter the prem-

ises to report on the current situation at the plant.

"A big development is that workers are able to move around in a large part of the premises without full face masks," said Tatsuta, having seen photos in a newspaper. Currently, people can work with masks that cover only half their face in about 90 per cent of the premises, except for areas around the reactors.

The mass media tend to report that "reconstruction of the disaster-hit area is still only halfway." But Tatsuta, in concluding ichiefu, called for readers to focus on the things that are progressing, albeit little by little.

Within the Fukushima complex, the completion of a frozen underground wall to prevent radioactive water from accumulating further

and the piling up of around 1,000 tanks to store processed contaminated water are indications of the great progress made since Tatsuta left 1F, he said, though admitting there is still considerable work to be done.

Ichiefu features ordinary middle-aged men who take naps while waiting for their colleagues to finish their jobs, chat cheerfully with their coworkers or play pachinko in their free time.

"Some people viewed us as heroes, saying 'Thank you very much on behalf of Japan and the world.' Others felt very sorry for us, saying 'You were treated like slaves in dangerous working conditions.' But I want to say that neither of these views is correct. I'd like readers to understand that to some extent."

"As one of those workers, I wanted to describe the gap between what the public thought and what I saw inside. Ichiefu is just something like my diary, but I am pleased if it has resulted in showing the workers' real lives."

Tatsuta, who describes himself as a cartoonist who doesn't sell well, was careful not to indicate his own political views on the Japanese government's nuclear policies for fear that this would make his work seem biased.

"I neither agree nor disagree with the restart of

nuclear plants, although I am frequently asked that question," he said.

Having made its debut in a weekly magazine in October 2013, some 350,000 copies of Ichiefu have now been printed in Japan. It has also hit the shelves in Taiwan, with French, Spanish, German and Italian versions being published soon.

Tatsuta now calls Fukushima his "second hometown" as a result of the connections he made while living and working there, and says "I hope to work there for the rest of my life, if possible."

But he has had no chance to work at the complex since December 2014, and sometimes suspects that because TEPCO or one of its subcontractors has discovered his identity as the author of the manga series, he is unable to return there.

"It can't be helped. I have been prepared for that from the beginning," he said. "But once I became involved (in 1F), I began looking forward and I am closely observing how it will be cleaned up. It can't turn any worse from now on." He is currently working on a manga story for an upcoming book on the decommissioning of the Fukushima plant co-authored by Hiroshi Kai-numa, a Fukushima-born sociologist.—Kyodo News

Beijing museum to display Haihunhou tomb artifacts

BEIJING — More than 400 artifacts from a 2,000-year-old tomb in east China's Jiangxi Province are set to go on display in Beijing's Capital Museum.

The exhibits on show from 2 March to 2 June

were selected from 20,000 items unearthed from the tomb of "Haihunhou" (Marquis of Haihun) since the excavation began in 2011, said museum spokesperson Yang Dandan Sunday.

Yang said that the

exhibition will prioritize group visitors and allow only 1,000 individual visitors a day in the first week, and increase the daily limit to 5,000 people after that.

This will be the first exhibition of the artifacts

outside Jiangxi. Last year, a display featuring 120 items from the tomb attracted 180,000 visitors to the Jiangxi Provincial Museum.

The Haihunhou tomb, which dates back to the Western Han Dynasty (206

BC — 24 AD), covers roughly 40,000 square meters and contains eight small tombs and a burial site for chariot horses.

The best-preserved tomb of its age found in China, it is thought to be-

long to Liu He, grandson of Emperor Wu. Liu was given the title "Haihunhou" after he was deposed as emperor after only 27 days. Haihun is the ancient name of a very small kingdom in the north of Jiangxi.—Xinhua

		10:27 Am Trend Of Kachin Dress 10:53 Am Today Myanmar: BRT SYSTEM In YANGON
(1-3-2016 07:00am ~ 2-3-2016 7:00am) MST		(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)
Today Fresh		Prime Time
07:03	Am News	07:03 Pm News
07:27	Am Insight Myanmar - Mobile Information Literacy	07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
08:03	Am News	07:52 Pm My Life & My Art
08:26	Am Pakhan Traditional Nat Festival In Ku Ni Village (Part-2)	08:03 Pm News
08:53	Am Sagaing: Gold Leaf	08:26 Pm Akha: Their Life & Customs (Part-2)
09:03	Am News	08:55 Pm Green Grocer
09:26	Am The Strokes of Myanmar	(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)
09:52	Am Porcelain and Glass	(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)
10:03	Am News	

	
(1-3-2016, Tuesday)	
6:00 pm • Music Programme	8:30 pm • Cartoon Programme
6:20 pm • Pyi Thu Ni Ti	9:00 pm • Music Programme
6:40 pm • Music Programme	9:20 pm • Travelogue: Wonderful Indonesia
6:50 pm • Korea TV Drama Series	9:45 pm • Music Programme
7:45 pm • Korea TV Drama Series	10:00 pm • Myanmar Video
From 1.3.2016 (Tuesday) 06:00 Pm To 2.3.2016 (Wednesday) 06:00 Pm This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.	

Caballero the Wembley hero as Man City land League Cup

LONDON — Manuel Pellegrini will head to pastures new with at least one shiny memento of his final season as Manchester City manager after keeper Willy Caballero's penalty shootout heroics sealed a League Cup final win against Liverpool on Sunday.

The Chilean will be replaced by Pep Guardiola at the end of the campaign but, whatever happens between now and May, he will be guaranteed an appreciative send-off after City triumphed 3-1 on penalties after the Wembley Stadium showpiece finished 1-1.

City were stretched to the limit by Liverpool but Juergen Klopp's hopes of winning a trophy 143 days into his Anfield reign died when Caballero expertly saved spot kicks from Lucas Leiva, Philippe Coutinho and Adam Lallana.

It was a triumph for the

34-year-old Argentine keeper, whose selection ahead of first-choice Joe Hart had been much debated by City fans, and a vindication of Pellegrini's continued trust in the man he had chosen to keep goal throughout the Cup run.

Yaya Toure supplied the final touch, stroking home the deciding kick to give City their second League Cup in three years under Pellegrini.

Fernandinho had given City the lead after 49 minutes when his shot slipped through keeper Simon Mignolet's grasp but Coutinho levelled late on.

"If we carry on and work really hard there is light at the end of the tunnel, but tonight we feel rubbish," a glum Klopp told reporters.

For Pellegrini, his much-criticised decision in fielding a second-string team in last week's FA



Manchester City's Willy Caballero and Wilfried Bony celebrate winning the match after a penalty shootout against Liverpool during Capital One Cup Final at Wembley Stadium, on 28 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cup hammering at Chelsea looks fully justified after a 3-1 win at Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League in midweek and now victory over Liverpool.

"That decision I took last week was very important to win

these two games," Pellegrini said.

For all the pre-match razzamatazz, the first half was forgettable, barring a superb save from Mignolet to turn Sergio Aguero's shot against a post.

Aguero had led Liverpool

centre back Mamadou Sakho a merry dance in the build-up, the French centre back still dizzy from a clash of heads with team mate Emre Can that eventually meant Klopp had to replace him with Kolo Toure.—Reuters

Spurs keep up title dream as Arsenal hopes hit

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur, who have not been champions since they won the double in 1961, kept the pressure on surprise Premier League leaders Leicester City and stole a march on neighbours Arsenal on Sunday.

After Spurs came from behind to beat struggling Swansea City 2-1, the roar that greeted the winning goal by full back Danny Rose was

repeated when the White Hart Lane fans learned that bitter rivals Arsenal had lost 3-2 at Manchester United.

The two results now make Saturday's meeting of the north London sides at White Hart Lane all the more important although before then on Wednesday, Tottenham visit sixth-placed West Ham Unit-

ed while Arsenal host Swansea.

Leicester, who were 5,000-1 outsiders to win the title at the start of the season, entertain West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday.

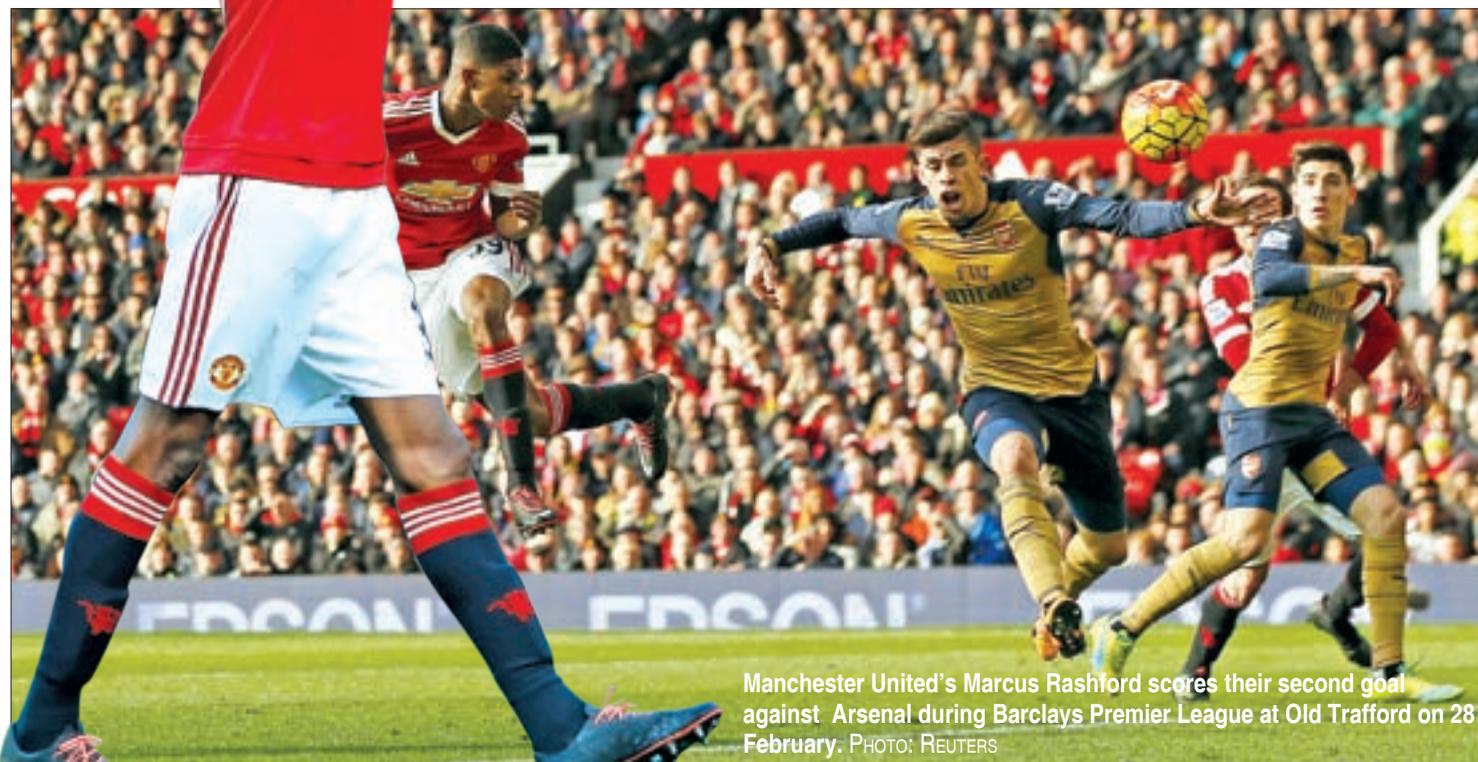
Claudio Ranieri's Leicester have 56 points from 27 matches while Spurs are on 54 and Arsenal have 51. Manchester City occupy fourth position on 47 points and have a game in hand on their championship rivals.

"We believe we can win every game and we'll see what happens at the end of the season. Our mentality is to look to the

next game and go step by step," Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino told Sky Sports television.

"For me it is not important (Arsenal lost). What is important is our own performance and there are still 11 Premier League games ahead."

Marcus Rashford, the 18-year-old who scored twice on his Manchester United debut in the Europa League on Thursday, inflicted the same punishment on Arsenal in the space of three minutes at Old Trafford on Sunday.—Reuters



Manchester United's Marcus Rashford scores their second goal against Arsenal during Barclays Premier League at Old Trafford on 28 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pique taps in rare winner as Barcelona beat Sevilla 2-1

BARCELONA — Central defender Gerard Pique netted a rare winner and Lionel Messi scored yet another beauty as Barcelona came from behind to beat Sevilla 2-1 at the Nou Camp on Sunday and reclaim an eight-point lead at the top of La Liga.

Second-placed Atletico Madrid had reduced the lead to five points when they won the capital's derby 1-0 at the Bernabeu on Saturday, a result which now leaves Real Madrid 12 points adrift of Barcelona.

Sevilla went in front from a break down the left with full back Benoit Tremoulinas crossing to the far post where Vitolo volleyed past Claudio Bravo after 20 minutes.

Messi equalised just past the half hour with a sublime free kick that dipped over the wall and went into the top far corner.

Barcelona's winner, as they extended their unbeaten run to 34 matches, came three minutes into the second half when Messi cut the ball back to Luis Suarez who crossed into the six-yard box where Pique turned it into the net.—Reuters