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THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE Parliaments nominate presidential candidates

THE presidential election process for the second five-year term of Myanmar's government began in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with U Htin Kyaw and Dr Sai Mauk Kham being nominated as presidential candidates by the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) and Chin national MP U Henry Van Thio and U Khin Aung Myint receiving the nomination of the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House).

The results came after the meetings of the three parliamentary groups comprising the presidential electoral college, namely, the Pyithu Hluttaw, the Amyotha Hluttaw and military MPs.

Military MPs will submit their candidate to the speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw directly.

U Htin Kyaw, who was nominated by the National League for Democracy, attended the Yangon University of Economics in 1962.

While working as a civil servant, he was sent to the UK for further study. He resigned from the civil service in 1992. He serves as an executive officer for the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, a charitable organization named for the mother of NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Given his closeness with the NLD leader and that party's majority in the parliament, U Htin Kyaw is favoured to ascend to the



U Htin Kyaw.



Dr Sai Mauk Kham.



U Henry Van Thio.



U Khin Aung Myint.

presidency absent any irregularities in the process.

In the Amyotha Hluttaw, the NLD nominated U Henry Van Thio, the MP for Chin State Constituency-3.

MP Henry Van Thio is an ex-military officer who served in the Tatmadaw for 20 years. He resigned from the Tatmadaw at the rank of major, after which he worked for the Ministry of Industry for nine years.

The USDP, now an opposition party in the parliament, also put forward its choices for the presidency, though they were not

nominated by their respective parliaments.

In the Pyithu Hluttaw, the USDP proposed Dr Sai Mauk Kham, one of the incumbent vice presidents who was reelected to the Pyithu Hluttaw representing Lashio Constituency in the 2015 elections.

In the Amyotha Hluttaw, the USDP proposed U Khin Aung Myint, the former speaker of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. He was also reelected as an MP in the 2015 election.

Following the presidential nominations, a process for evalu-

ating the presidential candidates is being carried out by a scrutiny committee comprising of one MP from each house of parliament. The committee is meant to determine whether the nominees are suitable for the presidency.

The candidates' approval is expected to be announced in a few days, after which their candidacy will be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

MPs are expected to elect the next president of Myanmar on 17 or 18 March. The candidate who takes the highest number of votes from the MPs will become the

president, while the remaining two will be vice presidents.

Following their swearing-in at the parliament on 30 March, a ceremony to handover the duties of the government will be held.

The presidential candidates were nominated in group meetings at the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, respectively. The meetings were chaired by the speakers of those parliaments.

The group meeting of military MPs, who will also submit a nominee for the presidency, took place separately, at the army headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw.—GNLM

3,000 Kyaukme IDPs head home

THREE quarters of the 4,000 people sheltering in internally displaced persons camps in Kyaukme, northern Shan State, have returned to their villages, according to staff at the IDP camps.

The villagers who have returned home live in mountainous regions where they earn livelihoods from the cultivation of tea. They have decided to make the trip back as fighting has subsided in the vicinity of their villages, and they need to harvest their tea leaf crops while the leaves are still tender.

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Photo shows internally displaced persons leaving a camp in Kyaukme. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Investigation ongoing on baby deaths after receiving hepatitis B vaccine in Bago

AN investigation is underway to determine whether or not hepatitis B vaccines given to 28 infants are authentic and were legally imported and registered, said an investigation team of the Ministry of Health yesterday, adding that the vaccination to the babies is not associated with the ministry's immunisation program.

The team led by Deputy Director-General Dr Htay Aung is also investigating whether or not there is a link between symptoms

found in the infants and the vaccine, added the ministry.

The investigation came after deaths of two infants after receiving hepatitis B vaccine in Bago where 28 infants were given the vaccines, Engerix B and Hepavax B, bought from a pharmacy shop at Bago General Hospital.

Of 28 infants, two who are among the 14 discharged from the hospital died at their homes. The 12 infants were brought back to

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Presidential Electoral College of Amyotha Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw elect member for presidential qualification scrutinising body

FOLLOWING the nomination of presidential candidates yesterday, a group of the Presidential Electoral College of Amyotha Hluttaw approved U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region Constituency 5 as a member of the body for

scrutinising whether or not the vice-presidential candidates possess the qualifications prescribed for the position of President.

Meanwhile, a group of the Presidential Electoral College of Pyithu Hluttaw approved Dr

Myo Aung of Dagon Myothit (East) Constituency as a member of the body. The meetings of both groups of Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw will continue for the second day today. — Myanmar News Agency

Energy Ministry holds press briefing on gas leak from Aphyauk-Shwepyitha pipeline

THE Ministry of Energy held a media briefing on work progress in the aftermath of the 27th February fire caused by a gas leak from the 10-inch Aphyauk-Shwepyitha natural gas pipeline in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The ministry released a statement at the press briefing, with officials concerned led by Permanent Secretary U Pe Zin Tun answering questions raised by media persons.

In its statement, the ministry

said that the gas leak had been fixed and a plan is underway for further maintenance of the pipeline.

The work has replacing a section of the Aphyauk-Shwepyitha pipeline with a length of two miles of new pipe at Boshagon village in Shwepyitha Township and equipping six mobile fuel labs testing the quality of fuel at fuel stations across the country with new devices in order to

conduct quality surveillance on both diesel and petroleum, added the ministry. The ministry assured that charcoal and oil dregs produced at oil refineries can be purchased freely, and announced that arrangements are being made to establish a laboratory accredited to ISO by the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) in cooperation with Myanmar Petroleum Trade Association.— GNLM

Dry wells spell trouble for Sagaing Region

THE onset of the summer season has seen the drying up of wells in the Pale Township village of Pyin Hlaing, Sagaing Region, resulting in a shortage of drinking water, according to local residents.

“We take turns drawing water [from the well]. We have to wait there for hours to fill up one barrel of water. The water in the motorised well also runs out after just three minutes or so. On top of that, the water is rather salty,” said U Nay Win Sein, a resident of Pyin Hlaing Village.

There are two wells located within reach of the villagers

of Pyin Hlaing Village. One is a stone well located by the side of a river a mile from the village. The other, a motorised well, is within the village itself. The heat of the summer sun has dried up the wells, forcing villagers to face difficulties with access to water as the remaining water is not sufficient in volume for the numbers of people that depend on it.

Water from the stone well is used for drinking water, while water brought up from the motorised well is given to cattle and used for bathing and washing dishes. “We’ve made provisions

for the delivery of drinking water to coincide with water shortages. As for digging a well, we are unable to dig one yet a lack of funds. But we will coordinate with township and village-level government departments when national budget is drawn up,” said U Zaw Htet, regional parliamentarian representing Pale Township. The village of Pyin Hlaing was established in 1985 with 20 households. This number has since grown to 70 households, with most residents involved in farming for their livelihoods.—Myitmakha News Agency

MWEA rep. attends workshop on enhancing prosperity, opportunity for women

DAW Khin Thet Maw, joint secretary of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs’ Association, left for Taipei to attend a workshop on “Enhancing Prosperity and Opportunity for Women in the Asia-Pacific Region” yesterday. The joint secretary was seen off at Yangon International Airport by responsible persons of the association.

The workshop takes place today.—Myanmar News Agency



Police arrest armed robber shortly after gold shop robbery in Kaley



Police arrests the suspect for robbery in Kaley. PHOTO: YE WIN TUN

POLICE arrested a suspect in connection with a robbery at a gold shop yesterday in Kelay Township, Sagaing Region within one hour after the robbery, said local police.

Police handcuffed the suspect who was identified as Kyi Win after having a fistfight with him while he was on his way to out of the town, said a police officer. Police retrieved the gold items he stole from the shop following his arrest.

According to witnesses, a man with his face half covered with a cloth and armed with a percussion-cap firearm robbed Shwe La Win gold shop on Bogyoke Road in Aung Myay Mann ward in the township at about 9.30 am on 3 March.

It is the first armed robbery case in Kaley Township since cases of motorbike-borne robbers performing smash-and-grab raids on gold shops.—Aung Thant Khaing

Four nations meet to ensure law enforcement cooperation against human trafficking

THE third meeting on multi-country law enforcement cooperation on trafficking in persons within the fishing industry was held in Cambodia yesterday, attended by representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand.

A Myanmar delegation to the four-nation meeting was formed with 10 members from the Union Attorney-General Office and Myanmar Police Force led by Police Brig-Gen Win Nating Tun. According to the agen-

da, a review of the resolutions and agreements of the second meeting, country-wise activities and further plans are set to be discussed on the first day while bilateral discussions in two groups will be held three times on the second day.

The four-nation meeting is held every four months under the Australia-Asia Program to combat trafficking in persons. The second meeting was held in Indonesia last year.—Min Naing (Anti-Human Trafficking)



Thantikara Pagoda in Pansaung. PHOTO: MNA

Thantikara Pagoda in Pansaung consecrated

A golden umbrella was hoisted atop the Thantikara Pagoda in Pansaung, in Naga Self-administered zone, on 8 March.

Members of the Sangha comprising Thitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nannissara consecrated the

newly built pagoda which is also a replica of the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon.

During the ceremony to consecrate the pagoda, Union Ministers U Hla Tun and Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Chief Minister of Sagaing

Region U Tha Aye, commanders and leaders of the zone conveyed the umbrella, the diamond orb and Hnetmyatnar around the pagoda clockwise before the things were fixed atop the pagoda which is 55 ft high.—*Myanmar News Agency*

3,000 Kyaukme IDPs head home

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“We’ve let them return home so they can harvest their tea crops in time. They told us that once their tea crops mature, they become unfit for harvest. They’ve been living with us for a month now, so they feel like it’s time to go home,” said Ko Aung, who works in the donations department of one IDP camp.

The central Kyaukme IDP camp has announced that its provided each returning villager with a bag of rice and K10,000 before giving them a lift to the bus station.

As of March 13, just 14 IDP camps, which shelter over 1,000 remaining IDPs, are left in Kyaukme Township. At the height of the conflict in northern Shan State over the last few months, there were 22 IDP camps in the township.

The remaining villagers are from the villages of Tawt Hsan, Min Kone and Nyaung Maung, located in the vicinity of Kyaukme.

“Since fighting really took place in our villages, we will only return when the heads of the lo-

cal monastery decide to. We wouldn’t dare return yet. And when we do, there won’t be anything left for us, anyway. Those currently returning home have the luxury of being able to do so because nothing happened in their villages,” said a resident of Tawt Hsan Village.

According to staff from the Kyaukme IDP camps, the first week of March marked one month since displaced villagers started to arrive after fighting erupted in the surrounding area of Tawt Hsan Village on the morning of February 7.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Internally displaced people are seen at a camp in Kyaukme.

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Shortage of threshing machinery cripples paddy harvest in Ayeyawady Region

SEVERAL villages in the Ayeyawady Region township of Thabaung have been struggling with a shortage of threshing machines the beginning of March, leaving them unable to manage the volume of paddy being harvested.

Flooding in the region this year has resulted in unusually large swathes of paddy maturing

for harvest at the same time. The resulting large acreage of harvestable paddy has proved too much for the threshing equipment on hand to handle.

“We’ve been using paddy threshers non-stop since the paddy became ready to harvest. It’s not easy to rent one, so some farmers have been experiencing difficul-

ties. As we’re continuously using the threshers, there are some paddy fields that will be harvested late,” said U Pyay Lin, a farmer from Hsat Thwar Village in Tharpaung Township.

Paddy threshers have had to be brought in from surrounding townships to ease the demand, but local farmers have said that

President felicitates Lithuanian counterpart

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President felicitates Lithuanian Prime Minister

U THEIN SEIN, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Algirdas Butkevicius, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs felicitates Lithuanian 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. Linas Linkevicius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2016.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ambassador U Aung Khin Soe presents credentials to King of Bhutan

U AUNG KHIN SOE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Bhutan, presented his Credentials to His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk, the King of Bhutan on 29 February 2016, in Thimphu.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ambassador U Myint Naung presents credentials to Hellenic President

U MYINT NAUNG, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Hellenic Republic, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Prokopis Pavlopoulos, President of the Hellenic Republic on 2 March 2016, in Athens.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Investigation ongoing on baby deaths after receiving hepatitis B vaccine in Bago

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While receiving care at the hospital following the incident, and ten are being given intensive care at the hospital while the remaining two are being monitored at their homes.

While receiving care at the hospital, one of infants died on 7 March and four were transferred to Yankin Children Hospital as they are in critical condition as of 9 March.—*Myanmar News Agency*

lage of Nga Bat Kyaung.

Thabaung Township comprises seventy wards and villages within nearly 100,000 acres of paddy plantations. Local farmers have reported that the rental costs for a paddy thresher to thresh an acre’s worth of paddy costs between K40,000 and K45,000.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

the current number of machines is still not sufficient to deal with the volume of paddy that needs to be threshed.

“Some paddy threshers have arrived from other townships. But that vast acreage of paddy means it can’t all be harvested,” said Ko Khin Maung Maung, a farmer from the Thabaung Township vil-

Over 80 companies granted outbound tour licences

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has issued outbound tour licenses to 82 operators as of 8 March, according to an announcement from the ministry.

The ministry gave out the licenses to outbound tour companies last year with the aim of developing the country's tourism industry and ensuring local travellers have legal guarantees to complain if they are not satisfied with the companies' ser-

vices.

In the past, Myanmar citizens traveling overseas for tourism, medical treatments and other reasons faced difficulties as local travel agencies did not have the authority to provide services for outgoing travel.

The companies wishing to operate overseas tour service businesses need to apply for licences at various departments

under the ministry in accordance with rules and regulations.

Firms providing outbound tour services without licences can face charges under Section 23 of the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Law, the ministry said.

The ministry is currently evaluating applications submitted by tour operators before granting them licences for outbound tours.—*Maung Pyae Khaing*

Amarapura urban development project to be implemented soon in Mandalay

THE Amarapura urban development project will soon be implemented by Mandalay Business Capital City Development Co. after negotiations with residents in Mandalay, a company spokesperson said.

The development project will be implemented in Shangalay Island and Nankat Lake in Amarapura Township, where it is meant

to help people living along the Ayeyawady River reduce the damage caused by floods.

On 1 March, the company signed agreements with the Mandalay City Development Committee and the Mandalay Region government to initiate the project.

Household proprietors and landowners situated within the

project area will be awarded compensations for their properties.

The compensations will be higher than the current value of their properties, the company said.

Details about the project and compensation arrangements are available at information centres opened by the company.—*May Lwin*

Crime NEWS

Illegal drugs worth over K1 billion seized in Thandwe



Illegal drugs seized are being seen. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG HTAY (IPRD)

AUTHORITIES seized a illegal drugs worth K1.8 billion (US\$1,479,593) in Ma-i, Thandwe District, on Monday, arresting a man for drug smuggling.

Acting on a tip-off, police

and officials from the township general administration office, searched a Hyundai car driven by U Thein Kyaw, 32, of North Dagon Township in Yangon, at toll gate in Ma-i Township. They discovered 450,000 'WY' variety

yaba pills, valued at K1.8 billion, in the car.

Police arrested the driver, who fled when his car was being searched, on Wednesday. Police are still investigating the case.—*Maung Maung Htay (IPRD)*

Crime NEWS

Fire drill conducted at Bogyoke Aung San Market

FIRE Services Department conducted a drill together with shopkeepers at Bogyoke Aung San Market in Yangon as part of efforts for prevention of fire at the popular shopping area for tourists.

Since the hot season started, volunteers equipped with extinguishers from the shops at

the market have patrolled there around the clock to prevent fire.

Plans are underway to install sensors for smoke at the shops, said U Tun Oo, Chairman of the development committee of the market.

The 80-year-old historic market has more than 1832 shops.—*Aung Thura*

Two fires break out in Myeik

TWO fires broke out on the same day in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on Tuesday, according to the local Fire Services Department. No one was injured in the fires.

The fire was caused by an overheated electronic device at a warehouse owned by U Zaw Min Naing in Zaygaung Ward at around 6:25pm. The blaze spread quickly to fishing nets that were located near the overheated device. The flame was put under control by firefighters within 18 minutes.

Another fire broke out in Kyaukphyutaung Village in the Sandawut Village-tract at 7:28pm that day. According to the police investigation, it was caused by a candle placed in a Buddhist altar. Daw Mya Naing lit a candle in the presence of a Buddha image at her home. The candle fell, igniting the bamboo wall of the home.

Local firefighters controlled the blaze within seven minutes.

Both homeowners have been charged under the law.—*District IPRD*

Landslide kills five miners, injures three

FIVE mine workers were killed and three were seriously injured in a landslide at a small-scale gold mine in Mandalay Region on Monday, police reported yesterday.

U Nan Win, 31, of Tugon Village, U Thein Win, 22, of Thabyaybin Village, U Shan Ka, 27, of Thabyaybin Village, U Nyunt Shwe, 52, of Htike

San Ward and U Win Naing, 39, of Ngabintet Village were killed in the landslide, which struck near Thabyaybin Village in Yamethin Township.

Three other people sustained serious injuries during the accident. They are now receiving emergency care at the township hospital.—*Tin Oo*

Motorcyclist dies in road accident

A man has died following a road accident in Indaw Township in Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Tuesday, according to a police report.

According to the police investigation, a man named Maung Kwai, who was flung from his motorcycle after colliding with the wall of mountain road near Hsahmaw Village,

was crashed by a ten-wheel vehicle driven by Kyaw Hsan, 53, an employee of the Nantseung Timber Extraction Enterprise.

The victim of the fatal collision died on the spot due to serious injuries.

Police have filed charges against the truck driver for careless driving.—*Ko Naing*

LOCAL Business



PHOTO: REUTERS

Gold market development requires export

IF we really want to see the development of the gold market, gold needs to be cancelled from the list of prohibited goods for export, said U Kyaw Win, secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The matter of permission of gold export is under discussion with the ministries concerned: the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Mines and Central Bank of Myanmar. The Ministry of Commerce said it would cancel the

restriction although it has not officially announced. If prompt action is not taken to lift the rule restricting the export of gold, the government will suffer from reduced taxation, he added. Currently, gold is traded only locally.—*Myawady*

Ooredoo to invest more in Myanmar

OOREDOO, an officially licensed mobile operator in Myanmar, is stepping up to its investments in the country.

Ooredoo is sponsoring the Myanmar Football Federation with a view to improving the facilities and quality of Myanmar Football. The company plans to contribute US \$2 million in 2016. The chief executive officer of Ooredoo gave a speech at the conference, claiming they would provide the most advanced internet service through the use of a new market strategy.

Ooredoo has invested up to US\$1.7 billion during the last three months of 2015. Currently, its 3G network is 80 per cent coverage of Myanmar people. The company aims to increase coverage up to 90 per cent at the end of 2016. A total of 3,395 mobile towers have been installed as of February 2016. A total of 4500 3G towers will be launched at the end of 2016, said CEO Mr. Meza. There are over one hundred thousand shops selling Ooredoo products in Myanmar and over 100 shops for late repair service.

We will sell the Ooredoo Smart 9 handset for only K 30,000. There is an application called "Ooredoo Saik Pyo" installed in the phone. This application aims to provide the farmers with weather reports, the meteorological knowledge written by Meteorologist U Tun Lwin and the method of maintaining and cultivating the crops. All the farmers can download the application free of charge, he added.

Ooredoo received their operating license in June 2013.—*001*

Apiculture business targeting greater export earnings

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries aims to develop the apiculture business in order to provide the agricultural sector of the country with greater export earnings.

The Beekeeping Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries begun beekeeping with 86 beehives of European species in June 1984. The department extended the beekeeping business with a bee farm in six townships in this fiscal year 2015-2016. The work

will be conducted with 48,245 private beehives with five officers, 25 staffers, five labors and 289 private beekeepers, said U Myo Tint, Deputy Director of Sagaing Beekeeping Department.

A total of 1,575 beehives are tipped to be brought into Sagaing Region. To produce 2,042,800 pounds of honey, a total of 12,860 queen bees will be kept on the farm and 299,580-acre-lands will be provided for pollination.

There were 289 private bee-

keepers keeping 46,845 beehives in the beekeeping farms of Khin Oo, Kaley, Myinmu, Butalin, Kani and Hteechaik townships, Sagaing Region from April to February of the fiscal year 2015-2016. There were 34,845 beehives and 237 beekeepers in 2014-2015. Zeyapad-eytha Foundation contributed the loans to private beekeepers. The project became successful with enough pollen produced during favourable weather, he added.—*Myo Win Tun (Monywa)*

Local gold price likely to fall this month

"DOMESTIC gold prices are expected to fall this month as the prices decline every month," said U Win Myint, general secretary of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The price of gold in the local market rose to K804,000 (US\$659.45) per tical (0.576 ounces) in the last week of February. Currently, merchants are trading at K789,500 (\$647.56) per tical.

"Gold trading in Yangon is normal," said U Win Myint. "The current demand has declined as the value of the Myanmar kyat has increased in foreign exchange market. Local gold prices are affected by global gold prices, which recently rose to \$1,205 per ounce. Experts estimated that the price of gold in the global market is likely to fall from the current price.—*Myat Lay Ngan*

BMM-V joins hands with MAPCO to produce, distribute imported fertilizers

SINGAPORE-based investment company BMM Venture (S) Pte. Ltd ("BMM-V") has formed with Mitsui and the Behn Meyer ("BM"), a major distributor of chemicals in Southeast Asia, having reached an agreement with the Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation ("MAPCO"), their local partner, the Agri First Co.,Ltd. ("AFC") to manufacture and distribute imported fertilizers in Myanmar.

AFC plans to invest approximately ¥1.2 billion in the construction of a fertilizer manufacturing plant (including a warehouse and other ancillary facilities) with an annual capacity at the 100,000-ton level in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, said the announcement of Mitsui yesterday.

The statement also said that AFC aims to commence production at the new plant in May 2017.

Fertilizer demand in My-

anmar is currently just over one million tons. This is equivalent to only one-fifth of the level in countries with similar farmland areas and crop types, such as Viet Nam and Thailand, and demand is, therefore, expected to grow rapidly, according to Mitsui.

By combining BM's expertise and experience relating to the manufacture and distribution of specialty fertilizer, MAPCO's networks with agricultural business operators in Myanmar, and Mitsui's financing, logistics, procurement and marketing capabilities, which Mitsui has accumulated through its engagement in the fertilizer business, including the development of raw materials, logistics and sales, AFC will contribute to agricultural development in Myanmar.

Founded in 2012, MAPCO is a private sector company and is seen as a key contributor to the development of agriculture in Myanmar.—*GNLM*



A farmer spreading fertilizers on sugarcane. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

North Korea fires missiles, liquidates Seoul's assets

SEOUL — North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea yesterday, Seoul said, as South Korea and the United States conducted massive war games.

The North also announced it has scrapped all agreements with the South on commercial exchange projects and would “liquidate” South Korean assets left behind in its territory.

North Korea has a large stockpile of short-range missiles and is developing long-range and intercontinental missiles as well. The missiles fired yesterday flew about 500 km (300 miles) off its east coast city of Wonsan and were likely from the Soviet-developed Scud series, South Korea's defence ministry said.

Japan, which is within range of the longer-range variant of Scud missiles or the upgraded Rodong missiles, lodged a protest through the North Korean embassy in Beijing, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported.

North Korea often fires short-range missiles when tensions rise on the Korean peninsula. Pyongyang gets particularly upset about the annual US-South Korea drills, which it says are preparations for an invasion.

The US and South Korea remain technically at war with the North because the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armed truce instead of a peace agreement.

Around 17,000 U.S. military personnel are participating alongside some 300,000 South Korean troops in what South Korea's Defence Ministry has called the “largest-ever” joint military exercises.

North Korea on Sunday warned it would make a “pre-emptive and offensive nuclear strike” in response to the exercises.

After the short-range missile launches yesterday, North Korea announced it would “liquidate” South Korean assets left behind in the Kaesong industrial zone and in the Mount Kumgang tourist zone.

Seoul suspended operations in the jointly-run zone last month as punishment for the North's rocket launch and nuclear test.

Mount Kumgang was the first major inter-Korean cooperation project. Thousands of South Koreans visited the resort between 1998 and 2008. Seoul ended the tours in 2008 after a North Korean soldier shot dead a South Korean tourist who wandered into a restricted zone.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meets scientists and technicians in the field of researches into nuclear weapons in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 9 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

North Korea is also livid about stepped up United Nations sanctions following its recent nuclear test and long-range missile launch.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country has miniaturised nuclear warheads to mount on ballistic missiles, state media reported on Wednesday, and called on his military to be prepared to mount pre-emptive

attacks against the United States and South Korea.

It was his first direct comment on the technology needed to deploy nuclear missiles. North Korean state media released photographs it said showed Kim Jong Un inspecting a spherical miniaturised warhead. State media has previously made that claim, which has been widely questioned and never inde-

pendently verified. South Korea's defence ministry said it did not believe the North has successfully miniaturised a nuclear warhead or deployed a functioning intercontinental ballistic missile. State Department spokesman John Kirby declined to comment on Kim's claim to have miniaturised nuclear warheads and accused him of “provocative rhetoric.”—Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer -

Nakagawa Kiyoshi
gnlmdaily@gmail.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
khinmaungaye@hotmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Chief Reporter

Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,

Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg
jgold.news@gmail.com

Alec Wilmot
alec.wilmot.gnlm@gmail.com

Editors

Ye Htut Tin
mryehtuttin@gmail.com

Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,

International news

Tun Tun Naing
tunyunaing@gmail.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin
juniorlwin25@gmail.com

Tun Aung Kyaw
tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translators

Hay Mar Tin Win
haymarfat@gmail.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Computer Team

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung,

Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,

Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:
adv.gnlm@gmail.com

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Fukushima's ground zero: No place for man or robot

OKUMA — The robots sent in to find highly radioactive fuel at Fukushima's nuclear reactors have “died”; a subterranean “ice wall” around the crippled plant meant to stop groundwater from becoming contaminated has yet to be finished. And authorities still don't know how to dispose of highly radioactive water stored in an ever mounting number of tanks around the site.

Five years ago, one of the worst earthquakes in history triggered a 10-metre high tsunami that crashed into the Fukushima

Daiichi nuclear power station causing multiple meltdowns. Nearly 19,000 people were killed or left missing and 160,000 lost their homes and livelihoods.

Today, the radiation at the Fukushima plant is still so powerful it has proven impossible to get into its bowels to find and remove the extremely dangerous blobs of melted fuel rods.

The plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), has made some progress, such as removing hundreds of spent fuel rods in one damaged building.

But the technology needed to establish the location of the melted fuel rods in the other three reactors at the plant has not been developed.

“It is extremely difficult to access the inside of the nuclear plant,” Naohiro Masuda, TEPCO's head of decommissioning said in an interview. “The biggest obstacle is the radiation.”

The fuel rods melted through their containment vessels in the reactors, and no one knows exactly where they are now. This part of the plant is so dangerous to hu-

mans, Tepco has been developing robots, which can swim under water and negotiate obstacles in damaged tunnels and piping to search for the melted fuel rods.

But as soon as they get close to the reactors, the radiation destroys their wiring and renders them useless, causing long delays, Masuda said.

Each robot has to be custom-built for each building. “It takes two years to develop a single-function robot,” Masuda said.

TEPCO, which was fiercely criticised for its handling of the disaster, says conditions at the Fukushima power station, site of the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl in Ukraine 30 years ago, have improved dramatically. Radiation levels in many places at the site are now as low as those in Tokyo.

More than 8,000 workers are at the plant at any one time, according to officials on a recent tour. Traffic is constant as they spread across the site, removing debris, building storage tanks, laying piping and preparing to dismantle parts of the plant.

Much of the work involves pumping a steady torrent of water into the wrecked and highly radiated reactors to cool them down. Afterward, the radiated water is then pumped out of the plant and stored in tanks that are proliferating around the site. —Reuters



A worker, wearing a protective suit and mask, takes notes in front of storage tanks for radioactive water at Tokyo Electric Power Co's (TEPCO) tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, Japan on 10 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

India extends \$ two billion credit line to Bangladesh

DHAKA — India has signed an agreement extending \$2 billion in development financing to Bangladesh, the Indian government's external lending arm said yesterday, in the agency's biggest ever credit facility to another country.

The deal, signed on Wednesday in Dhaka, came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of the new credit line to Bangladesh during his Dhaka visit in June last year. It follows India's \$1 billion in assistance provided to Bangladesh in 2011 for infrastructure development.

The credit line would be used to finance development in

the power sector, railways, road transportation, information and communication technology, shipping, health and technical education sectors, the Exim Bank said in a statement.

During Modi's visit, the two countries signed a land boundary agreement, more than four decades after the neighbours first tried to resolve the complex territorial disputes. Exim Bank is also in the process of extending \$1.60 billion in buyer's credit to an India-Bangladesh joint venture to build a 1,320 megawatt thermal power plant project in Bangladesh.—*Reuters*



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina clap during signing ceremony of agreements between India and Bangladesh in Dhaka, on 6 June 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

NZ standoff ends with arrest of man suspected of shooting four policemen

SYDNEY — New Zealand police yesterday morning arrested a man suspected of shooting and wounding four policemen the previous day, after a 22-hour standoff at his North Island residence. The suspect, identified as 27-year-old Rhys Warren, surrendered to police without incident and was initially charged with using a firearm against the four officers, whom he allegedly shot during an antidrug operation in the Bay of Plenty region.

"This welcome development follows lengthy contact throughout the night with the individual by police negotiators and other police staff," Commissioner Mike Bush said in a statement.

"Our priority was always to resolve this without further risk to police staff or the public," he said,

One of the four officers was in serious but stable condition with a firearm injury to the head, while another officer was being treated at hospital for firearm wound to his hand. The two others were discharged from hospital on Wednesday.

The incident started about 10:45 am on Wednesday when police heard three shots during an operation using a plane, believed to have been searching for cannabis crops. Less than an hour later, another shot was fired at an aircraft being used by police.

The property in the Kawerau area of the Bay of Plenty, some 70 kilometres east of town of Rotorua, was then cordoned off as a major police operation got under way, assisted by the New Zealand Defence Force with light-armored vehicles and a helicopter.—*Kyodo News*

Thai navy to build own offshore patrol boats

BANGKOK — The Thai navy plans to build three Offshore Patrol Vessels to celebrate the Thai monarch's 90th birthday in the next few years.

Deputy navy chief-of-staff Vice Adm. Jumpol Lumpikanond confirmed yesterday that the three OPVs will be built at the navy's Mahidol Adulyadej Naval Dockyard in Bangkok with a combined budget of some 138 million US dollars and completion scheduled for 2018.

Construction of the 1,960-ton OPVs will primarily follow the type of HTMS Krabi, the

lone Thai-built OPV which has been deployed since 2013, Jumpol said.

The new offshore patrol boats will be commissioned in 2018 as part of the celebrations for King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 90th birthday anniversary that year, he said.

HTMS Krabi, built at the Thai navy's dockyard under supervision of Britain's BAE Systems, has a 76-mm gun, a 30-mm gun, Harpoon surface-to-surface missiles and a helipad for a Super Lynx helicopter.—*Xinhua*

China expresses alarm at Philippines-Japan aircraft deal

BEIJING — China expressed alarm yesterday about an agreement in which the Philippines will lease five aircraft from Japan to help patrol the disputed South China Sea.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino said the five TC-90 training aircraft would help the navy in patrolling what the Philippines views as its territory.

The Philippines has made the modernisation of its air and naval forces a priority as China deploys missiles and fighters on a

number of artificial islands in the South China Sea. China claims almost the entire South China Sea, where about \$5 trillion worth of ship-borne trade passes annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have claims to parts of the sea.

"If the Philippines' actions are to challenge China's sovereignty and security interests, China is resolutely opposed," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a daily news briefing. "I also want to point out that Japan is

not a party to the South China Sea issue and we are on high guard against its moves. We demand that Japan speak and act cautiously and not do anything to harm regional peace and stability."

China, the world's second-largest economy, and Japan, the third largest, have a difficult political history, with relations strained by the legacy of Japan's World War II aggression and conflicting claims over a group of uninhabited East China Sea islets.—*Reuters*

Two missing booksellers return to China hours after re-appearing in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — Two Hong Kong booksellers released from mainland Chinese custody after going missing went straight back to China after returning home to ask police to drop their missing persons cases, a *Hong Kong* newspaper reported.

The two, Cheung Chi Ping and Lui Por, were among five Hong Kong booksellers who disappeared over the past six months and re-surfaced in mainland Chinese police custody.

The five were from Causeway Bay Books, a shop that specializes in gossipy political books about Chinese leaders.

Many people in Hong Kong believe the booksellers, who have appeared in a series of confessions and interviews on Chinese television, were abducted by mainland agents.

Their cases have raised concern in Hong Kong that Chinese authorities are overriding a "one country, two systems" formula protecting Hong Kong's freedoms since its return to mainland

China from British rule in 1997.

Cheung and Lui were released on separate days last week and travelled to Hong Kong to ask police to drop their cases. Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* newspaper, citing unidentified sources, said both then crossed back into mainland China on the same days. A spokeswoman for the Hong Kong police declined to comment. Telephone calls seeking comment from the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, the Chinese government agency that oversees issues regarding the two former European outposts, went unanswered.

China has denied wrongdoing. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei, asked about the case at a daily news briefing in Beijing, said he did not have a "grasp" of the situation and declined further comment.

Lui did not answer his telephone and the other booksellers could not immediately be reached. The reported swift return of the two to mainland China

after asking Hong Kong police to drop their cases is likely to fuel speculation about whether they are acting freely or not.

Mainland Chinese police said in a statement last week that Cheung, Lui and colleague Lam Wing Kee were being investigated but would be released on bail.

It was not clear what would happen to their two other colleagues, Gui Minhai, who is a Swedish national and went missing while in Thailand, and Lee Bo, who is a British national and went missing from Hong Kong.

The South China Morning Post said Cheung had told immigration officers at the border checkpoint that he was in a hurry. He declined to give police a formal interview or to give an official statement, the newspaper said. This week, a series of at least 10 emails reviewed by Reuters showed that Lee had expressed fears that Gui had been taken by Chinese agents for "political reasons" before he, himself, went missing.—*Reuters*

OPINION

The best is yet to come

Kyaw Thura

THE nominations are now over, astonishing both international and domestic political enthusiasts and ending weeks of speculations over the vice-presidential candidates to be named by the National League for Democracy. The event was hailed as a first step to forming a new civilian government, which is scheduled to be sworn in on 1 April.

The NLD nominated U Htin Kyaw and U Henry Van Thio as its vice-presidential candidates at yesterday's sessions of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) and the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House), respectively. The party holds 255 out of 323 seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw and 135 out of 168 seats in the Amyotha Hluttaw. Despite its huge majority in both parliaments, the victory of the NLD's nominees may not be guaranteed.

Reports state that U Htin Kyaw, 70, is a close aide to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and U Henry Van Thio, 58, is a former soldier of ethnic Chin origin. Although both names are new to the general public, cheers of support and encouragement from the people have erupted on the social media.

The best is yet to come. A scrutiny committee will vet them for their suitability to the posts. It is unclear when the final vote will take place. However, the vetting procedure is not expected to take long considering its urgency. Another vice-presidential candidate will be presented by the military repre-

sentatives. The constitution provides the unelected representatives from the Defence Services with the right to submit their candidate directly to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament), which will vote to choose president, first vice president and second vice president.

When the vote takes place, there are sure to be significant changes to the country in its wake.

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Closing the Gap: Expanding Access to Social Services

Hnin Hnin Pyne

MYANMAR people are its greatest resource. Its current young population and growing number of productive workers hold the promise of a demographic dividend and inclusive growth. With a steady pace of economic growth, Myanmar has the potential to get rich before it gets old.

For Myanmar to deliver on this potential it can prioritize investing in its people, by strengthening the country's health, education, and social protection systems. Education and health directly improve chances of employment. Individuals who complete more years of schooling earn a higher income. Improving health, education and social protections – closing the gap -- is not a mere by-product of economic development, but is essential to shared prosperity.

Myanmar in the early 1960s, poised to be the economic engine of the region, prided itself in having the highest literacy rate in Asia. After decades of government underspending and neglect of social services and programs, human development outcomes deteriorated, ranking among the lowest in the region. Rural and poorer households bore a greater burden of ill health, low educational attainment and vulnerability.

In 2009, a major share of the total education and health spending came from households, 63 per cent and 82 per cent respectively. This direct out-of-pocket spending, which was one of the highest in the world, prevented people from seeking care and attending school, because they could not afford it. In the case of health, families were made even poorer, as they had to sell their belongings to pay for the care they needed. And there was no system to protect them.

Even today, social assistance programs only reach 0.1 per cent of the population, compared to 39

percent among East Asian and the Pacific countries. This is in part due to extremely low level of social assistance spending, which is only 0.02 per cent of GDP, compared to an average of 1.1 per cent of GDP among low-income countries.

The situation of U Tin Myint, 66, who lives in Takone Township, Central Myanmar with his wife, children and grandchildren, exemplifies the need for comprehensive social protection programs.

All of his eight children dropped out of school to work as casual laborers. Four of his children currently work, each earning on average 2,500 Kyat (\$2) per day during the rainy season to support the household of 13. Neither U Tin Myint nor his wife, Daw Nyunt, have a pension. Myanmar's social security programs don't provide coverage yet for informal workers like U Tin Myint.

"Two of my daughters are widows looking after their children. One of my daughters passed away eight months ago due to pneumonia. I did not have the money to send her to a hospital for treatment," he said.

In 2011 the tide began to turn, when social spending rose significantly and when decentralization was enabled through grants provided directly to schools, hospitals, and health centers in urban and rural areas, at the frontline of service delivery. Health spending increased from 0.2 per cent of GDP in 2009 to over 1 per cent of GDP in 2014. Education spending increased from 0.7 per cent of GDP in 2011 to an estimated 2 per cent of GDP in 2014.

With increased spending on social programs, Myanmar can focus on closing the service delivery gap and tackling the disparities in access that exist across geographical areas and socio economic groups. The country today has a weighty opportunity to ensure that everyone in the country has access to essential health and education services of adequate quality and



that families are protected from falling into poverty.

What policies could help to make the most of this opportunity?

Spending better. By providing more resources and attention to lagging geographic areas and to the poor and vulnerable groups; by prioritizing interventions that give value for money (e.g. allocating more for prevention and public health, and improving the quality of basic education); by reducing waste through better procurement of medicines and school books, by using information and communication technologies, such as mobile phones, to deliver training, information, and payment of salaries for front line staff.

The Government of Viet Nam, for example, introduced poverty targeted stipends early on to enable children from poor households and those living in remote areas to complete schooling. Between 1998 and 2002, the benefit incidence from government spending on upper secondary education increased 15 per cent for the poor and near poor to 25 per cent.

Reducing parallel financing channels. More coordination and greater pooling of resources, both from government and external assistance, will help to enhance oversight and accountability, reduce administrative and management costs, and enable quicker response, such as in times of disasters. Ethiopia provides an example where the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) ensures financial commitments from donors are in place before any crises occurs, reducing emergency response from eight to two months.

Prioritizing social program spending. Increasing spending on social sectors in the national budget, by shifting funding from other sectors, such as military spending, from reducing waste, and from getting new funds from improved tax administration and reformed tax policies, such as a tobacco tax. In Thailand, a 2% surcharge is placed on top of the tobacco and alcohol excise tax, which is used for programs to fight various health risks including tobacco, alcohol, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases and road safety.

Extending social services to conflict-affected areas. By creating a greater alignment between national government systems and existing service delivery arrangements in conflicted areas, working with clinics and service providers that local communities have long trusted and utilized.

It is a momentous time for Myanmar. There is great scope for effective, high return investments in social programs to improve health and education outcomes and to protect families from falling into poverty or being further impoverished. Myanmar has the opportunity to translate these opportunities into tangible benefits of social services for all people in Myanmar.

Hnin Hnin Pyne is Senior Human Development Specialist at the World Bank Myanmar Office. This blog is based on the World Bank Group's policy note "Closing the Gap: Expanding Access to Social Services," prepared by Hnin Hnin Pyne, Puja Vasudeva Dutta, Lars Sondergaard, James Stevens, Mar Mar Thwin and Nang Mo Kham.



Myanansankyaw Golden Palace. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Tourist arrivals in Mandalay expected to hit 5 millions this year

MYANMAR'S Hotels and Tourism Ministry expects that international tourist arrivals in Mandalay alone will reach around 5 millions this year, a spokesperson says.

Since October 2015, the number of foreign visitors has gradually increased month by month. Most of the visitors are from the US, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Thailand and China.

Among last year's visitors, over 120,000 tourists visited

the city via direct flights from Thailand, India and China, which are permitted to land at Mandalay's Tada U International Airport.

Those international visitors spent most of their time visiting cultural sites, including the Myanansankyaw Golden Palace, Mandalay Hill, the Maha Muni Pagoda, U Pein Bridge, the Golden Temple and Ahtumashi Monastery. They also sought to observe locals' cultural practices, lifestyles and traditional

handicraft businesses, including gold embroidery and gold foil workshops.

The number of visitors who entered the region by car or motorbike along the Muse-Mandalay Union Highway and the Tamu-Mandalay Road also rose this year, according to the ministry. Last year, 4.2 million international visitors entered Myanmar, with the ministry estimating that the number will increase to 5 millions by April 2016.—*Pyae Phyoe Naing*

e-gov courses for headmasters to be conducted

THE Yangon Regional Computer Professionals Association will conduct e-government courses for members of staff of Basic Education Schools under the Ministry of Education.

The courses are aimed at improving management through the

use of ICT. The courses are slated to open in May.

The Basic Education Department and Yangon Regional Computer Professionals Association will jointly open the courses for headmasters of the basic education schools. Each course will last

a month.

The headmasters will conduct the multiplier courses, said the person-in-charge of the Association. The plan is still under discussion with the officials concerned from 45 townships of Yangon Region.—*Nay Nay*

Shwepyihein charity clinic to operate free for 300 patients with ophthalmology

THE Shwepyihein charity clinic will provide medical care to up to 300 patients with ophthalmology as part of the charitable project of free eye-operation on 26th and 27th of March.

We will operate on those who need operations. We will examine and provide medicines for eye-patients who do not need

operations, said the person-in-charge of the clinic. There are mobile clinics for Insein, North Okkalapa, Kamayut and Sanchaung, too. All the treatments are free of charge.

Over 7,000 patients with ophthalmology have already been treated by our clinic. Those who wish to have their

eyes examined can register with Shwepyihein clinic on Pyithaya Street, ward 16 of Yankin Township in the weekends. Before providing treatment to the patients, the clinic will firstly conduct blood testing. The clinic also offers the treatments for ear, nose and throat diseases. — *Mar Mar*

MYANMAR GAZETTE

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following heads of service organisations shown against each from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Htein Lwin Managing Director Myanma Electric Power Enterprise Ministry of Electric Power	Director General Electric Power Supply Department Ministry of Electric Power
(b) U Khin Maung Win Managing Director Hydropower Generation Enterprise Ministry of Electric Power	Managing Director Electricity Generation Enterprise Ministry of Electric Power
(c) U Than Naing Tun Director General Immigration and National Registration Department Ministry of Immigration and Population	Director General National Registration Card and Citizenship Department Ministry of Immigration and Population

2. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following heads of service organisations shown against each on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(d) U Aye San	Director General Hydropower Implementation Department Ministry of Electric Power
(e) U Yin Zaw Myo	Managing Director Myanma Economic Bank Ministry of Finance

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following heads of service organisations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(f) Daw Mi Mi Khaing Deputy Director General Hydropower Planning Department Ministry of Electric Power	Director General Hydropower Planning Department Ministry of Electric Power
(g) Dr Phoe Kaung Prorector Yangon University Ministry of Education	Rector Yangon University Ministry of Education
(h) Dr Daw Thida Win Prorector Mandalay University Ministry of Education	Rector Mandalay University Ministry of Education
(i) Dr Daw Tint Tint Prorector Mandalay University of Foreign Languages Ministry of Education	Rector Mandalay University of Foreign Languages Ministry of Education
(j) Dr Than Soe Prorector Patheingyi University Ministry of Education	Rector Myittha University Ministry of Education
(k) Dr Tin Htwe Prorector Yangon University of Foreign Languages Ministry of Education	Rector Hinthata University Ministry of Education
(l) Dr Ko Ko Myint Prorector Kyaukse University Ministry of Education	Rector Pinlong University Ministry of Education
(m) Dr Maung Maung Naing Prorector Yadanabon University Ministry of Education	Rector Lashio University Ministry of Education
(n) Dr Daw San San Mar Prorector Taungtha University Ministry of Education	Rector Kyaing Tong University Ministry of Education

Gram and pigeon pea falls in prices

THE Price of gram and pigeon has dropped due to low demand from India.

But the price may rise next fiscal year as the demand from India is expected to grow.

“The price will surely rise with higher demand from India

in next year” said U Min Ko Oo, a trader.

The unstable currency exchange is another factor for bean price downturn.

Bean farmers harvested a low yield due to the impacts of El-Nino.—*MLT (Union Daily)*

Clinton, Sanders find common enemy at US presidential debate: Trump



Democratic US presidential candidate Bernie Sanders (R) waves to the crowd as his rival Hillary Clinton gathers her papers at the conclusion of the Democratic US presidential candidates' debate in Flint, Michigan, on 6 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MIAMI — Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders sparred over immigration at a debate on Wednesday night, days ahead of a crucial nominating contest in Florida, but directed their strongest fire on Republican front-runner Donald Trump.

Clinton and Sanders, competing for Hispanic votes next Tuesday in a state where about one-fourth of the population is Latino, promised to deport only illegal immigrants with criminal records and not to deport children.

In the event hosted by Spanish-language network Univision and carried on CNN, they took turns repeatedly ripping into Trump for his remarks about Mexicans and his pledge to deport all illegal immigrants living in the United States. "Look, in this country, immigration reform is a very hot debate," said Sanders. "I would hope very much that as we have that debate, we do not, as Donald Trump and others have done, resort to racism and xenophobia and bigotry."

"His idea of suddenly one day or maybe a night rounding up 11 million people and taking them outside of this country is a vulgar, absurd idea that I would hope very few people in America support," the US senator from Vermont said. Floridians will vote next week in Democratic and Republican primaries in a state rich in the delegates that candidates need to become their respective parties' nominees to run in the November presidential

election.

Trump and his rivals for the Republican nomination — US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, Ohio Governor John Kasich, and Florida's US Senator Marco Rubio — will hold their pre-primary debate in Miami on Thursday night.

Florida, with its preponderance of Cuban-Americans and Latinos from other countries, has recently seen an influx of Puerto Ricans fleeing the US island commonwealth's economic downturn. Sanders and Clinton, a former US secretary of state and US senator, spent much of their second debate this week currying the favour of Florida's Latinos, and that of the Hispanic audience watching nationwide.

Both promised to take a less aggressive approach than President Barack Obama's administration toward deportation.

Said Clinton, "I think it's important that we move to our comprehensive immigration reform, but at the same time stop the raids, stop the roundups, stop the deporting of people who are living here doing their lives, doing their jobs, and that's my priority."

Sanders and Clinton said they would carry forward Obama's executive actions granting relief from deportation for parents of children born in the United States and for children brought into the country illegally. Both said they supported creating a legal path to citizenship for those immigrants.

Last year, Trump enraged Hispanic activists by labeling Mexicans criminals and rapists

when he announced his campaign, and continued making inflammatory comments, including proposing a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country.

Asked by moderators point-blank if Trump is a racist, Clinton replied, "His rhetoric, his demagoguery, his trafficking in prejudice and paranoia has no place in our political system."

For Sanders, it was his first clash with Clinton since his surprise win on Tuesday in Michigan's primary. He crowed that some had called the victory "one of the major political upsets in modern American history."

The 74-year-old senator won most of the delegates up for grabs in Michigan, but Clinton, who won Mississippi on Tuesday, still leads Sanders with 1,221 delegates to his 571.

While Florida is next Tuesday's biggest prize, contests will also be held in other states heavy in delegates: Illinois, North Carolina and Ohio.

In the two-hour debate, Clinton, 68, deflected an unusually large number of tough questions about her record as secretary of state under President Obama.

At one point, moderator Jorge Ramos asked her if she would drop out of the race if she is indicted in the Justice Department's investigation into her use of a private email server while running the State Department.

"Oh, for goodness," Clinton replied, visibly frustrated. "That's not going to happen. I'm not even answering that question." —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Biden, Netanyahu discuss Iran, Islamic State, Syria in Jerusalem meeting

WASHINGTON — US Vice President Joe Biden discussed Iran, the threat from Islamic State militants and the crisis in Syria in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem on Wednesday, the White House said in a statement.

Biden also discussed with Netanyahu ongoing violence and tensions between Israelis and Palestinians, the statement said. The meeting comes a day after an American was killed and 11 people were wounded in a stabbing attack by a Palestinian in Tel Aviv. —Reuters

Biden, Palestinian leader Abbas meet, discuss violence — White House

WASHINGTON — US Vice President Joe Biden and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas met on Wednesday night in Ramallah and discussed the ongoing violence between Israelis and Palestinians, the White House said.

During the visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories, Biden strongly condemned an attack on Tuesday in Jaffa, in which US tourist Taylor Force was killed, the White House statement said.

Biden also reiterated continuing US support for "a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and urged all parties to take steps to de-escalate tensions, uphold obligations, and prevent inflammatory rhetoric," the statement said. —Reuters

Poland to dispute opinion of Venice Commission — foreign minister

WARSAW — Poland will dispute the opinion of the Venice Commission, a panel of constitutional law experts of the human rights body Council of Europe, regarding changes in the country's constitutional court, the foreign minister said yesterday.

The Venice Commission is due to issue its opinion this week and a leaked draft said a government-sponsored reform of the constitutional court threatened the rule of law in Poland.

"We will dispute this opinion," Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski told public radio yesterday, adding the ministry has received a draft version of the opinion.

The European Commission has said before it wants to see the opinion of the Venice Commission before making its own assessment of Poland's adherence to EU rule of law standards. —Reuters

Five Iranians, Afghans drowned trying to reach Greece from Turkey

ISTANBUL — Five migrants, including a baby, hoping to reach Europe via Greece drowned when their speedboat capsized off the Turkish coast, Dogan News Agency said on Thursday.

The Turkish Coast Guard rescued nine people after they called for help late on Wednesday and recovered five bodies, it said. The group, comprised of Afghans and Iranians, were trying to reach the Greek island of Lesbos in the Aegean Sea. —Reuters

Indonesian hotel hit by landslide, three killed, eight injured

JAKARTA — Rescuers retrieved yesterday three bodies from the rubble of a hotel struck by landslides and evacuated another person in Cianjur district in West Java, official of local disaster agency said.

That brought the total injured people to eight after parts of the hotel in Cipanas sub-district collapsed on Wednesday, said Hendri Setiabudi, head of operation control and data of disaster and management agency in the district.

"Four visitors of the hotels were found yesterday. Three of them were dead and another was alive," he told Xinhua from the scene. With the retrieval of the four victims, the search and rescue operation was terminated yesterday.

Heavy downpours were blamed for the landslides, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster management agency, told Xinhua by phone. —Xinhua

UN sees no halt in Syria truce, talks to run to 24 March

GENEVA — Syria's cessation of hostilities is open-ended, UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura said on Wednesday, brushing off a perception that the truce needs renewing this week-end.

He told reporters he would now press on with more peace talks — though

neither the Syrian government nor the opposition High Negotiations Committee (HNC) have confirmed they will attend.

De Mistura said he had heard some of the warring sides had indicated the ceasefire, which started at midnight 27 February, would expire in two weeks.

“From the UN point of view and the Geneva meetings we have been having on the task force and certainly (the) Munich understanding, there was an open-ended concept regarding the cessation of hostilities,” he said after a meeting on Syrian humanitarian issues in Geneva.

The Munich meeting in February was a key point in Syrian peace process, when De Mistura asked its international backers, led by the United States and Russia, to do more to make the warring sides come to the table to negotiate.

They hatched a plan for a ceasefire, and the op-

position High Negotiations Committee said it would support a two-week halt to the fighting.

De Mistura plans to launch substantive peace talks on Monday, and said they will focus on the core issues of governance, elections within 18 months and a new constitution.

The round of talks would not run beyond 24 March, and there would then be a break before re-summing, he said, without giving details. Asked if the talks could be delayed further from an original start date of 7 March, De Mistura said the format gave him a lot of flexibility. —Reuters

Clinton calls for sanctions on Iran after more missile tests

DUBAI — USD emocratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton on Wednesday called for sanctions against Iran after the Islamic Republic brushed off US concerns and test-fired two ballistic missiles that it said were designed to be able to hit Israel.

Iranian state television showed footage of two Qadr missiles being launched from northern Iran, which the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said hit targets 1,400 km (870 miles) away.

Iranian agencies said the missiles were stamped with the Hebrew words, “Israel should be wiped from the pages of history,” though the inscription could not be seen on any photographs.

Clinton, a former secretary of state under President Barack Obama, said she was “deeply con-



A ballistic missile is launched and tested in an undisclosed location, Iran, in this handout photo released by the official website of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on 8 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

cerned” by the tests, the second round of Iranian missile launches in two days. “Iran should face sanctions for these activities and the international community must demon-

strate that Iran's threats toward Israel will not be tolerated,” said Clinton, who is ahead in the race to be Democratic nominee at the 8 November presidential elections. Her call

for sanctions reflected a tougher line against Iran's recent missile activity than that taken so far by the White House, which said it is aware of and reviewing reports of the Iranian tests,

and would determine an appropriate response.

“We know that Iran is in a season of carrying out a number of military activities, and so it certainly would not be a

surprise if there are additional launches over the next several days,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. The Iranian move on Wednesday came despite warning from the US State Department after Tuesday's missile tests that Washington continues to “aggressively apply our unilateral tools to counter threats from Iran's missile programme,” a possible reference to additional US sanctions. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke on Wednesday with Iran's foreign minister about the test-firing of two ballistic missiles, a State Department spokesman said.

The missile tests underline a rift in Iran between hard-line factions opposed to normalising relations with the West, and President Hassan Rouhani's relatively moderate government, which is trying to attract foreign investors to Iran. —Reuters

Captured Ukrainian pilot defies Russian judge at end of trial

MOSCOW — A Ukrainian pilot held in Russia over the death of two Russian journalists during separatist fighting in eastern Ukraine climbed onto a table and flashed an obscene gesture at a judge at the end of her trial on Wednesday.

Nadezhda Savchenko, 34, who faces up to 25 years jail if found guilty, has become a hero for many in Ukraine resentful of what they see as Kremlin backing for pro-Russian insurgents trying to break Kiev's control over eastern territories.

Her lawyer, Nikolai Polozov, said she had suffered heart problems and fever since beginning a hunger strike last week in protest at what she called a show trial. Her life, he said, was in danger and she needed the attention of Ukrainian doctors.

“I don't accept my

guilt or recognise the sentence of a Russian court,” Savchenko said in the courtroom, according to a translation from Ukrainian read out by one of her lawyers. An online broadcast from the courtroom showed her climbing onto a bench in the cage for defendants to raise her middle finger at the judge.

Helicopter pilot Savchenko was captured in eastern Ukraine in 2014 during fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Moscow separatists and handed over to the Russian authorities. It remains unclear how she was brought across the border to Russia.

The court in the southern Russian region of Rostov-on-Don said it would sentence Savchenko on 21-22 March.

In a phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart, Rus-

sian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia had been prepared to allow Ukrainian doctors to visit Savchenko but that was no longer possible because of her behaviour in court. The pilot will now be denied any further visitors until her sentencing, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

“Regarding the health of N Savchenko...(She) feels normal, is doing exercise. She is under the constant supervision of Russian doctors.”

The pro-Russian insurgency broke out in the industrial, largely Russian-speaking Luhansk and Donetsk regions in April, 2014, shortly after Moscow annexed Crimea in reaction to the toppling of a Moscow-friendly president in Kiev. The conflict has eased since a peace agreement but tensions continue. —Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (3 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-085(15-16)	Spares for ATLAS COPCO Compressor (8) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-086(15-16)	Spares for 50 Ton QY 50K Mobile Crane (53) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-087(15-16)	Assorted Sizes of Hot Bend (1) Lot	US\$
(4)	IFB-088(15-16)	Projector, Computer, Printer, Amplifier, Sound Box and Cordless Mic (5) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-089(15-16)	Auto Voltage Regulator and Constant Speed Mixer with Microprocessor (2) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-090(15-16)	1 1/2" Pitch Quadruple Chain (ANSI Standard) with Connecting Link Cotter Pin Type (2) Items	US\$
(7)	DMP/L-016(15-16)	Core Drilling Machine/Atomic Absorption Spectrometers & Binocular Microscope (3) Items	KS
(8)	DMP/L-017(15-16)	Dell Server and Accessories (1) Set	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 4-4-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 7TH March, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Peru bars Fujimori's biggest rival from presidential race

LIMA — Peru's electoral board kicked the main rival to presidential candidate Keiko Fujimori out of the race on a technicality on Wednesday, removing the front-runner's biggest obstacle to winning the office once held by her jailed father.

Fujimori, a center-right career politician and daughter of former President Alberto Fujimori, looks all but certain to win the 10 April first round after the board's 3-2 decision against centrist technocrat Julio Guzman but she cannot be sure of securing the 50 per cent needed to win outright.

The National Jury of Elections ruled Guzman cannot take part in the elections because his party failed to comply with electoral procedures when registering its presidential ticket.

Guzman had been the

only candidate seen coming close to tying with Fujimori in a run-off vote, but voters could still punish her in the second round if they feel Guzman and another candidate, Cesar Acuna, were pushed unfairly from the race.

The election winner would replace President Ollanta Humala, whose five year term ends this year.

Guzman, little known just months ago, vowed to keep campaigning while exhausting all legal avenues to get reinstated. He also heaped pressure on the electoral board to bar four other candidates, including Fujimori, from the contest, citing similar questions over compliance with election rules.

"If their cases are not treated with the same criteria, the current election and potential elected authorities will be illegitimate," Guzman said in a statement.

Fujimori's opponents accuse her and her running mate of illegally dishing out gifts and prizes to voters while campaigning — accusations she called "absurd."



Peruvian presidential candidate Keiko Fujimori of the Fuerza Popular (Popular Force) party greets the media during a campaign rally in Villa Maria del Triunfo, on the outskirts of Lima, on 29 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

The electoral board also rejected wealthy former governor and center-left populist Acuna's appeal to stay in the race after he gave cash to poor voters while campaigning, in violation of a new law.

Acuna, who had sunk

to fourth place amid allegations of plagiarism, said he accepted the decision even though he thought it was undemocratic. Unlike Guzman, Acuna's party can still take part in elections and win congressional seats.

Recent opinion polls

indicated the quarter of votes that Guzman and Acuna expected to draw in the first round would be split among several candidates, with Fujimori and former prime minister Pedro Pablo Kuczynski benefiting most.

Guzman said he would

launch an "extraordinary" appeal before the electoral board, a move constitutional lawyers said was unlikely to succeed. Guzman said a delegation from the Organisation of American States was travelling to Peru on Monday.

He said he would also seek the intervention of the local courts as well as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, processes that could take months.

Guzman's candidacy bounced between electoral boards for more than a month, exasperating many Peruvians and stoking suspicions of foul play. The electoral board chief, who voted in favor of admitting Guzman, said last month he had received death threats.

Peru's electoral board has not sparked so much controversy since 2000, when it let Alberto Fujimori run for a third term despite a constitutional ban. Fujimori is now serving a 25-year jail sentence for ordering death squads to conduct massacres in the fight to quash a leftist insurgency and for corruption.—Reuters

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (02-2016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (02-2016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.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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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NIAMUL MOWLA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NIAMUL MOWLA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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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: 2301928

Singapore ranks world's most expensive place to live: EIU cost of living survey

SINGAPORE — Singapore is still the world's most expensive place to live, while China's Hong Kong has moved up seven places in the ranking into joint second place with Zurich, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)'s Worldwide Cost of Living survey released yesterday.

Singapore has the highest score of 116, while Zurich and Hong Kong get 114, ranking the second place, EIU's latest report showed. In joint eighth place, Seoul makes up a trinity of Asian cities among the 10 most expensive cities. These increases are set against a backdrop of global volatility, with falling oil and commodity prices as well as currency devaluations and geopolitical uncertainty playing a part, said the report. "In nearly 17 years of working on this survey, I can't recall a year as volatile as 2015," commented Jon Copestake, an editor of the survey.

"Falling commodity prices have created deflationary pressures in some countries, but in others, currency weakness caused by these falls has led to spiraling inflation." Only eight

cities of the 133 surveyed have seen their ranking position remain unchanged in the last 12 months. Chinese cities have become more expensive relative to their peers. Shanghai is now as pricey as Tokyo, which was the world's most expensive city for most of the last two decades. Despite drastic declines in many Eurozone locations, Paris remains the 5th most expensive city in the world. US dollar has reached 10-year highs, pushing up the cost of living across the United States compared to other locations, especially ailing Latin American countries. New York is now among the 10 most expensive cities globally for the first time since 2002.

South Asian cities continue to offer the best value for money. Cities in India and Pakistan account for five of the 10 cheapest cities. They are joined in the latest ranking by Lusaka, Zambia's capital, which has seen its currency unwind on the back of weak copper prices and can now lay claim to being the world's cheapest city, with a cost of living two thirds cheaper than Singapore.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ()

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO ()

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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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Phone No: 2301185

Chile's salmon farms losing up to \$800 million from algal bloom

SANTIAGO — A deadly algal bloom has hit the world's second biggest salmon exporter, Chile, where nearly 23 million fish have already died and the economic impact from lost production is seen soaring to \$800 million, industry and government sources told Reuters.

There are so many dead fish, they could easily fill 14 olympic-size swimming pools, said Jose Miguel Burgos, the head of the government's Sernapesca fisheries body.

Unusually high ocean temperatures, due in large part to the El Niño weather phenomenon, have fueled the algal bloom that has affected 37 of the nearly 415 salmon farms operating in

southern Chile. Most of the farms are in ocean enclosures or in estuaries.

"Temperatures are 2 to 4 degrees (Celsius) above average for this time of the year, there's a lot of sunlight, a lack of rain and very mild winds, all of which are conditions for the micro algae to appear," said Burgos.

El Niño leads to hotter sea temperatures in the west Pacific Ocean, which means more rain falls on South America and less in Australia and South East Asia.

But for Liesbeth van der Meer, who heads the Oceana environmental group in Chile, runoff from neighbouring livestock creates concentrations of nitrogen that when mixed with the above-normal tempera-

tures, create the ideal scenario for the algae to grow.

Salmon farms near the southern city of Puerto Montt and the Chiloe island have borne the brunt of the toxic algal bloom.

Producers Marine Harvest, Australis Seafoods, Compania Pesquera Camanchaca, Blumar, Multiexport Foods, Cermaq Group AS and Empresas Aq-Chile have all seen some of their salmon farms affected, according to data provided by the Economy Ministry and company filings with Chile's SVS securities regulator.

"The loss is likely equivalent to somewhere between 15 and 20 per cent of Chile's total production for the year ... the forecast

for 2016 was around 750,000 to 760,000 tonnes but now that's reduced to around 650,000 tonnes," said Burgos.

The 100,000 tonnes in lost production, which includes Atlantic salmon, Coho and trout, is equivalent to some \$800 million in exports, he added.

Chile, the second largest salmon producer after Norway, last year exported \$4.5 billion of farmed salmon, on 800,000 tonnes of shipments.

Additionally, the situation will likely lead to job losses in the sector, according to industry group SalmonChile.

Cutting their losses, producers convert those fish that can be saved into fish-



Chilean workers process farmed salmon in a plant in Puerto Ibanez near the town of Aysen, in the Chilean Patagonia region, some 1660 km (1031 miles) south of Santiago, in 2006. PHOTO: REUTERS

meal, while the fish killed by the algal bloom are not destined for human consumption, the group added.

The latest blow to the local industry comes as

Chile's salmon farmers are using record levels of antibiotics to treat a virulent and pervasive bacteria, driving away some US retailers.— Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ROYAL 27 VOY NO ()

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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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.

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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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Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
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Date 11 March 2016 kmma@kcyangon.com

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Date 11 March 2016 kmma@kcyangon.com



Singer Taylor Swift arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California on 28 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

US F1 race gets green light and Taylor Swift

LONDON — The US Formula One Grand Prix will take place in Austin on 23 October, Circuit of the Americas (COTA) chairman Bobby Epstein said on Wednesday in an announcement that ended months of uncertainty about whether the race would happen.

Epstein also said that American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, a 10-times Grammy winner, would perform at the circuit after race qualifying on the Saturday in what should prove a significant boost for ticket sales.

"We are so happy to confirm F1's return to COTA as well as Taylor Swift's headline performance," Epstein said in a statement.—Reuters

Jennifer Aniston, Jason Bateman team up again for comedy

LOS ANGELES — Actress Jennifer Aniston and actor-director Jason Bateman are re-teaming after 2010 comedy "The Switch" for an upcoming film "Significant Other".

Bateman, 47, will star, direct and produce the comedy, while Andrea Seigel ("Laggies") will write the script, said The Hollywood Reporter.

Aniston, 46, is also attached to executive produce.

"Significant Other" centres on an up-and-coming, type-A businesswoman (Aniston) who is in the final stages of being recruited for a major CEO position, but before she gets the job her company wants to meet her spouse, an unpolished stay-at-home husband (Bateman).

Sperm-donor comedy "The Switch" was directed by Josh Gordon and Will Speck. The two actors are now prepping to reunite for Gordon and Speck's newest comedy, "Office Christmas Party", which will start filming this spring.—PTI

Harrison Ford opens up about daughter's struggle with epilepsy

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor Harrison Ford opened up about his daughter Georgia's battle with epilepsy.

The 73-year-old "Star Wars" actor discussed her condition at the NYU Langone Medical Centre's Find a Cure for Epilepsy and Seizures (FACES) event, reported *Us* magazine.

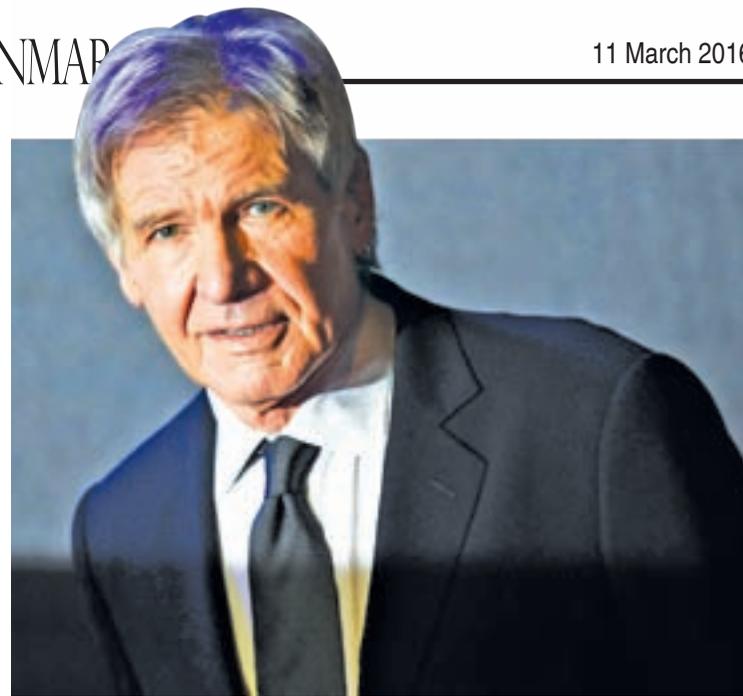
"When you have a loved one who suffers from this disease, it can be devastating. You know how it affects their lives, their future, their opportunities and you want desperately to find mit-

igation. You want to find a way that they can live a comfortable and effective life," Ford said.

The actor, who came close to tears, while delivering the speech said his 26-year-old daughter had her first seizure as a child during a sleepover.

Calling her a "hero" the "Indiana Jones..." star said he is inspired by his daughter.

"I admire a lot of things about her. I admire her perseverance, her talent, her strength. She is my hero. I love her," Ford added.—PTI



Harrison Ford. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Fifth Beatle' George Martin dies at 90



A floral tribute in memory of music producer George Martin is left outside the Cavern Club in Liverpool, Britain, on 9 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES/LONDON — George Martin, known as "the fifth Beatle" for his work in shaping the band that became one of the world's most influential music forces, has died at the age of 90.

He was considered the most successful music producer ever, cited in the Guinness Book of Records for having more than

50 No.1 hit records over five decades in the United States and Britain alone.

He helped score, arrange, and produce many of the band's biggest hits, including "I Wanna Hold Your Hand," "A Day in the Life", "Yesterday", "Eleanor Rigby" and "Love Me Do".

"I'm so sad to hear the news of the passing of dear George

Martin," Beatle Paul McCartney said in a statement on Wednesday. "If anyone earned the title of the fifth Beatle it was George."

A statement from Martin's family confirmed he had died peacefully at his home on Tuesday evening.

Earlier, Ringo Starr, the Beatles' drummer, had announced his death on Twitter: "God bless George Martin peace and love to Judy and his family... George will be missed."

Starr followed the message by posting a black and white photo of the Fab Four with Martin, saying "Thank you for all your love and kindness George."

Martin served as producer, collaborator and mentor to Beatles John Lennon, George Harrison, McCartney and Starr.

Lennon was shot dead in New York in 1980. Harrison died of cancer in 2001. Tributes from the music world poured in on Twitter. "RIP to my musical brother George Martin. We were friends since 1964, & I am so thankful 4 that gift," said American music producer Quincy

Jones. Lenny Kravitz said: "The legends are really going home!" Boy George said: "George Martin. Gentleman and legend", while Mark Ronson said Martin was "the greatest British record producer of all time."

Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron said on Twitter: "George Martin was a giant of music — working with the Fab Four to create the world's most enduring pop music." During his seven-decade career in the music industry, Martin produced almost all of the Beatles' recordings and also worked with Gerry & the Pacemakers, Shirley Bassey, Cilla Black, Jeff Beck, America, Cheap Trick and other acts.

Martin started work at Abbey Road Studios in 1950 producing records for EMI's Parlophone label.

He was noted for his comedy recordings with the likes of Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan and Beyond the Fringe and got his first Number 1 with The Temperance Seven in 1961. He signed The Beatles in 1962.—Reuters

Motown Sound comes to London stage in West End musical

LONDON — From "My Girl" to "What's Going On", Motown hits come alive on the London stage in a West End musical looking at the life of the record label's founder Berry Gordy.

"Motown The Musical", which made its debut on Broadway in 2013 and premiered in the British capital on Tuesday night, features more than 40 singles from the famed Motown catalog.

It traces Gordy's rise from a young boxing fan and auto worker in Detroit to a celebrated song maker who turned Smokey Robinson, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, and The Jackson 5 into music stars, starting out with an \$800 loan from his family.

"We have a love affair

with the UK. I mean we've had it since 1964 ... they [British fans] understand our music, they understand us," Gordy told Reuters, when asked about Motown's appeal across the Atlantic.

"UK is fabulous, we have so many great memories here."

Gordy, 86, was accompanied by Robinson to the London premiere, and both received a standing ovation from the audience at curtain call.

Asked what was the secret behind Motown's success, Gordy said: "Probably love ... and great poetry and music by this guy right here," pointing to Robinson.

From rhythm and blues, soul music as well as pop later on, the Motown Sound fea-



A board with period photos is seen backstage before a preview of Motown: The Musical, in New York in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

tures a string of popular hits made famous by the label's African-American stars, who also influenced US culture during the civil rights era with their songs.

On Broadway, the musical

opened to strong box office sales and got four Tony Award nominations.

The London show is taking bookings to February 2017.—Reuters

US women push back against stigma, cost of menstruation

SOUTH ORANGE (NJ) — Sixteen-year-old Emma Joy and her younger sister Quinn recently spent an evening stuffing bags with a full year's supply of tampons or sanitary pads for women who often miss work or school because they cannot afford menstrual products.

The South Orange, New Jersey, residents got the idea for their charity, Girls Helping Girls Period, when Emma learned that federal assistance programmes for the indigent do not cover menstruation products, leaving many low-income and homeless women to cope with their cycles on their own.

"We found out a lot of people don't know that," Emma said. "That's the point: to educate the public and to eliminate this issue of being afraid to talk about

it. It shouldn't be a thing we hide."

The project, Girls Helping Girls Period, is part of a growing national movement to address the inequities that have sprung up as a result of the stigma that still surrounds menstruation.

Some prisons, for example, force female inmates to buy pads at the commissary, and public restrooms rarely provide them free of charge for emergencies.

New York and 39 other states impose sales taxes on tampons and sanitary napkins, while exempting the Rogaine hair regrowth treatment, condoms and other products mostly used by men. Advocates have sued in New York, citing a double standard.

Women's advocates say budgets for homeless shelters, schools, prisons and public restrooms should



Emma Joy (L), 16, and her sister Quinn, 12, pack feminine products for delivery at their home in South Orange, New Jersey, on 6 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

provide free tampons and sanitary napkins, just as they do for soap, toilet paper and other essentials.

In a country where

erectile dysfunction ads fill television commercial slots and jokes about flatulence and bowel movements have inspired entire books, the

bodily function of menstruation endures as a taboo subject.

"It goes all the way back to Eve, to religion,

misogyny, all the societal norms we've been brought up with," said Maplewood, New Jersey, lawyer Jennifer Weiss-Wolf, who advocates for equitable menstrual policy in the United States.

The shame and embarrassment that many women still feel is reflected in the proliferation of euphemisms for menstruation around the world. "Shark week," "the curse," "a visit from Aunt Flo" and "having the painters in" are a few of the 5,000 names documented in a 2015 survey of 90,000 people in 190 countries that was carried out by German healthcare company Clue.

"We are trained not to talk about it," Weiss-Wolf said. "When we don't talk about it, we don't consider it. We don't think, 'Hey, for poor people, this is actually expensive; this can be a problem.'" —Reuters

Africa's 'Little Rome' survives conflict, seeks UN accolade

ASMARA — In an often forgotten corner of the Horn of Africa, Eritrea's capital boasts one of the world's finest collections of early 20th century architecture and the authorities want it declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

When Italy's colonial experiment in Eritrea ended in 1941, it left behind an array of Rationalist, Futurist, Art Deco and other Modernist styles in Asmara, a city whose historic heart has changed little since the Italians lived and worked there.

In following decades, conflict ravaged Eritrea, leaving the nation isolated and stifling development. But the violence by-passed the city, and the capital has never been swamped by the kind of construction that raced ahead elsewhere in

Africa. A Reuters photo essay shows elegant avenues still flanked by the Art Deco Cinema Impero, the imposing lines of the Education Ministry that once housed the Fascist party headquarters and the Futurist Fiat Tagliero garage with gravity-defying concrete cantilevered wings, extending 15 metres either side without the support of pillars.

Italian architects used what had been an amalgamation of highland villages centuries earlier as "an ideal blank canvas", according to UNESCO's description, to practice what were, at the time, some of the world's most avant garde designs.

Italians nicknamed it "La Piccola Roma" or "Little Rome".

"The city is very intact and maintains its original character," said Medhanie Teklemariam, coordinator for the Asmara Heritage Project, which has drawn up an inventory of about 4,300

buildings in Asmara's historic perimeter.

The nomination dossier for World Heritage Site status was submitted to UNESCO this year, with a decision expected in 2017.

If approved, Asmara would benefit from technical assistance, helping renovate and preserve the historic buildings, which include offices, government buildings and homes.

World Heritage Site status could also draw visitors to a barely trodden tourist trail. Eritrea has soaring mountains and a long Red Sea coast, but no international hotel chains.

The authorities have also carefully protected the architectural assets, adhering to 1938 building regulations. New planning regulations are being drawn up but some rules, such as limiting buildings to 60 metres high, are likely to remain.

"If we are going to exceed above this height,

I think we are going to destroy the skyline of Asmara," said Medhanie.

The Italians left their mark in other ways. Pizza and pasta are almost national dishes — and expertly cooked.

Italians also brought cycle racing to Eritrea and it has become a national passion — images of Eritrean cyclist Daniel Teklehaimanot who wore the King of the Mountains jersey in the 2015 Tour de France are plastered in hotels and shops.

Street-side cafes are filled with the grumble and hiss of polished coffee machines serving up espressos and macchiatos.

Seeking to mirror the bigger and older empires of Britain and France, Eritrea was Italy's route "to enter the big business of imperialism," said Federico Niglia, a history professor at Luiss University in Rome. —Reuters



A general view shows the Roma Cinema on Samatat Avenue in Eritrea's capital Asmara, on 20 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(11-3-2016 07:00am ~ 12-3-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Glance At A Naga Family Life
07:45	Am	Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Ambassador's View: Singapore-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
08:52	Am	Cultural Show: Theatrical Make Up
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Tigers, Lions and The Guardians
09:36	Am	Natural Mineral Water
09:52	Am	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Jeyyanandi (A Day in the Life of a Nun)
10:43	Am	Village Belle

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	To My Dream City (Part- 2)
07:44	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Toys
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	An Aficionado Of Alluring Antiques

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

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(11-3-2016, Friday)

6:00 pm	9:00 pm
• Weather Report	• Weather Report
• Music Programme	9:10 pm
6:20 pm	• Music Programme
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	9:30 pm
6:40 pm	• Myanmar Traditional Instruments (Myanmar Drum)
• Music Programme	9:50 pm
7:00 pm	• English Premier League (Review) (Part-3)
• Korea TV Drama Series	10:00 pm
7:50 pm	• Dances
• Korea TV Drama Series	10:00 pm
8:40 pm	• Myanmar Video
• Cartoon Programme "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE (Part-IX)"	

From 11-3-2016 (Friday)18:00 Pm
To 12-3-2016 (Saturday)18:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

Ibrahimovic returns to haunt Chelsea as PSG advance

LONDON — Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored the winner as Paris St Germain beat Chelsea 2-1 to knock them out of the Champions League for the second successive season at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday.

PSG's victory after their 2-1 first-leg win in Paris put Laurent Blanc's team into the last eight for the fourth successive season 4-2 on aggregate.

A composed display built on superb passing outclassed the English champions and confirmed the runaway Ligue 1 leaders as one of the favourites to win this season's premier European club competition.

PSG went ahead in the 16th minute when Angel Di Maria found Ibrahimovic, sent off when the sides clashed at the same stage a year ago, wide on the right.

The 34-year-old Swedish striker's cross eluded the defence for Adrian Rabiot to tap in, giving Thibaut Courtois no chance.

But Chelsea, without injured skipper John Terry at the back, recovered with neat moves of their own and equalised with a superbly constructed goal when Diego Costa checked past Thiago Silva to fire wide of Kevin Trapp after 27 minutes.

The hosts, however, lost their cutting edge when Costa went off injured and Ibrahimovic turned in Di Maria's cross from close range after 67 minutes, meaning Chelsea needed to score three times to win the tie.

"It was a difficult game for us but we never change our philosophy, we try to play with the ball and create gaps to score," PSG's former Chelsea defender David Luiz told BT Sport.

"It was a collective victory. Everyone knows how hard it is to play here. We kept calm and we



PSG's Thiago Motta in action with Chelsea's Willian during UEFA Champions League Round of 16 Second Leg at Stamford Bridge, London, England, on 9 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

scored at key moments."

Chelsea's interim manager Guus Hiddink bemoaned the gulf in quality between the sides.

"You saw the difference between the squads when we had to bring young guys on and they have Edinson Cavani to come in," the Dutchman said.

"We gave too much respect in the first 10 minutes, they were dominating. They are a good side but once we stepped up we

had some chances."

PSG, who have only lost twice in 44 matches in all competitions this season and are set to win the French League for the fourth successive year, took an early grip on the game with Ibrahimovic linking superbly with Di Maria and Lucas.

They deserved their opening goal, but Chelsea, who have improved after a poor start to the season, began to impose

themselves with Willian central to most of their best moves and Costa a constant threat.

Costa went off with a calf injury and the visitors wrapped up the match and the tie through Ibrahimovic's goal.

Chelsea, languishing 10th in the domestic standings, now have the FA Cup as their only hope of a trophy this season as PSG eye bigger prizes. —Reuters

Leicester bid to turn screw on slumping Newcastle

LONDON — A hair's breadth separated Leicester City and Newcastle United at the end of the relegation battle last season but a 36-point chasm and a gulf in confidence exists between the sides ahead of Monday's Premier League clash.

With Leicester's title challenge showing no sign of wilting as the inevitable pressure of the run-in continues to mount, Newcastle's season is seemingly skidding towards the abyss. It is by no means certain that Newcastle manager Steve McClaren will still be in the dugout for the game at Leicester's King Power Stadium with his immediate future up in the air. A scheduled meeting with managing director Lee Charnley did not take place on Wednesday, according to media reports, with former Liverpool boss Rafa Benitez strongly linked to the role should the club decide to end McClaren's stay at St James' Park.

Despite spending heavily in the transfer window, Newcastle are 19th in the table whaving been in the bottom three for 146 days this season. On paper they should be little more than cannon fodder for Claudio Ranieri's Leicester, who have won five of the last seven to open a five-point lead at the summit as their more-fancied rivals have all stumbled. Confounding their doubters on a weekly basis, Leicester, who finished 14th and two points above Newcastle last season, are looking more like champions every match they play. They came through a testing February when they played Liverpool, Manchester City and Arsenal and now need only to keep their heads over the final nine games to claim one of the most remarkable title triumphs in English football history. —Reuters

Sharapova's peers stunned, but support doping system

INDIAN WELLS — While Maria Sharapova's fellow players were shocked by the Russian's announcement that she failed a drug test at the Australian Open, most of them felt the "huge mistake" could have been avoided.

World number three Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland described it as "a very sad day for tennis" but expressed the views of many by saying it was down to every player, via their doctor, to check whether prescribed medications were legal.

Five-times grand slam champion Sharapova tested positive

for meldonium, which some researchers have linked to increased athletic performance and endurance, after failing by her own admission to realise that it had been outlawed since 1 January.

"I don't check those emails," Radwanska told reporters on Wednesday about receiving notification of which substances and medications were on the banned list before the start of every year. "That is what my doctor is doing and my agent."

"I am scared because I know every pill can have something in it so when I am sick I am just tak-

ing aspirins 100 per cent because I am always afraid that it is going to be something else. (To be safe) I had better play with the flu."

Men's world number five Rafa Nadal pointed to Sharapova's negligence while also hoping that the Russian had made an innocent mistake.

"Everybody can have mistakes," the Spanish left-hander said at Indian Wells. "I want to believe for sure that it is a mistake for Maria, she didn't want to do it."

"But it is obvious that it is negligence. The rules are like

this. It is fair and now she must pay for it." Eighth-ranked Czech Petra Kvitova, Wimbledon champion in 2011 and 2014, expressed sympathy for Sharapova but felt that the doping system was working well.

"Of course it's not great for her," the 26-year-old left-hander said. "It's something which we all should know, what we are taking and what we are putting into the body."

"It's a huge mistake unfortunately and she has taken responsibility for it. We see that they (doping authorities) are trying to

have a clean sport. The system is working, they are doing a good job on that."

Sharapova, who faces a ban of up to four years pending an investigation by the International Tennis Federation, has got vocal support from fellow Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova but other players have taken a less charitable view. Three-time grand slam champion Jennifer Capriati tweeted earlier this week: "I'm extremely angry and disappointed. I had to lose my career and never opted to cheat no matter what. I had to throw in the towel and suffer. —Reuters