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THE FACE OF CHANGE

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw elects U Htin Kyaw president



U Htin Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw elected U Htin Kyaw president by vote yesterday while the other two candidates U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio were selected vice presidents.

U Htin Kyaw, 70, submitted by the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House), won the presidential election with the highest number of votes, 360, becoming the new president for the next five-year term, followed by U Myint Swe nominated by the representatives of the Tatmadaw with 213 votes and U Henry Van Thio from the Pyithu Hluttaw with 79 votes.

President U Thein Sein sent a message to U Htin Kyaw, expressing his delight on behalf of the State and the peoples, for being elected president by

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in accordance with the constitution, adding that arrangements have been made to hand over the duty of the Head of State to him.

A total of 652 MPs from the two Houses cast their votes in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, chaired by Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will continue its session on Thursday, and the president-elect will submit a proposal for the list of ministries and the number of ministers of the incoming cabinet, according to the agenda of the Thursday session released by the parliament.

MPs are invited by the Speaker of the parliament to discuss the proposal the next day, according to the agenda.—
GNLM

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U Pein bridge repair set to begin soon

U Pein Bridge in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING



RENOVATIONS of the U Pein Bridge, a more than 160-year-old tourist attraction in Mandalay, will begin soon, said an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

The bridge will be renovated by the Myanmar Teak Wood Company under the supervision of the Mandalay Region government and the Department of Archaeology and National Museum, said Director U Nyo Myint Tun of the department.

“Renovation works will be carried out in accord with suggestions by historians, experts and local people,” added the director.

The renovation works include replacement of decayed teak pillars with new ones and installing wooden bridge guardrail in original form and minor repairs. The bridge with 1,086 pillars is 3,967 feet long.

According to sources, the regional government spent K13.4 million on bridge repairs over the 2014-2015 fiscal year.—
Aung Thant Khaing



A lake is dried up in Taungup, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Rakhine residents call on new govt to solve water crisis

THE Rakhine Natural Resource Network of Taungup has announced that it will call on the new Union government, state government and relevant government departments to solve drinking water shortages within Rakhine State.

The network held its first public meeting at a monastery in the Taungup Township village of Thetkegyun on 11 March to discuss how the government can solve the water problem.

“Fourteen townships in Rakhine State, including Taungup, Minbya and Mrauk U, suffer annual water shortages. The outcome of the meeting is to call upon the new government, the state government and relevant departments [to resolve the issues],” said U Zeya

Kyaw, chair of the Rakhine Natural Resource Network for Taungup.

Extremely high temperatures in Rakhine State regularly cause water reserves, including wells and reservoirs, to dry up early. Despite the digging of artesian and machine-powered wells, the leaking of salt water into these water sources causes difficulties in accessing clean, purified drinking water.

The detrimental impact of water shortages brought by the El Niño weather front is felt most strongly within Rakhine State, affecting over 1,200 villages in 10 townships, including Kyauktaw, Mrauk U, Taungup and Sittwe, according to the township-level branches of the network. —Myitmakha News Agency

Myanmar looks to make intangible cultural heritage list

A WORKSHOP on the preparation of a list of intangible cultural heritage that includes traditional Myanmar food, sports and dresses and customs is scheduled to take place in Nay Pyi Taw on 17-18 March, according to the Ministry of Culture. Myanmar is rich in tangible cultural heritages like the tradition of applying Tha-nat-khar, traditional dishes, costumes, customs and medicines, said Dr Daw Nanda Hmunn, permanent secretary of the ministry.

It is imperative to safeguard such intangible cultural heritages

for the next generations, added the permanent secretary.

The workshop is aimed at making a list of intangible cultural heritage in cooperation with enthusiasts and responsible persons from NGOs and ethnic literature and culture groups for ensuring the better protection of the elements and traditions in Myanmar.

According to the ministry, the process of making a list of intangible cultural heritage is set to begin next month, and a workshop on reviewing the process is slated for March next year.

—Myanmar News Agency

UEFA Champions League Trophy to arrive in Myanmar on Sunday

THE UEFA Champions League Trophy Tour, started in 2006, will be coming to Myanmar this coming Sunday 20 March.

Myanmar football fans will have once-in-a-lifetime experience to see the trophy at home like those from other four world nations, said Managing Director Mr. Lester Tan of APB Alliance Brewery Co., Ltd.

The trophy is set to tour

around Yangon, starting from Thunwunna Stadium to Sedona Hotel via Shwegondine, Phoneygi Road, Hledan junction and Pyay Road.

According to the organizer, former Arsenal player Fredrik Ljungberg will arrive in Myanmar on 25 March to join the UEFA Champions League Trophy Tour event in which a live music performance set to take place at Shwe

Htut Tin ground on 26 March is included.

The trophy, which stands 73.5cm tall, will be conveyed to Brazil after being on display in Yangon, Myanmar.

It is the first visit of the UEFA Champion League trophy to Myanmar where the FIFA World Cup trophy was exhibited in 2013. —Ko Moe



UEFA Champions Trophy. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Correction

Under the announcement of Myanmar Gazette on Page 9 of 11-March issue of the GNLM, please read “Department of Electric Power Transmission and System Control” in the announcement of the appointment of U Htein Lwin as Director-General of the Department of Electric Power Transmission and System Control, Ministry of Electric Power, please read “Electric Power Generation Enterprise” in the announcement of the appointment of U Khin Maung Win, Managing Director of the Electric Power Generation Enterprise of Ministry of Electric Power, please read “Department of Electric Power Planning” in the announcement of the appointment of Daw Mi Mi Khaing, Director-General of the Department of Electric Power Planning of Ministry of Electric Power.—Ed

Chinese demand for Myanmar hair generates job growth

RESIDENTS of Yindaw Village, located beside the Meiktila Kanna Road in Pyawbwe Township, Mandalay Region, and other villages in the vicinity, have reported that sales of Myanmar hair are up because of Chinese demand.

Wholesalers of human hair opened up in the Mandalay villages, exporting hair to China to be

used in the production of historical movies and soap operas.

“We’ve opened a human hair wholesale market on the ground floor of our home, where we pay K30,000 a month in rent. Just as we export the hair to China, some Chinese buyers come in person to purchase from us directly,” said Ko Win Khaing, a human hair

wholesaler from Yindaw Village.

Human hair enterprises have provided a form of employment for local women who work to untangle and straighten 160 grams of hair between 7am and 5pm daily, for which they are paid a daily wage.

“A worker has to untangle two bundles of hair per day. In the past, one could receive K500

for the untangling of one bundle of hair, but there’s more competition these days. As more wholesalers have opened up, one can get K1,000 for a bundle. Since this kind of employment can be practiced at home, it allows workers to untangle at their leisure,” said Ma Phyu Pya, a worker in the human hair business.

The wholesalers buy the hair they sell to China from human hair traders around the country.

The business of buying and selling human hair started in Mandalay Region in 2015. There were initially just four hair wholesalers in Yindaw Village, but now there are over 20 wholesalers. —Myitmakha News Agency

President U Thein Sein congratulates President-elect U Htin Kyaw

THE incumbent President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein sent a message of congratulations to U Htin Kyaw who was elected as the country's President by the second Pyidaungsu Hlut-taw in accord with the Constitution yesterday.

In his message, President U Thein Sein said that arrangements have been made to transfer the duties of the Head of State and state administrations and congratulated the President-elect on his victory on behalf of the country and citizens.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Telenor search for first Nationwide's Karaoke Champion

TELENOR Myanmar Limited ("Telenor") launched its first nationwide karaoke champion competition yesterday, offering the winner a prize of MMK 20 million, and a chance to have the album released by Telenor through its My Tune music portal.

"Customers in Myanmar love music and we want to play a role in being their favourite music service provider in the months to come. We have almost 700,000 subscribers who use our My Tune service offer more than 4000 songs. Our Telenor mobile portal has around 1,000 songs and more than 200,000 downloads in per month," said Joslin E Myrthong, Chief Marketing Officer (CMO) at Telenor Myanmar.

To kick off search for the champion, Telenor-branded two music trucks will visit 28 places in 18 different cities across 13 divisions and states (specific dates and locations will be announced in Telenor Myanmar

Facebook). At the same time, recording booths will also be situated in selected Telenor-branded shops to give everyone a chance to join the search.

All video recording from every state and division will then be screened by Gitameit students and Telenor Myanmar to pick up top 50 from each state and division. As a next step, the judges Tin Zar Maw, R Zar Ni and Phoe Kar will choose the top 5 from each region.

Top five candidates' video from each region will be uploaded week by week on Telenor Facebook and aired via the music show "Walk With Music" on Channel 7 for public voting. The public can chose top one from each region through Facebook and SMS. For the public voting, Telenor users may send SMS to 6666 with the code of their favourite candidate. For non-Telenor users, they can vote [press like button] in Telenor Myanmar Facebook.— *GNLM*

Concert held in Mandalay to mark 60th establishment of MYN-JPN diplomatic relations

TO mark 60th anniversary establishment of Myanmar-Japan diplomatic ties, State Orchestra and Japanese musicians performed at the National Thea-

tre in Mandalay on 15 March, attracting local people. The performance has been held in Mandalay for three consecutive years.— *Aung Thant Khaing*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and heads of armed forces of ASEAN countries pose for photo in ASEAN way at 13th ASEAN Chiefs of Defense Forces' Informal Meeting in Vientiane, Laos. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing back home after attending 13th ACDFIM in Laos

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday after attending the 13th ASEAN Chiefs of Defense Forces' Informal Meeting in Vientiane, Laos.

In his address at the 13th ACDFIM on Monday, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for further cooperation among armed forces of ASEAN countries to ensure stronger ASEAN community.

The Senior General also stressed the need of building closer relationships between the

ASEAN members in order to address unconventional threats to regional security.

At the meeting, the Commander-in-Chief highlighted the "Bengali" (Rohingya) issue as an unconventional threat to the country's security with a discussion calling on organisations concerned to verify whether the issue has impacts on regional stability and stressing the need to scale up cooperation, coordination and collaboration in the fight against extremism and terrorism.

After the meeting, the Sen-

ior General signed a joint declaration on the 13th ACDFIM together with heads of armed forces of ASEAN countries.

During his stay in Vientiane, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held separate talks on bilateral relations and security and defense cooperation with General Gatot Nurmantyo, Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces, General Tan Sri Dato' Sri (Dr.) Zulkifeli bin Mohd. Zin, Chief of Malaysian Armed Forces, and Maj-Gen Lim Cheng Yeow Perry, Chief of Defense Forces of Singapore.— *Myawady*

Horsehair lacquerware handicrafts in Bagan catches tourist interest

IT is known from Bagan lacquerware sellers that interest of foreigners in lacquerware handicrafts made with horsehair has exponentiated sales of the product.

"In the past, we would have to do quite a bit of explaining about how horsehair was used after coating the product with lacquer. This design has now become very trendy, foreigners really like when the horsehair is left in its original state on the outside of the lacquerware product," said U Ko Ko Maung, a horsehair lacquerware craftsman.

Myanmar lacquerware is a handicraft product of much interest to foreign travellers, with the unique horsehair lacquerware style specific to Bagan, drawing much attention and interest, it is known.

Horsehair lacquerware products are made by attaching horsehair to bamboo. While a total of twenty bamboo lacquerware items can be made in a single day, the use of horse hair is more time consuming, with only four being able to be created a day, accord-



Horsehair lacquerware handicrafts. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

ing to lacquerware craftsmen.

"Lacquerware made with horsehair is unique to this region. It was in this region small bamboo lacquer cups and figures started to be made with the incorporation of horsehair. Horsehair is had to come by. It's also a very time consuming, difficult trade. More time needs to be given [to the producing of this style of lacquerware] than to acquiring horsehair," said U Aung Kyaw Htun of U Ba Nyeing lacquer-

ware enterprise.

It is known that lacquerware products made with horsehair such as cups, cigarette holders and betel nut boxes range in price between K3,000-25,000.

The months between October to February is when the lacquerware market is at its peak, while it is known that developments to the tourism industry are having positive knock-on effects upon the selling of lacquerware.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Buddhapujaniya festival of Shwedagon pagoda starts

THE 2604th Buddhapujaniya Tabaung festival of Shwedagon pagoda was opened on an elaborate scale at Chanthargyi Tazaung on the pagoda platform at 9 am yesterday. Ovadacariya Sayadaws, the invited monks, the members of Pagoda Board of Trustees, the members of Religious Associations and pilgrims attended the opening ceremony.

U Aung Soe Min, a member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees firstly delivered words of obeisance to Buddha. The attendees observed the Nine Precepts administered by the State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Baddhanta Nandobhasa, the presiding monk of

Chaukhtatgyi Theingioo Monastery, Bahan Township.

Afterwards, Ovadacariya Sayadaws and the members of Pagoda Board of Trustees opened the Buddhapujaniya festival by offering lights to Buddha in dedication to Omniscience of Buddha. The members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees donated the alms and offertories to members of Sangha.

The members of the Sangha, members of Pagoda Board of Trustees and the pilgrims circumambulated the pagoda one-and-a-half rounds clockwise.

Shwedagon Buddhapujaniya festival will end on 23rd March. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Solo watercolour exhibit goes up in Mandalay



14th solo watercolour painting exhibition. PHOTO:THIHA KO KO

THE 14th solo watercolour painting exhibition was opened at the Mandalay Hill Gallery in Mandalay on 13 March.

The five-day event, which

includes 80 watercolour paintings by artist U Aung Maung, who obtained a certificate from the Mandalay Fine Arts School, will run between 13 and 17

March. The paintings feature the landscape around the Chindwin River. Present at the opening ceremony were artists and painting enthusiasts.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

Crime NEWS

Car accident injures three people, kills one



Damaged car seen at the site of the accident. PHOTO: KYEMON (624)

A VEHICLE collided head on with another vehicle near Ahlar Kapa village between mileposts 53/2-3, Myinmu township, on Monday leaving three injured and one dead.

The vehicle was en route to Yangon from Monywa and was being driven by one Aung Win, 53, with one Daw Mya Khin, 78, on board. The car crashed into another

vehicle heading for Monywa from Mandalay being driven by one Thein Lwin, 47, with Ma Myint Myint Htay, 51, and Ko Ko Lwin, 14, on board. The collision injured Thein Lwin, Daw Mya Khin and Ko Ko Lwin and killed Ma Myint Myint Htay. The reckless drivers have been charged by the police.—*Kyemon (624)*

83 million yabba tablets, 44 kilos of opium seized in February

AUTHORITIES investigated over 500 drug cases across the country in February alone, arresting 806 drug smugglers, according to figures released by Myanmar Police Force.

Various types of drugs, including over 83 million yaba tablets,

nearly 25 kilos of marijuana, 44 kilos of opium and 1,053 litres of phosphoric acid were seized from drug dealers and destroyed.

According to official figures, 105 of the 806 drug smugglers are women.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Over 10,000 yabba pills seized in Lashio, Mabein

A COMBINED team together with Anti Drug Squad No. 24 of Lashio seized 5,850 yabba pills in Lashio on 12 March.

The police force searched one Lay Lwin and Ma Myint Myint Khin in the compound of the Narmakhall Highway Gate in Lashio and discovered over 5,000 pills weighing 1.056 kilograms hidden inside 88 soap container boxes. On that same day authorities searched the hut of one Yan Chein Myint in a village of Runbo village-tract in Mabein Township, and confiscated 119,600 yabba pills. Charges have been filed against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Law.—*Myanmar Anti Drugs Police Force*



Lay Lwin and Ma Myint Myint Khin. PHOTO: MADPF

Stimulants seized in Kutkai and Kunlon



Ngwa Mar Si (a) Ye Kya Kyein and Ma Ye Ti (a) Ar Ti. PHOTO: MPF

A LOCAL anti-drug squad seized yabba from a motorbike driver on Kutkai – Kaung Kha road, ward 8, Kutkai town on 10th March.

Acting on a tip-off, the police discovered 4,000 pills on the motorbike driver Ngwa Mar Si alias Ye Kya Kyein with one Ma Ye Ti alias Ar Ti on board.

Similarly, police discovered 2.7 kilograms of raw opium on a motorbike being driven by one Pauk Shone on Hsenwi- Kunlon Road last Tuesday. The police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business



A farmer feeds layers at a farm in central Myanmar. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Mandalay chicken farmers halve their flock amid scorching temperatures

CHICKEN farmers from the town of Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, have made it known they have reduced the number of birds they are breeding by half, in light of scorching temperature induced chicken fatalities.

“Chicken farmers, who in the past would have breed 10,000 birds, are now just breeding half that quantity because of rising temperatures,” said U Than Shwe from the Shwe Taung chicken breeding enterprise based in Madaya Township.

The Livestock Breeding and

Veterinary Department has urged chicken farmers to practice temperature regulation, by using water misting fans to alleviate rising temperatures, but chicken farmers have said they can incur more expenses should they not receive regular electricity.

“There’s no issue with using water misting fans when electricity is running, but we can suffer heavy losses if it cuts out. In light of that fact, we’re only breeding what we can afford to potentially lose”, said by Ko Thein Aye, a local chicken breeder from Taungbyone village.

According to chicken meat and egg wholesalers of the 41 Street night market, the current price of a broiler chicken fetches between K7,000-8,000 while a viss (1.6 kilograms) of chicken breast meat goes for a similar price of approximately K8,000.

The townships surrounding Mandalay of Madaya, Kapaing, Taungbyone, Patheingyi and Amarapura practice chicken farming, currently breeding 1.2 million birds, according to the Mandalay Region Livestock Federation.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

FMI starts trading on Yangon Stock Exchange

THE first Myanmar Investment (FMI) Company has begun trading of the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) as of 25 March.

The YSX officially opened in the premises of the old Myawady Bank headquarters on December 9, 2015 with FMI being the first company to commence trading on the exchange.

“FMI is the first company among those listed companies to begin trading. It will be joined before long by the Thilawa Company”, said Dr. Maung Maung Thame, chair of Myanmar Securities Exchange Supervisory Commission.

In a bid to mitigate any mistakes at the start of trading, the YSX will open for trading dur-

ing the morning only, with trading only taking place on already purchased shares.

FMI is the first of six companies that have been permitted to sell shares on the YSX. The second is Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings, followed by Myanmar Citizens Public Company, First Independent Bank Ltd, Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation and Great Hor Khan Public.

“Our company is there to assist companies obtain rights to sell shares on the exchange. Securities companies are responsible for the selling of shares on the exchange of those companies which have been permitted to do so.” said U Nyo Myint, senior

managing director of KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities.

The securities companies of KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities, Myanmar Securities Exchange Center, AYA Trust Securities, CB Securities and KTZRH Securities are the companies responsible for the selling of shares of those listed companies on the YSX, it is known.

The YSX is a joint venture between the Myanma Economic Bank, which holds a fifty-one percent stake in the exchange, and the foreign Japan Stock Exchange Committee and Japan Daiwa Company which own a forty-nine percent of the exchange.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Over 170 illegal lubricant shops closed down in Keng Tung

A TOTAL of 174 shops, from five neighborhoods and outlying connected areas of Keng Tung Township in Eastern Shan State, have been closed down for selling illegal lubricants, according to the Keng Tung Township Development Committee (KTDC).

The shops have been closing up their businesses since the middle of March after being informed they would face legal action if they failed to do so.

“We carried out our action plan between 11-14 March, compiling inventories of all those shops found to be selling illegal lubricants and conducting education awareness discussions, at which time shopkeepers were informed of the consequences should they decide not to adhere to orders by the KTDC.” said U Than Zaw, engineer from the KTDC Department of Sanitation.

The compiling of shop inventories and education awareness initiatives were carried out by the Fire Service Department,

the Department of General Administration and the KTDC, it is known.

“There are only nine licensed lubricant shops permitted to operate within Keng Tung and the surrounding area. We’re conducting these inspections as part of an initiative to mitigate dangers of fire which could be caused by extreme temperatures during this year’s summer season from El Nino.” said U Kyaw Thiha, clerk of the Department of General Administration for Keng Tung.

According to local residents that although the bodies carry out annual inspections and education awareness on lubricant selling establishments in the Keng Tung area upon the arrival of the summer season, fire scares and actual blazes occur every year regardless because of a weakness in the authorities to actually take legal action against offenders and ensure the closing down of their businesses.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Export of rice nearly halts due to high price

WITH the high price of rice at local markets the export of rice has been forced to a halt. The current price of rice in border area is Y145 (Chinese) per bag of Yadanatoo, Y143 per bag of Manawthukha and Y128 per bag of paddy husk.

China’s demand has fallen as the price of rice has risen up to K2000 per bag at the local market. That’s why supply has become lower in Muse, said the person-in-charge of the Rice Federation.

Export sector is being faced with difficulty as local rice and paddy husk price is higher when the price in China is on the decline. The export market is forced to halt until the end of this month, said U Min Thein, rice trader.

The supply from other townships dropped down to 7,500 bags a day. The trading is likely to resume again at the time of the summer crop harvest in April.—*MLT/Union Daily*

Earthen pot businesses thrive in summer

THE earthen pot industry is thriving as the pots made in upcountry villages see very high demand over the hot summer.

Our village supplies between four and five truckloads of earthen pots a day. A truck can carry up to 800 pots but this truck leading to Taungtha town carry only over 500 pots as the pot makers can’t supply enough to meet demand. A pot sells for K500 in the village. If the businessmen sends the pots to Taungtha town, transportation charges and labour wages are added, said Ko Zaw working with an earthen pot business from Mezalikan village.

Drinking water pot (earthen pot) are made in Mezalikan village, Hlaingtek village-tract,

Thazi Township, Mandalay Region, and sent to Myingyan, Taungtha, Kyaukpadaung, Yamethin, Pyawbwe, Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw etc.

The pot makers mainly manufacture drinking pots during summer while they make other types of pots like flower vase, earthen stove and goblets.

Mezalikan villagers mainly earn their living through traditional pottery. This pot is known as a Hlaingtet pot although it is actually made in Mezalikan village.

Myanmar people from upcountry villages mainly choose the earthen pots as they are hygienic and can naturally cool water during summer.—*Aung Htay (Ma Hlaing)*

North Korean leader says will soon test nuclear warhead

SEOUL — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said his country would soon test a nuclear warhead and ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads, the North's KCNA news agency reported, in what would be a direct violation of UN resolutions which have the backing of the North's chief ally, China.

Kim made the comments as he supervised a successful simulated test of atmospheric re-entry of a ballistic missile that measured the "thermodynamic structural stability of newly developed heat-resisting materials", KCNA said.

"Declaring that a nuclear warhead explosion test and a test-fire of several kinds of ballistic rockets able to carry nuclear warheads will be conducted in a short time to further enhance the reliance of nuclear attack capability, he (Kim) instructed the relevant section to make prearrangement for them to the last detail," the agency said.

South Korea's defence ministry said there were no indications of activities at the North's nuclear test site or its long-range rocket station, but that North Korea continues to maintain readiness to conduct nuclear tests.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye said the North would lead itself to self-destruction if it did not change and continued the



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un talks with officials at the ballistic rocket launch drill of the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army (KPA) at an unknown location, in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang, on 11 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

confrontation with the international community.

The North's report comes amid heightened tension on the Korean peninsula as South Korean and US troops stage annual military exercises that Seoul has described as the largest ever.

In the apparent re-entry simulation, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party carried pictures on Tuesday of a dome-shaped object placed under what appeared to be a rocket engine and being blasted with

flaming exhaust. In separate images, Kim observed the object described by KCNA as a warhead tip.

The North has issued belligerent statements almost daily since coming under a new UN resolution adopted this month to tighten sanctions against it after a nuclear test in January and the launch of a long-range rocket last month.

In 1962, the United States launched a ballistic missile with a live warhead in what was known as the Frigate Bird test. China conducted a similar test in 1966.

"What would be terrible is if the DPRK (North Korea) re-enacted Operation Frigate Bird or the fourth Chinese nuclear test and did a two-in-one," said Jeffrey Lewis of the California-based Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

"For now, though, it looks like a nuclear test and several missile tests in close succession."

South Korea's defence ministry said after the North's report that it still does not believe the North has acquired missile re-entry technology.

US and South Korean experts have said the general consensus is that North Korea has not yet successfully miniaturized a nuclear warhead to be mounted on an intercontinental ballistic missile.

More crucially, the consensus is that there have been no tests to prove it has mastered the re-entry technology needed to bring a payload back into the atmosphere.

Kim said last week his country had miniaturized a nuclear warhead.

The North, which has conducted four nuclear tests, also claims that its January nuclear test was of a hydrogen bomb, although most experts said the blast was too small for it to have been from a full-fledged hydrogen bomb.

The North also says the satel-

ites it has launched into orbit are functioning successfully, although that has not been verified independently.

North Korea rejects criticism of its nuclear and missile programs, even from old ally China, saying it has a sovereign right to defend itself from threats and to run a space program putting satellites into orbit.

China's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday urged prudence.

"We urge all the relevant sides to conscientiously carry out what is required by the UN Security Council, speak and act cautiously, and all relevant sides must not take any action that would exacerbate tensions on the Korean peninsula," said ministry spokesman Lu Kang at a regular briefing.

The new UN Security Council resolution sharply expanded existing sanctions by requiring member states to inspect all cargo to and from North Korea and banning the North's trade of coal when it is seen as funding its arms program.

The foreign ministers of South Korea and China discussed the new sanctions against North Korea by telephone late on Monday and agreed it was important to implement them "in a complete and comprehensive manner", China said on Tuesday.—Reuters

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Bangladesh central bank governor resigns over cyber heist

DHAKA — Bangladesh's central bank governor Atiur Rahman said yesterday he had resigned after \$81 million (57 million pounds) was stolen from the bank's account at the New York Fed in one of the largest cyber heists in history.

Rahman told Reuters that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had accepted his resignation.

Unknown hackers breached the computer systems of Bangladesh Bank and transferred \$81 million from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New

York to casinos in the Philippines between 4 February and 5 February. Rahman's resignation came days after the Bangladesh finance minister said the central bank did not inform him about the heist, and that he learned of it only a month later when news first appeared in the media.

"I resigned and the prime minister accepted it," Rahman, a widely respected banker in his second term at the bank, told Reuters. He didn't say anything more.

The central bank said earlier

that cyber criminals had tried to withdraw \$951 million from its US bank account but the other transactions were blocked after a typo in one of the instructions raised red flags.

More than \$30 million of the money that was stolen was handed over in cash to an ethnic Chinese man in Manila, a Philippines senator looking into the suspected laundering scheme said.

The cyber heist and its global scale has left Bangladesh officials scrambling to find answers and recover the money that was lost.

The New York Fed has said its systems were not breached, and it has been working with the Bangladesh central bank since the incident occurred.

The incident has also left other banks and businesses around the world eager to learn more, so they can review their own networks for signs that they are vulnerable to similar attacks or might already have been breached.

Rahman's main focus at the central bank was on poverty alleviation, officials said.—Reuters

Taiwan president-elect touts new cabinet, mum on China ties

TAIPEI — Taiwan president-elect Tsai Ing-wen pledged yesterday her first cabinet would focus on the economic and financial issues, but avoided discussing China following a barrage of warnings directed at her by Beijing over the past week or so.

Tsai, from the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), was elected by a landslide in January but does not assume office until May.

She formally announced former finance minister Lin Chuan as her premier, describing him as a good choice.

"I assure you that Lin's cab-

inet will not only be a financial and economic cabinet, but also a cabinet with execution and communication ability," she told reporters.

She left soon afterwards without taking questions from the media and made no mention of China during her formal remarks.

Tsai's election came at a tricky time for Taiwan's export-dependent economy, which barely emerged from recession in the fourth quarter. China, with which her DPP has an uneasy relationship, is Taiwan's top trading partner and Taiwan's favourite investment destination.

China considers self-ruled Taiwan a wayward province, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. Defeated Nationalist forces fled to Taiwan in 1949 after the Chinese civil war.

Beijing has repeatedly warned against any moves towards independence since wins by Tsai and her DPP in presidential and parliamentary elections.

Top officials and leaders have lined up to offer warnings to the proudly democratic island since China's annual meeting of parliament began earlier this month.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said last week China would

never allow the historical tragedy of Taiwan being "split" off from the rest of the country to happen again, warning the island against any moves towards formal independence.

Japan ruled Taiwan as a colony for about five decades until the end of World War II. China's last dynasty, the Qing, had ceded Taiwan to Japan in 1895 after losing the first Sino-Japanese war.

Tsai has said she would maintain peace with China, and Chinese state-run media have also noted her pledges to maintain the "status quo" with China.—Reuters

Beijing expects young pro-democracy 'radicals' to become Hong Kong lawmaker - SCMP

HONG KONG — Beijing accepts that several young pro-democracy "radicals" will be elected to Hong Kong's law making Legislative Council in September, a Hong Kong newspaper cited a top Chinese official as saying, as tensions in the city over independence remain high.

Beijing refusal grant the former British colony full democracy has embittered a younger generation of activists, which culminated in massive protests in 2014.

And political tensions remain, with a riot in the tough, working-class neighbourhood of Mong Kok in February and strong voter support for an activist leader who placed third in a legislative council by-election in February.

"It will be normal that several radical young people will be returned as lawmakers (in September)," Feng Wei, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office in Beijing, told *South China Morning Post* in

an interview.

"Politics is the process of putting theories into practise. Young people participating in politics, including radicals, will gradually mature," Feng said in the interview, which was seen to be the first interview given to Hong Kong media by a top Beijing official handling Hong Kong's affairs since the early 1990s.

Hong Kong is set to hold a full legislative council poll later in the year, pitting a pro-democracy camp that now enjoys a slender one-third veto bloc against pro-Beijing and pro-establishment parties.

Feng said the central government was "very concerned" about the rise of radicalism and was analysing the reasons behind the phenomenon. He said the tendency of resorting to violence was notable in the Mong Kok riot.

"Perhaps in a certain period in future, this is a phenomenon which will merit increasingly more of our attention, though this



Pro-democracy protesters carrying yellow umbrellas, symbol of the Occupy Central civil disobedience movement, gather outside government headquarters in Hong Kong, China in 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

is something we do not want to see," Feng added.

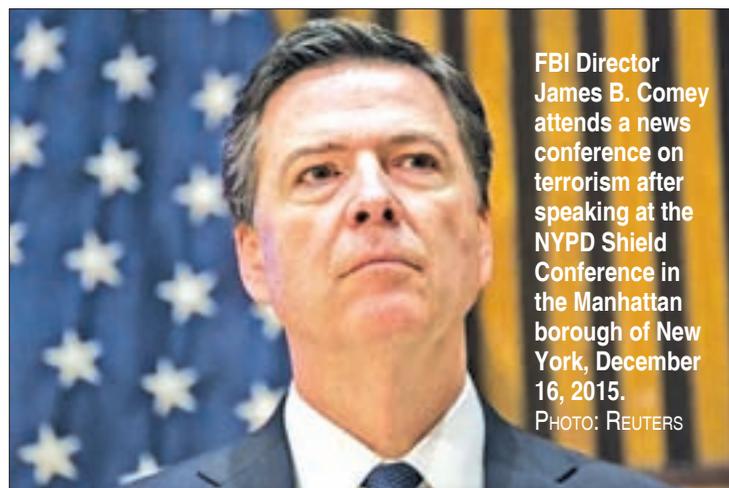
Hong Kong, a former British colony that returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula that gives it a high degree of autonomy. Feng said supporters of sep-

aratism and independence are a minority who do not represent the mainstream Hong Kong population, and he understands the frustrations of youths amid the city's sluggish economy growth. The median income has barely risen in the past two decades, while

property prices had surged.

But Feng said Beijing could also improve communications and understanding of Hong Kong people, and needed to learn to express its thoughts in a language Hong Kong people could comprehend and accept.—*Reuters*

China calls for FBI cooperation in internet security, counter-terrorism



FBI Director James B. Comey attends a news conference on terrorism after speaking at the NYPD Shield Conference in the Manhattan borough of New York, December 16, 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China wants to have deeper internet security and anti-terrorism cooperation with the United States, China's public security minister told the visiting director of the FBI, state news agency Xinhua said.

Meeting in Beijing, the minister, Guo Shengkun, told James B. Comey that China was willing to enhance strategic mutual trust and the respect of each others core interests, Xinhua said late on Monday. The two countries should "deepen law enforcement and security cooperation in the fields of internet security and counter-terrorism", the report paraphrased Guo as saying. Comey said the Federal Bureau of Investigation was willing to push forward pragmatic cooperation, Xinhua said.

The report did not elaborate.

Hacking has been a sore spot in U.S.-China relations. In September, President Barack Obama

said he and Chinese President Xi Jinping had agreed that neither government would knowingly support cyber theft of corporate secrets to support domestic businesses. China has also been seeking more counter-terrorism cooperation with Western countries, which the West has generally been unwilling to give, fearful of complicity in possible human rights abuses in China. China has blamed Islamist militants for violence in its far western region of Xinjiang, where hundreds have been killed in the last few years.

Rights groups and exiles say the problem stems more from anger at Chinese controls on the religion and culture of the Muslim Uighur people who call Xinjiang home, rather than from any cohesive militant group.

China strongly denies any rights abuses in Xinjiang or elsewhere.—*Reuters*

Malaysian police to deport Australian journalists, no charges pressed

SYDNEY — Two Australian journalists who were arrested after approaching Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak on Saturday will not face charges, with Malaysian police instead deciding to deport them, it was announced on Tuesday.

Linton Besser, 39, and Louie Eroglu, 51, journalists with the Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC), were questioned and held for six hours by police before being released on bail early on Sunday.

They were investigated on the grounds of allegedly obstructing a public servant in the

discharge of his public functions.

Police initially retained their passports and issued instructions for the pair not to leave the country. As of Monday their passports were returned, but the order not to leave Malaysia remained while a decision was made on whether to press charges.

ABC reported late on Monday that it expected the two men to be charged. However, early on Tuesday, Malaysian authorities announced that charges would not be pressed.

"The police received instructions from the Deputy Pub-

lic Prosecutor that no charges will be filed against the two. Instead, they will be deported from the country," the head of Malaysia's Criminal Investigation Department, Dev Kumar, said in a statement.

Fellow ABC journalist Adam Harvey said on Twitter that Besser and Eroglu had left Malaysia on Tuesday.

The pair had been dispatched to cover the prime minister's official visit to Sarawak.

Their arrests sparked concerns from the Australian government over freedom of speech.—*Kyodo News*

Australia to introduce tax incentives to encourage startup investment

SYDNEY — Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday his government will this week introduce legislation to stimulate greater investment in startups - as Australia looks to transition its economy away from a slowing mining sector.

Australia has proposed amended tax laws that would allow retail investors a 20 per cent income tax rebate, capped at \$200,000 per year on any startup investments, while a 10 per cent tax rebate for venture capital investors in established start-ups

wishing to expand will also be permitted.

Turnbull said the legislation will be introduced as early as Wednesday.

The new tax laws are a key element of Australia's plan to encourage greater risk-taking to ease the pain of an economic transition amid an end to the investment phase of a lucrative mining boom that sustained its economy for more than a decade.

"We have been from an economy that was fired up by the mining construction boom...

but inevitably it was going to tail off so what comes next? What comes next is innovation," Turnbull told reporters in Canberra.

Australia consistently ranks last or second-last among OECD countries for business-research collaboration, data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shows. Its appetite for risk is also lower than comparable countries, which means Australian startups and early-stage businesses often fail to attract capital to grow.—*Reuters*

OPINION

Citizens can make or break a great state

Khin Maung Aye

ALTHOUGH people are talking about rights, they tend to forget that rights imply duties. Matter-of-factly, rights and duties are the two sides of the same coin. The state guarantees certain fundamental rights to the citizens. At the same time, citizens are expected to perform certain duties and obligations. A duty implies an obligation to do or not to do something.

In this regard, it is worth mentioning that rights are limited in the sense that they impose upon the individual the duty to see that he does

not interfere in any way with the enjoyment of similar rights of others. In fact, every right involves an obligation to use it properly. When the word duty is mentioned, it should be noted that duties may be legal and/or moral; a moral duty is recognised and enforced by our sense of morality and justice whereas the legal duties entail punishment by the state in the event of non-performance.

Amidst the important duties, allegiance or loyalty to the state is the supreme duty of a citizen, who must not betray his country's interests. Secondly, to respect the constitution is the sacred duty of every citizens. Again, a citizen must be law abiding. Thirdly, citizens should pay their taxes honestly and readily. In fact, evasion of taxes is an offence in all states. In the fourth place, the most fundamental political right of a citizen is the right to vote. However, citizens ought to exercise this right honestly and sincerely, for bad and dishonest choice results in the election of corrupt and dishonest representatives. In the fifth place, every citizen has a duty to

render public service when called upon to do so. Likewise, those elected or appointed to public offices should render their services honestly and efficiently without fear or favour. In a nutshell, citizens should actively participate in the management of public affairs, developing public spirit and social conscience.

The Global New Light of Myanmar (GNLM) would like to encourage all citizens to be dutiful being aware that a state is what its citizens make it.

Write for us

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

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

My Oslo Journey

Maung Phyo (WYU)

“TRAVEL when you cannot read a book”, an English saying goes. To me, I prefer both. I also like to read while travelling. Therefore, I was over the moon when I was invited to a conference in Oslo, Norway, last August. Having made necessary preparations, I set out on my journey to Oslo from the Mingaladon International Airport quietly early in the morning. After three-hour long flight, our plane landed in Guangzhou, China. I had to proceed to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and thence, Oslo, Norway. Normally, I was to wait for transit to Amsterdam for about 5 hours at Gaungzhou. However, a flight delay added two hours to the primary waiting time in the departure lounge. Then, I flew to Amsterdam for about 10 hours. From the skies, the landscape in Amsterdam was superb. About an hour later, I found myself stepping down the escalator in Oslo airport.

I espied a middle-age monk waving at us in the arrival lounge. He is the abbot of Wat Thai Monastery. In fact, “Wat” is a Thai word for “Monastery”. With radiant smiles, he approached us, asking “Are you from Myanmar?” in Thai accent. I replied in the affirmative. Then, we shook hands and he walked us to a van waiting outside the airport. He spoke English quite slowly on our way to the van. I did not expect a Thai monk to come to fetch us to a hotel. So I asked why my friend had not showed up for reception. The monk replied he was requested by my friend to come on the latter's behalf as my friend was occupied with preparations for the upcoming conference. When we saw the van, another monk scurried to-

wards us. He greeted on the way to ushering us to our seats and I noticed his language fluency. He had been an interpreter for us throughout our stay at the monastery. He added that my friend would come to Wat Thai late in the afternoon to take me to the hotel.

I said, “I made it” for it was my first journey abroad. I was invited to a Conference in Oslo, Norway. The Conference would last for two days and we had a few days after it to go sightseeing. Wat Thai monastery is located on a hillock in the uptown area of Oslo. The traffic was light and so, just a 25-minute drive took us to the monastery. Wat Thai is a very beautiful two-story building flanked by wide meadows. The weather was pleasantly cool even in broad daylight. In due north of the monastery, the wheat fields seemed to extend to the horizon. The yellow plants were swaying in the breeze with the blue sky in the background. Spellbound by the nature, I made a pause and looked around before entering the monastery. How nice it would be if I managed to bring my family and all my colleagues here to enjoy the beauty of nature! I thought. In the mean time, my friend nudged me out of my daydream. As I entered the monastery, two women came to greet me “Sawadikhab” with hands put up like a lotus bud. I followed suit. Then, they started to chat in Thai and I in English. Only then did they dissolve into laughter, saying “we mistook you for a Thai.”

They treated us with Thai-style lunch, undeniably delicious one. During the lunch, our interpreter said they ran the monastery with the financial support of the Norwegian Government. To the

best of my knowledge, other religious communities in Oslo also run with the same financial source. Therefore, Norway is a religious pluralistic society. In fact, the term “Norway” itself stands for “Gateway to the North”, connotatively referring to its geographical position. Officially, it is the kingdom of Norway, a sovereign and unitary monarchy. Oslo, the capital of Norway, is surrounded by beautiful nature innermost on Norway's fifth longest fjord. It was made the capital of Norway early in the mid 11th century by King Harald Hardrade. It now becomes a modern city with numerous attractions.

Two hours later, my friend called at the monastery in his van. We drove to Scandic Victoria Hotel near the gulf. The roads are not as wide as those here in Myanmar. However, a bicycle-lane is marked in red paint on each road. I ducked to get into my friend's car and seated myself. My friend was struggling with starting the engine for a few seconds. He turned to me and reminded me to fasten the seatbelt. Only then, the car jerked forward on the road. It was still late summer. So, many couples were on their walking tour and a few senior citizens strolling with their walking stick. They beamed with pleasure of life.

It was just a 20-minute drive from Wat Thai Temple to the Scandic Victoria Hotel. This was probably due to the light traffic. Upon our arrival at the hotel, my friend and I checked into it with my friend credit card. Scandic Victoria looked a historic building with a spacious restaurant flanked by four high-rise buildings that house the hotel rooms. The restaurant runs with the buffet system so the guests can have their fill up to

their heart's content. Sometimes, when an Indian chef is around in his shift, Indian food like Puri and Prata tend to be available. Bread eaters can enjoy myriad kinds of bread in addition to minced meat, sliced beef, cheese and a variety of fruits and vegetable.

Out of fatigue from a day-long flight, I stretched up in the room. The clock struck 7. The sun was still beaming through the high-rise buildings. My Norwegian friends said the sunset would start at 9 pm in Oslo especially at this time of year, August. While in Oslo, I liked to watch the famous midnight sun in the northern part. Besides, I also wanted to boat through the fjords that characterize the topography of Norway. From my window in the hotel room, a picturesque scenery was a clean and well-lit back lane and Oslo bay standing at quite a distance.

Next morning, we breakfasted with professors and scholars from other countries. We made a great team with a simple and friendly conversation. At about 9 am, we took a leisurely stroll to Norwegian Center for Human Rights from our hotel. At the conference and the follow-up workshop hosted by the Buddhist Federation Norway, researchers read their papers and engaged themselves in a lively symposium. We lunched together in an adjoining room. We had a decent meal with local fruits and vegetable.

After the conference, we walked back to the hotel. The android cameras flashed on the way amid the hearty conversation. It was like a walking tour indeed. Pausing at a red building, Dr Ise-lin explained that it was a governmental beverage shop that runs with its specific regulations.

Next morning, we went some sightseeing in Oslo such as Oslo Opera House, the Palace, the Oslo City Hall, the unique Vigeland Sculpture Park and the Munch Museum. We feasted our eyes

upon the works of Gustav Vigeland and of Edvard Munch. The day luncheon took place at a small restaurant Oslo harbor. Norwegian fish soup with unique taste made an impression for me. I overheard two venerable monks from Sri Lanka ordering vegetarian dishes. A few moments later, the waitress brought before them two plates full of green leaves lined by carrot slices. They could not help but munch such vegetarian food. That evening, we dined at a Chinese restaurant, another treat of my Norwegian friends.

Beauty of Nature reaches its peak in Oslo especially during spring and late summer. It is absolutely right. Mother Nature reveals her beauty to its fullest. Vast wheat fields stretched away towards the skyline, sometimes lined by grasslands with the cloudless, blue sky in the background.

Next morning, Mr Egil Lothe, President of Buddhist Federation Norway, saw us off at the airport. We went there by train. Oslo railway system is, in my opinion, a credit to Norway. That leisurely ride took us about 15 minutes to get to the airport. What an efficient service by the railway department! Though having already online-booked the air-tickets, I had to take it out in a self-service machine. After a day-long return flight, I set my foot on Yangon again.

At the time of penning this article, the cold season has already made its way to Yangon. I wish I were there in Oslo again. Oslo would embrace me with her snowflakes scattered on the road during this season. I like to muse on watching them fall to the ground with a cup of yogurt. I think I will visit it again when things move in my favor.

Maung Phyo is an editor of Myanmar Cultural Research Journal.

8 mile junction flyover bridge opens to traffic



Bird's eye view of the 8 mile junction flyover. PHOTO: TIN HLA MAUNG

THE 8 mile junction flyover bridge, which cost K15.5 billion, was opened to traffic yesterday ahead of the designated schedule.

It has been constructed at the junction of KabaAye Pagoda road and Kyaikwaing Pagoda road and Pyay road.

The total length of the flyover constructed by the Crown Advanced Construction company is 525 metres. It has four traffic

lanes. It is a type of steel plate plus steel box girder bridge and can withstand 75 tonne loads.

“The opening of the flyover 15 days ahead of designated schedule can reduce the traffic jam on this road.” “While constructing the flyover, traffic jams occurred at this junction. Now no one need to wait at the traffic light. The drivers can easily drive along the Pyay road to the new highway including Yan-

gon International Airport,” said U Than Swe, the Project Director of the Crown Advanced Construction company.

The bridge will ease the traffic congestion to a certain extent, said Police Captain Soe Naing. “I was disappointed with the traffic jams before. Now with the opening of the bridge it will make us all happy.” said a resident near the 8 mile junction flyover.—*Soe Win (SP)*

Traditional earthen monk alms bowl manufacturing likely to fade away



Traditional earthen alms bowls. PHOTO: TEINTAMAN

THE manufacturing of traditional earthen alms bowl seems to be fading away due to the promoting and replacing of high technology devices.

People in BawngdawNaing-ngan village, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, have

made their livings for centuries by producing traditional earthen hand-made alms bowls to be purchased by Buddhists and donated to monks.

Currently only one family remains in the crafting industry of traditional monk begging

(alms) bowls due to a low demand and the replacing of fibre and steel alms bowls.

And only two markets in Pakokku and Nyaung Oo Township are available for making the earthen monk alms bowl.—*Teintaman*

Talks on how to invest in First ever Myanmar stock exchange held in MDY



The ceremony in progress. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO(MDY)

TALKS on investment in first Myanmar stock exchange was held at the Hotel Marvel in Mandalay on Sunday, 13 March.

At the ceremony, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr. Maung Maung Theim explained how to buy and invest in Stock share. Myanmar first Stock Exchange has been launched since December 2015, and Deputy finance minister Maung Maung

Theim told that six financially strong companies which abide by discipline and are competent, are allowed to sell stock shares. The companies will sell stock shares with effect from 25 March 2016. The deputy minister urged the public to invest in the stock share market. The deputy minister replied to the queries shot by the attendees.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

THANKS for the report, White tiger gives birth to three cubs at Nay Pyi Taw Zoo (GNLM, March 6); indeed it is a great news and a time for celebration as the birth of the rare white tiger in Myanmar. The image of eternal motherhood in the form of the tigress suckling her three new born cubs is indeed a heart warming picture and the photo is greatly appreciated. However, just one technical fact that needs to be corrected is that the white tigress has been mentioned to be African. There is no wild tiger ever reported in Africa. Unless the report intend to suggest that the white tigress came from an African zoo like her male partner from China; it is important to mention that all white tigers have their origin from the erstwhile Central Indian princely state of Rewa in current day Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. The maharaja (king) of this princely state first noticed white tiger in the central Indian forest for the first time and captured one for captive breeding. This is the first report of captive breeding of wild species in the entire south and SE Asia. The breeding of these white tiger as the primary genetic stock lead to the generation all the white tiger blood lines; that are currently observed in all zoological gardens across the planet. India has one of the world's largest captive breed white tiger populations in the whole world. None of these is available in the wild any more as the mutation of white fur does not help the animal to survive successfully to survive in the wild for being easily detected by the prey species as well due to the fact they are vulnerable to poaching.

On a second note, a recent alarming report featuring the death of an endangered tigress in the Nagaland state in India adjoining Myanmar border has been extremely sad and morbid. The incident clearly highlights the sorry state of wildlife conservation and conservation awareness in India. However, what has been important to note that this is the first time a tigress or for that matter a tiger species was reported and poached in Nagaland adjoining Myanmar. There has been no report of existence of tiger in this state even from the British colonial period. The Indian government suggested that possibly the tiger migrated from the adjoining state of Assam that has substantial tiger population (Bengal tiger). However, what everyone has been missing that this could be a Indo-Chinese tigress that may have moved across Myanmar into Nagaland state of India. It is extremely sad if a rare species Like Indochinese has been poached by the villagers in Nagaland. There needs to be collaboration and joint management of forests around the highly biodiverse Indo-Myanmar border region. Unless stringent measures are adopted nationwide more such sad incidents like the recent one in Nagaland are expected.

Thanking you

Sincerely yours

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Macedonia says returned about 1,500 migrants to Greece



Migrants walk through a forest as they look for a way to cross the Greek-Macedonian border, near the village of Idomeni, Greece, on 14 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

SKOPJE — Macedonia has sent about 1,500 migrants and refugees who crossed the border on Monday back to Greece, Macedonian police said yesterday.

Most of the migrants, who marched out of the Idomeni transit camp in northern Greece on Monday and got around a border fence, had been taken back to Greece on Monday or overnight on trucks, an official said.

Greece's Deputy Defence Minister Dimitris Vitsas said he could neither confirm nor deny the reports.

Reporters and aid officials on the scene said the migrants had been left at the Greek border and that there were migrants on both the Greek and Macedonian sides of the border.

The 1,500 migrants hiked for hours along muddy paths and forded a rain-swollen river to get around the border fence where they were detained by Macedonian security forces.

About 30 reporters, including a Reuters photographer, were also detained.

A second group of about 600 migrants was prevented from crossing into Macedonia on Monday and many of these spent the night camping in the Greek mountains, according to a Reuters photographer.

At least 12,000 people, including thousands of children, have been stranded in the Idomeni camp, their path to the EU blocked after Macedonia and other nations along the so-called Western Balkan route closed their borders.

European Union leaders are trying to stem a flow of migrants and refugees that brought more than a million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and beyond to the EU since early 2015.

They are due to hold a new summit with Turkey this week to seal an agreement intended to halt the exodus.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said yesterday there was "no chance" border shutdowns throughout the Balkans would be lifted and urged refugees to move to reception centres set up by the state.

Jan van't Land, an official with medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres at Idomeni, said around 400 migrants had returned to Idomeni camp.

"There are still many hundreds of people on both the Greek and the Macedonian side of the border," he told Reuters.

Conditions at the Idomeni camp have deteriorated after days of heavy rain. Scuffles have broken out there in recent days as destitute people scrambled for food and firewood, while many have been sleeping in the open. Concern about the spread of infection grew after one person was diagnosed with Hepatitis A.

Greek officials say leaflets that circulated at the Idomeni camp before Monday's march showed it was planned.

"We are in possession of leaflets that show this was an organised incident, a very dangerous one, endangering people's lives," Greek government spokesman George Kyritsis told reporters on Monday evening.

Babar Baloch, regional spokesman for UN refugee agency UNHCR who is at Idomeni, said the migrants' breakout and return "hasn't solved anything."

"It just increased sufferings of refugees. It started raining again. The sense of support for refugees in the region is missing," he said.—Reuters

Trump looks to unite Republicans with wins in Florida, Ohio

TAMPA — Donald Trump could take a giant step on Tuesday toward securing the Republican presidential nomination if he wins the Florida and Ohio primaries, which would intensify pressure for rivals from the party establishment to step down from the race.

Trump has the potential to sweep five big states holding nominating contests for the 8 November election -- Florida, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina and Missouri. He could knock out two of competing contenders, Ohio Governor John Kasich and US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, if he wins their states.

The New York real estate tycoon has a significant lead over Rubio in opinion polls in Florida, but is neck and neck with Kasich in Ohio. Any win by either Rubio, Kasich or US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas would give at least a small degree of hope to Republicans bat-

ting to deny Trump the nomination. But Trump said yesterday he expected the day's results at the ballot box to draw in the establishment Republicans who had balked at his candidacy.

"They're already calling," he told NBC's "Today" programme, without naming names. "The biggest people in the party are calling."

He planned a news conference at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, yesterday night. Trump victories in the five states could make what once seemed inconceivable a virtual reality, putting the 69-year-old New York real estate mogul who has vowed to deport 11 million illegal immigrants and impose some protectionist trade policies, on a glide path to representing the Republican Party in the November election.

On the Democratic side, for-

mer Secretary of State Hillary Clinton can put some distance between herself and rival Bernie Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, in Tuesday's voting.

Opinion polls gave her a big lead in Florida and North Carolina, but showed Sanders gaining ground in Ohio, Illinois and Missouri, a possibly worrisome sign for Clinton after Sanders' surprise victory in Michigan a week ago.

Trump held rallies in Florida, Ohio and North Carolina on Monday and said establishment Republicans who have laboured to stop his outsider candidacy needed to rally to his cause. An outbreak of clashes between Trump supporters and protesters that forced him to cancel a rally in Chicago on Friday, and scattered protests at some of his campaign events this week have prompted more concerns from mainstream party figures.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran says missiles for self defence, tests do not violate nuclear deal

CANBERRA — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said yesterday its ballistic missiles were for self-defence and that recent tests condemned by the United States did not violate an historic nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers.

Speaking in Australia, Zarif said that the missiles tested last week would never be used in aggression. The tests drew international concern and prompted a meeting on Monday of the 15-nation Security Council.—Reuters

Berlin police suspect explosive device caused car to explode, driver dead

BERLIN — German police said they suspect an explosive device caused a car to explode and kill the driver on a road in central Berlin yesterday morning. Berlin police sealed off the area.

A spokesman said one man, the driver, had been killed in the explosion. Bomb experts were on the scene investigating whether there were any further explosives and officers told residents in the area to stay indoors and keep their windows shut.

The explosion took place on a wide street in the Charlottenburg western district of Berlin and the car, a Volkswagen Passat, was heading towards the city centre.

No further details are available.—Reuters

Ukrainian party has buried idea of technocrat government

KIEV — Ukraine's reformist Samopomich party has effectively buried lawmakers' plans to replace Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk's government with a technocrat cabinet, a senior lawmaker in President Petro Poroshenko's party said on Tuesday.

Poroshenko's party wants Yatseniuk to resign and the president held talks with other parties yesterday night about possible replacements, including the technocrat Finance Minister Natalia Yaresko. The idea of a technocrat government "was basically buried yesterday by Samopomich's announcement that it will not join any new coalition under any kind of government," Yuriy Lutsenko told parliament.—Reuters

Venezuela says 14 bodies found are among 21 missing from massacre

CARACAS — Investigators have found the remains of at least 14 people presumed to be among 21 miners who went missing over a week ago after a massacre near a gold mine in Venezuela's violent southern jungle, authorities said on Monday.

The remains were found buried in a common grave about 5 metres (16.4 feet) deep, government ombudsman Tarek Saab said in an interview with local news station Globovision.

Chief prosecutor Luis Ortega earlier in the day told the same TV station that investigators were still seeking to determine the motive for the crime.

The massacre took place near Tumeremo, in Bolivar state, with some witnesses cited by local media, relatives and politicians as saying that a gang shot the miners and cut some up with a chain saw on 4 March. The case has shaken Venezuelans, even though the country suffers one of the world's highest murder rates. The government has pointed the finger at foreign paramilitaries, while opponents have accused security forces of being negligent. Gang fights are common in the vast and remote area near the borders of Guyana and Brazil, which is riddled with illegal mines. Arrest warrants have been issued for three people, including an Ecuadorean, Ortega said. One woman had been arrested and is due to appear in court in the city of Puerto Ordaz on Tuesday.—Reuters

First group of Russian war planes leaves Syria for Russia

MOSCOW — The first group of Russian war planes has left Russia's Hmeymim air base in Syria and begun the long journey home, Russia's Defence Ministry said yesterday.

The group included Sukhoi-34 fighter-bombers. The ministry said each group will be led home by either a Tupolev-154 passenger plane or an Ilyushin-76 transport aircraft carrying engineers, technical personnel, and cargo.—Reuters

Clashes spread to new areas of southeast Turkey after bombing

DIYARBAKIR, (Turkey) — Four people were killed in clashes between security forces and Kurdish militants yesterday, security sources said, as fighting widened in southeast Turkey following a suicide bombing that killed 37 people in the capital Ankara.

Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighters blocked roads and halted vehicles in the Kaynaratepe neighbourhood of the city of Diyarbakir and clashed with security forces sporadically through the night as a police helicopter flew overhead, witnesses said.

No one has claimed responsibility for Sunday's car bomb that tore through a crowded transport hub in Ankara, but security officials have said it involved two militants, one of them female, from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

Violence has surged in mainly Kurdish southeast Turkey since a 2-1/2 year PKK ceasefire collapsed in July. The militants have focused their strikes on security forces in southeastern towns, some of which have been under curfew.

One police officer and three militants were killed in the fighting in the Baglar district of the



A man runs to take cover as Turkish riot police use a water cannon to disperse Kurdish demonstrators during a protest against a curfew in Sur district and security operations in the region, in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, Turkey, on 2 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

southeastern city of Diyarbakir, the security sources said.

A curfew was imposed in Baglar's Kaynaratepe neighbourhood from 3am (0100 GMT) after moves by militants to set up barricades, dig ditches and plant

explosives, authorities said.

The curfew was later widened to encompass more city streets as clashes continued in the morning. Gunfire and explosions rang out across the city and police in armoured vehicles parked

on street corners called for people to stay inside. Conflict in Diyarbakir, the southeast's largest city, has until now has been focused in the Sur district, parts of which have been devastated by the fighting.—Reuters

Mexico City issues pollution alert over high ozone concentration

MEXICO CITY — Mexico City's government ordered traffic restrictions on Tuesday and recommended people stay indoors due to serious air pollution, issuing its second-highest alert warning for ozone levels for the first time in 13 years.

While conditions persisted, residents were better off inside between 1pm and 7pm, should refrain from vigorous exercise in the open and curb sporting activities to avoid respiratory problems, the city said in a statement on Monday.

The government said the alert stemmed from an "extraordinary increase" in ozone concentration due to the presence of a high pressure system and intense solar radiation around greater Mexico City, which is home to more than 20 million people.

Not since September 2002 had the city issued a "phase one" pollution warning for elevated levels of ozone. A phase one alert was last issued for particle pollution on New Year's Day 2005, a time when air quality was likely affected by heavy use of firecrackers, a city official said.—Reuters

In secret meetings, Taliban rejected Pakistan pressure on peace process

ISLAMABAD/PESHAWAR — Pakistani officials threatened to expel Afghanistan's Taliban from bases in Pakistan if they did not join peace talks this month, but the militants rebuffed their traditional patron, two officials said, casting doubt on how much influence Islamabad retains over them.

After the secret meetings with Pakistani officials about two weeks ago, the Taliban's Supreme Council met at an undisclosed location and voted to reject the talks scheduled for early March with the Afghan government, according to a council member.

Instead, the insurgents are now pouring back into Afghanistan for what they say will be a fierce spring offensive to be launched soon.

Pakistan's influence over the insurgents is the lynchpin to the peace plan developed over last few months by Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States and China to bring an end to the 15-year-old war in Afghanistan.

A Pakistani official in Islamabad said the Taliban's recent success on the battlefield inside Afghanistan had changed the equation.

"They no longer need their

Pakistan bases in the same way, so if Pakistan threatens to expel them, it does not have the same effect," said the official, a retired military officer close to the talks.

The insurgents have won new zones of influence — if not outright control — from Afghan security forces since the United States and its allies pulled most combat troops from Afghanistan at the end of 2014, Afghan and Western officials acknowledge.

"Pakistan's trump card - safe havens on its soil - is in danger of being snatched away," said Michael Kugelmann of the Woodrow Wilson Institute, a Washington-based think tank.

"The Taliban have little incentive to step off the battlefield now, given recent gains and those likely to come in the next few months. In effect, why quit while you're ahead?"

Nafees Zakaria, a spokesman for Pakistan's Foreign Office, said he had no knowledge of meetings with the Taliban but added, "We usually don't know who has met with whom" in the sensitive and high-level peace initiative.

In Kabul, however, members of the Afghan government were sceptical about Pakistan's assertions.

"Pakistan's honesty and sincerity with regard to the Afghan peace process has always been a question," said an Afghan cabinet member, echoing the sentiment of several officials interviewed there.

Pakistan's military has long been accused of fostering the Taliban as a way of pursuing regional rivalry with India.

Pakistani officials, however, deny the charge and insist the government and military recognise that Afghanistan's war threatens their own security.

A member of the Taliban's leadership council, or shura, whose members are mostly based in Pakistan and Afghanistan but also travel between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, said rebel representatives met in Islamabad with Pakistani officials a little more than two weeks ago.

"They have asked our representatives to bring more decision-making people to the next meeting ... to the meeting with US and Afghan officials. This is their dream, but they will not be able to see our senior commanders," the Taliban council member said.

A senior Pakistani security official with knowledge of the talks said: "I don't think the talks



File photo shows a member of Afghan security forces holding up his rifle as he walks at the site of an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 12 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

are dead, but they are definitely plagued by a serious illness.

"The ones who are in Pakistan ... We have told them repeatedly that they will have to leave if they don't participate in the process," the Pakistani official said.

"We have done what we can ... but influence does not mean control. Those days are long gone."

The Taliban source had knowledge of, but did not attend, the meeting with Pakistani offi-

cial in Islamabad. He was at the subsequent Taliban council meeting to decide on whether to join the peace talks.

The pro-talks camp largely comprised supporters of nominal Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour, believed to be hiding in Pakistan after being shot in a leadership dispute last year and rumoured killed, and his chief rival, Mullah Mohammad Rasoul, who is believed to be in Afghanistan.—Reuters

Herders suffer as Nigeria army shuts cattle trade to fight Boko Haram

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria) — A Nigerian government push to strangle the Boko Haram insurgency has shut down the cattle trade that sustained the city of Maiduguri, leaving many residents with no livelihood, including many of the two million people displaced by the war.

In recent months the army has taken back much of the territory lost to the jihadists during the five-year insurgency.

But the war, which killed thousands of people, is still taking its toll in the northeast, despite President Muhammadu Buhari's vow to crush Boko Haram by the end of last year.

The group, now officially allied to the Islamic State fighters who control much of Iraq and Syria, has responded with suicide bombings and hit and run attacks against civilians.

In the latest shock to civilians, meat has become



A man holds a cow at the cattle market in Maiduguri, Nigeria, on 9 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

scarce as the army has closed cattle markets to stop Boko Haram from raising funds by selling livestock, officials say.

The shutdown of the Maiduguri cattle market — one of the biggest in west Africa — has, overnight,

made hundreds of cattle traders, herdsman, butchers and labourers unemployed.

"We are suffering," said Usama Malla, a cattle herdsman who lost his job. While he spoke, an angry crowd quickly gathered to criticise the government.

"We want compensation," others demanded.

The sprawling market had been one of the main employment opportunities for the more than one million displaced people who live in camps on the outskirts of the town after

fleeing Boko Haram. Officials say they were forced to shut the market because Boko Haram has resorted to stealing cattle from villagers to feed its fighters and raise funds after the army pushed it out of cities. Cattle looting has displaced its previous sources of income: robbing banks and kidnapping wealthy people.

The market closure has disrupted beef supplies in Maiduguri and the rest of Borno state, adding to the hardship of people who have long complained of poverty and neglect in the north — struggles that prompted some to join Boko Haram's revolt.

"I cannot afford meat anymore," said Musa Abdullahi, a labourer sipping milk sold by a female street vendor. He said he has to feed two wives and nine children, and can't remember the last time he was able to buy meat for the family. "I used to get a piece of

meat for 350 naira (\$1.75), now it costs 900."

Borno state governor Kashim Shettima said he had reopened the Maiduguri market to trade existing stock but banned the arrival of any new cattle for two weeks so authorities could identify sellers.

"There were suspicious persons who sold cattle which they had bought from Boko Haram," he said. "This is financing the terrorists."

The closure has left some 400 animals dying in trucks stopped by the army on the way to Maiduguri, traders said.

Officials say authorities plan to distribute food and find jobs for the city's youth. But options are limited as a slump in vital oil revenues has undermined Buhari's plans to develop the north, which is poorer than the mostly Christian south, where Nigeria pumps its oil.—Reuters

Mass killer Breivik makes Nazi salute as he sues Norway for 'inhuman treatment'

SKIEN, (Norway) — Mass killer Anders Behring Breivik made a Nazi salute at the start of a court case yesterday in which he is accusing the Norwegian state of inhuman treatment by keeping him in isolation after he massacred 77 people in 2011. The far right militant appeared in public for the first time since his 2012 trial. In that time, he has had just one visitor, his mother, who was allowed into prison and gave him a hug shortly before she died of cancer in 2013.

Wearing a black suit, white shirt and golden tie, the 37-year-old raised his

right arm in a Nazi salute as he arrived. He did not say anything. He had shaven off a beard and short blond hair from the previous trial.

It was considered too dangerous to hear the case in Oslo and the court is sitting inside the prison's gymnasium, whose walls are lined with timber wall bars and a climbing wall as well as two basketball hoops. Breivik will argue that his isolation in Skien jail violates a ban on "inhuman and degrading treatment" under the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as depriving him of a right to family life.—Reuters

Zimbabwe says up to 4 million need food aid after drought

HARARE — The number of Zimbabweans requiring food aid has risen to 4 million, up from 3 million initially, a state-owned newspaper said yesterday, as the southern African nation grapples with its worst drought in more than two decades.

An El Niño induced-drought has hit Zimbabwe hard and last month it appealed for \$1.6 billion in aid to help pay for grain and other food.

"Indications are that the figure of vulnerable households requiring food assistance could be as high as four million people," Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Minister Prisca Mupfumira told the

Herald newspaper.

Mupfumira was not immediately available for further comment.

She said government stocks of maize, the staple food, were 91,326 tonnes as of 10 March - enough to last three months. Mupfumira did not give details of stocks held by private millers and farmers.

The government has issued licences to private millers to import grain while organisations such as the United Nations' World Food Programme are feeding 1 million people.

The drought and low mineral commodity prices are taking their toll on the economy, with finance minister Patrick Chinama-



A villager uses a wheelbarrow to collect a monthly food ration provided by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Masvingo, Zimbabwe, on 25 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

sa saying last week it was "under siege".

Farmers have already lost cattle and crops and fear more pain as the year progresses.

The El Niño weather pattern has also brought poor rains to other countries in the region, including South Africa, its biggest maize grower.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (284)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (284) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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UN chief furious with Morocco over Western Sahara demonstration

UNITED NATIONS — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told Morocco's foreign minister on Monday he was angered and disappointed by a demonstration in Rabat he said was a personal attack on him over remarks he made about the disputed territory of Western Sahara.

Tens of thousands of Moroccans marched through the capital on Sunday to protest Ban's position on Western Sahara and rally support for the king.

Ban "conveyed his astonishment at the recent statement of the government

of Morocco and expressed his deep disappointment and anger regarding the demonstration that was mobilized on Sunday, which targeted him in person," Ban's press office said in an unusually tough statement.

"He stressed that such attacks are disrespectful to him and to the United Nations," said the statement, which was issued after he met with Moroccan Foreign Minister Salaheddine Mezouar.

Rabat accused Ban last week of no longer being neutral in the Western Sahara conflict, saying he used

the word "occupation" to describe Morocco's presence in the region that has been at the centre of a dispute since 1975.

The United Nations acknowledges he used the term. Monday's statement said there was a misunderstanding over his use of the word "occupation," noting it was Ban's "personal reaction to the deplorable humanitarian conditions in which the Sahrawi refugees have lived in for far too long."

The UN statement issued on Monday evening said Ban asked Mezouar for "clarification regarding the

reported presence of several members of the Moroccan government among the demonstrators."

State news agency MAP said 3 million people attended Sunday's march, although those figures could not be confirmed. Some protesters said they were bussed for free to the march and that trains had also been free for the day of the rally.

The dispute over the region in the northwest edge of Africa has dragged on since Morocco took control over most of it in 1975 after the withdrawal of former colonial power Spain.—Reuters

Brazil's Lula likely to take cabinet position — source

SAO PAULO/BRASILIA — Brazil's former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will likely accept a position in President Dilma Rousseff's cabinet but plans to travel to Brasilia on Tuesday to discuss his options with her in person, a source said on Monday.

Brazil's top three papers also reported late on Monday that Lula was expected to accept a ministerial position in the coming days, after a crusading federal judge was given jurisdiction to rule over money laundering charges presented against him.

Any decision to arrest Lula would now be made by Federal Judge Sergio Moro, who oversees a sweeping investigation into kickbacks at state-run oil firm Petrobras and approved the detention of dozens of senior executives. State prosecutors filed for the arrest of Lula last week after charging him with money laundering for concealing ownership of a beachfront condo, in a case that had been separate from the investigation overseen by Moro in the southern city

of Curitiba. Accepting a cabinet position would give Lula immunity from Moro, though not from Brazil's Supreme Court. The source said Lula, Rousseff's predecessor and political mentor, was nearly convinced he should take the position. It was not yet decided whether he should be Rousseff's chief of staff or replace the minister in charge of legislative affairs, Ricardo Berzoini, the source said. Sao Paulo Judge Maria Priscilla Oliveira said in a decision on Monday the state prosecutors' case had an "undeniable connection" to the Petrobras investigation, in which dozens of engineering executives schemed to siphon money from Petrobras in order to bribe public officials.

News magazine Veja also reported a major break in the Petrobras case on Monday, providing details of alleged plea bargain testimony from the former head of engineering conglomerate Andrade Gutierrez that named several sitting ministers. Veja reported, without saying how it obtained the information, that former



An inflatable doll known as "Pixuleco" of Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is seen during a protest against Rousseff, part of nationwide protests calling for her impeachment, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 13 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chief Executive Otavio Azevedo confessed that a bribery scheme already documented at Petrobras was standard operating practice for spending throughout the government.

Azevedo, who is now under house arrest, said the graft scheme included pay-offs for soccer stadiums built for the 2014 World Cup, Veja reported, backing up similar reports from newspaper Folha de S.Paulo in No-

vember. Media representatives for Andrade Gutierrez declined to comment immediately on the report. Efforts to reach representatives of Azevedo were not immediately successful.

His plea bargain, if confirmed, would be the first from a head of Brazil's biggest engineering groups, which have been at the center of the Petrobras investigation rattling the country's political establishment

for two years. Moro has already allowed federal police to detain Lula for questioning after prosecutors said he may have benefited from the scheme, an event that spurred isolated clashes between Lula's supporters and critics. Lula has disavowed ownership of the apartment and denied any wrongdoing, calling the investigation political in nature.

His lawyer condemned the decision to send the case

to Curitiba, saying Moro should not have jurisdiction over the case and denying that Lula had anything to do with the Petrobras scheme. A spokeswoman for his institute said Lula taking a cabinet position was only speculation for now.

Moro, who has also jailed the former treasurer of Rousseff and Lula's Workers' Party as well as Lula's former chief of staff, has become a folk hero to millions of Brazilians fed up with impunity for the elite. Some have criticized his frequent use of pretrial detention, however.

The investigation of Lula has bolstered calls for Rousseff to step down or be impeached. Hundreds of thousands of anti-government protesters flooded the streets on Sunday, many carrying signs in support of judge Moro. Rousseff also appointed a new justice minister on Monday for the second time in a month, naming Eugenio Jose Guilherme de Aragao, a prosecutor who had previously worked for the nation's electoral court.—Reuters



- Announcement -

Stock Trading
at the
Yangon Stock Exchange
to be started on
25th March 2016

with
First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd.



as
the First Listed Company

* Names of securities companies to join YSX on 25th March will be announced later.

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 - ✓ Franchisees' Considerations When Seeking Franchise Opportunities
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Julia Roberts to play lawyer in 'Train Man'



Julia Roberts. PHOTO: PTI

LOS ANGELES — Actress Julia Roberts will play a real-life attorney in "Train Man", which tells the story of Darius McCollum, a New Yorker who became notorious for driving subways and trains illegally.

Based on a true story, "Train Man" will recount the life of McCollum, diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, who developed a life-long obsession with New York's subways and trains, said The Hollywood Reporter.

Frequently arrested and imprisoned, he became a cult figure around the city after wanted posters warning passengers about him appeared throughout the city. Roberts will play McCollum's long-time attorney Sally Butler.

Interestingly, Roberts won an Oscar for playing a tenacious law firm clerk in 2000's "Erin Brockovich".—PTI

Kendrick Lamar's surprise 'untitled unmastered' album tops Billboard

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Kendrick Lamar dropped a surprise album that went straight to the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, following in the steps of Beyoncé, Drake and Future.

Lamar's "untitled unmastered" album, released March 4 with no prior announcement, sold 178,000 units across album and song sales and streaming activity, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The album is a compilation of the Compton, California rapper's unreleased demo recordings and is his second chart-topping album. It follows a breakout year in 2015 for Lamar, whose album "To Pimp a Butterfly" won five Grammy awards in February.

Surprise album releases, which are not common, have paid off for some of music's biggest stars in recent years.

Most notably, a self-titled digital album of new songs and videos released in December 2013 by R&B singer Beyoncé was a complete surprise to fans and collaborators. The album surpassed US sales of 1 million copies in its first week and topped the Billboard 200 chart.

Last year, rappers Drake and



Kendrick Lamar performs a medley of songs at the 58th Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 15 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Future topped the Billboard 200 album chart with their surprise collaborative effort, "What a Time to Be Alive," announced by Drake on Instagram the night before it was released.

Lamar's album came in ahead of Adele's hit "25" and Rihanna's "Anti," both of which

held steady on the charts at No 2 and No 3, respectively.

The only other new entry in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 was rapper 2 Chainz at No 4 with "ColleGrove."

Last week's chart-topper, British alt-rockers The 1975's "I Like It When You Sleep, For

You Are So Beautiful Yet So Unaware Of It," dropped to No 26.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, pop singer Lukas Graham's "7 Years" climbed to No 1 from No 4, with 121,000 downloads sold.—Reuters

'Force Awakens' director not looking forward to film being watched on cellphones

AUSTIN — With "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" coming out soon on iTunes, the director of the box-office smash said on Monday it was a "nightmare" to think of people watching the big-screen sci-fi adventure on a cellphone.

"Anyone who makes movies will say: 'Please don't watch my movies on that,'" J.J. Abrams, 49, the writer-director of the latest installment in the "Star Wars" franchise, told a seminar at the South by Southwest film festival in Austin.

"It is the nightmare of every storyteller that people are going to watch something you made on something so small," he said, adding it was inevitable that people would find it more convenient to watch the movie on a handheld device.

Walt Disney Co.'s "The Force Awakens" is the third-highest grossing film ever worldwide. It was made for about \$200 million and has taken in more than \$2 billion globally. It will be released on iTunes on April 1, and includes extra scenes and a feature-length documentary on its making.

The technology-savvy filmmaker, who produced the in-



'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' director J.J. Abrams photographs the audience with his smart phone during the kick-off event of the Star Wars celebration convention in Anaheim, California in this April 16, 2015 file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

die sci-fi film "10 Cloverfield Lane," which grossed \$25 million over the weekend, added one of the benefits of the proliferation of smartphones was that anyone could make and distribute movies.

He also said the outcry about the lack of diversity in this year's Academy Award nominations served as a wake-up call for the industry and led his production company, Bad

Robot, to broaden its list of candidates for films.

He said it would take time but be good for the bottom line in the long run to have more unique stories being told.

"This is about opportunity to give people who might not be the usual suspects a chance in front of, and behind the camera," he said. "There is no quota. It's simply about consideration."—Reuters

BBC's 'Top Gear' spins into more controversy with Whitehall stunt

LONDON — Chris Evans, the new host of BBC TV's popular "Top Gear" motoring show apologized on Monday for a stunt filmed near the Cenotaph war memorial in central London which was widely criticized for showing a lack of respect.

Images splashed across the pages of British newspapers showed the show's co-host, U.S. actor Matt LeBlanc, speeding and spinning a car with a professional driver along a deserted Whitehall, the road near Parliament which is home to government offices as well as the Cenotaph.

As the car performed 360-degree turns, clouds of smoke from burning tire rubber dramatically obscured the 96-year-old memorial in one long-range TV camera shot.

"It does not look good at all," Evans told listeners of his BBC Radio program. "On behalf of the Top Gear team and Matt, I would like to apologize unreservedly for what these images seem to portray."

Retired army officer Colonel Richard Kemp said the filming on Sunday was an error of judgment and that Westminster Council should never have allowed it to go ahead.

The council in turn said the

BBC producers had gone beyond what was agreed and had never given approval for the car to carry out wheelspins down Whitehall.

The BBC later said it would not broadcast footage of the Cenotaph in the episode.

"The Cenotaph was at no point intended to feature in the program and therefore will not appear in the final film," it said in a statement.

"We would like to make it absolutely clear that the Top Gear team has the utmost respect for the Cenotaph, what it stands for, and those heroic individuals whose memory it serves so fittingly."

The episode is the latest controversy to be generated by Top Gear which has offended Mexicans, Argentines, Germans, Indians, truck drivers, cyclists and environmentalists among others over the years.

Last year, the BBC decided not to renew the contract of former presenter Jeremy Clarkson, whose blunt banter and swagger helped the show become a global success but also generated controversy, after he punched a member of the production team, leading to the hiring of Evans and ex-"Friends" star LeBlanc.—Reuters

Repeat champ leads pack as Alaska's Iditarod dog sled race enters home stretch

JUNEAU, (Alaska) — One musher in Alaska's grueling sled-dog race appears to stand between Dallas Seavey's third consecutive Iditarod title and a painful second place finish — his father, Mitch.

As competitors in the nearly 1,000-mile race through the US state's frigid wilderness, father and son have been exchanging the lead while being pushed by upstart Brent Sass and perennial contender Aliy Zirkle.

Based on last year's times, a winner could cross the finish line in Nome as early as 4 am local time (1200 GMT) on Tuesday.

Dallas Seavey, who is looking for his third successive title and fourth win overall, left White Mountain late afternoon, about 77 miles (124 km) from the finish line. His father departed about 30 minutes later.

At White Mountain, all mushers must take a mandatory 8-hour rest, so the son was able to leave first. Last year, son and father finished first and second.

"We all know too well what can happen," Dallas Seavey said in an interview posted on the Iditarod web-



Dallas Seavey and team leave the start chute at the restart of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in Willow, Alaska on 6 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

site. "I have way too much respect for my competitors to say I've won it anytime before we've actually crossed the finish line."

Should either Seavey prevail, it would be the fifth straight year a family mem-

ber has won the race.

Dallas, now 29, won in 2012 to become the youngest winner in race history. Mitch, now 56, won in 2013 to become the oldest competitor to win - it was his second victory.

"It's 50-50," Mitch Seavey said. "Either I will or I won't."

The Iditarod commemorates a 1925 rescue mission that carried diphtheria serum by sled-dog relay to the coastal community

of Nome. The trail cutting through Alaska's tundra to the Bering Sea coastline is marked by darkness and steep climbs.

Of the 85 mushers and their dogs that set off on 6 March, 11 mushers have

withdrawn from the race. While most of the competitors are from Alaska, racers have come from Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. This year's winner will receive \$70,000 and a new pick-up truck, while other top finishers will take home cash prizes from a race purse that exceeds \$725,000.

The leaders may face fierce winds that have been powerful enough to alter the race's outcome. Two years ago, winds knocked four-time winner Jeff King off the trail, paving the way for Dallas Seavey.

Overnight forecasts call for 30-mph (48 kph) wind gusts and temperatures pushing 10 below zero Fahrenheit (-23 c) along the Norton Sound where competitors will make their final push.

Zirkle, who has posted three runner-up finishes in the last four years, has had to fight more than the tundra this year.

On Sunday, a man accused of attacking Zirkle and another musher in a snowmobile appeared in court. One dog was killed and three other dogs were injured in the incident.—Reuters

Shanghai, Dubai art bodies agree to step up design exchanges

DUBAI — Dubai and Shanghai on Monday agreed to collaborate in design knowledge exchange and increase inter-city relations relations.

The agreement was made during UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) Creative City Shanghai and Dubai's annual art fair Art.

A Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) was signed between Liu Boying, Vice President of UNESCO Creative City Shanghai and Art Dubai Chief Executive, Benedict Floyd.

"The MoU's purpose is to closely collaborate with Shanghai's Creative and Design Scene and Art Dubai," Floyd told Xinhua.

"We are working on several fronts and this is a major one," he added.

Liu was joined by a delegation of 34 Chinese designers, art promoters and artists who arrived in Dubai on Saturday.

"This is the first time a delegation of Shanghai artists and designers participates at the fifth edition of Design Days Dubai," said Pan Jin, Vice Secretary of the Shanghai promotion office.

Design Days Dubai is

under the Art Dubai umbrella, an exhibit of design products, paintings, sculptures, art tours and auctions taking place this week across Dubai. Dillion Zhang, a Shanghai multimedia designer from the delegation said he was very excited about Dubai and the MoU.

"This is my first visit to Dubai and I hope to meet Arab designers and artists to exchange know-how and

develop business ties with them," he said.

The MoU involves regular networking between both parties, exchanging design know-how, encouraging local Shanghai and Dubai designers to join exchange programs and exhibitions and to attend events in each other's city. China's mega city of Shanghai joined UNESCO's Creative City Network as "City of

Design," in 2010 when the metropolitan entertained global visitors to the 2010 Shanghai Expo.

The Gulf Arab metropolis and the Chinese port and business city have been sister cities since the year 2000. "We expect 14,000 visitors, buyers, art aficionados and intellectuals this year from around the world," said Fair Director, Cyril Zammit.—Xinhua

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Today Fresh

07:03 Am News
07:26 Am Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
07:34 Am The Richly Blessed Gem Land
08:03 Am News
08:26 Am Life of Sea Urchin Diver
08:37 Am Oboist and His Life
09:03 Am News
09:26 Am Chef Life "Myo Min Soe Oo"
09:36 Am Manuha Temple Festivities
09:54 Am Inspiration
10:03 Am News
10:26 Am Fantastic Orchid Garden From The Flower City

10:36 Am News Extra

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Tuesday 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 My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
07:47 Pm Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre- Hmawbi
08:03 Pm News
08:26 Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture Of Pennant Pillar
08:40 Pm Art Students: Their Dream
08:46 Pm Myanmar Leading Woman: May Sabe Phyu @ L.Hkawn Htoi

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

(16-3-2016, Wednesday)

6:00 pm
• Weather Report
• Music Programme
6:20 pm
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
6:40 pm
• Music Programme
7:00 pm
• Korea TV Drama Series
7:50 pm
• Korea TV Drama Series
8:30 pm
• Cartoon Programme "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE (Part- XII)"

9:00 pm
• Music Programme
9:10 pm
• Pa Khan Traditional Nat Festival In Ku Ni Village (Part -1)
9:40 pm
• Music Programme
9:50 pm
• English Premier League Review (Part-1)
10:10 pm
• Myanmar Video

* 08:00 pm Live: AFC Cup 2016

"Mohum Bagan AC Vs Yangon United"

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

Ranieri sails steady Leicester ship towards title

LEICESTER, (England) — Claudio Ranieri's Tinkerman days may be over after he again named an unchanged team but his cautious talk remained, refusing to contemplate the title after Leicester City beat Newcastle United on Monday.

After ruining Rafa Benitez's debut as Newcastle manager by masterminding a 1-0 home win that took Leicester five points clear at the top of the Premier League, the Italian sidestepped the notion his side were heading for unexpected glory.

"No, the race is open. We are fighting (to qualify) for Europe and then maybe with four or five matches left, maybe we are fighting for the Champions League," Ranieri told Sky Sports after Shinji Okazaki's bicycle kick secured victory.

"We are so strong, we think only one game at a time," added Ranieri who rarely deviates from his tried and trusted starting lineup. He has been singing the same post-match tune all season, saying earlier in the campaign that Leicester, who made an unlikely escape from relegation last term, were just looking to get enough points to stay in the top flight.

Now they need a maximum

of 20 points from the last eight games to clinch their first top-flight title and City are grinding out narrow wins with a consistency that has left their illustrious pursuers trailing in their wake.

"It wasn't the best performance from us but we showed fantastic spirit," said Ranieri who was known as the Tinkerman during his time at Chelsea between 2000-04 because of a fondness for rotating his players.

"We defended very well... and we fought. It wasn't nery in the second half, the team were so close and compact.

"I am just concentrating now on the next game against Crystal Palace (on Saturday). Step-by-step, that is our philosophy." It is an approach that has paid dividends all season with former Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson, who knows more than anyone what it takes to win the title, predicting this week that Leicester would be champions with games to spare.

Captain Wes Morgan was

also not buying into that idea as he echoed his manager's stance.

"We had to dig in, it wasn't easy with Rafa Benitez taking over and giving them a lift," said the defender.

"It wasn't a pretty game but we got the points. The games are getting ticked off, it will go to the last game. We aren't watching where we might finish." —Reuters



Leicester City's Jamie Vardy. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bencic, Ivanovic make early exits at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS — Swiss seventh seed Belinda Bencic was stunned by Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova while former champion Ana Ivanovic was also sent packing in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open in California on Monday.

The 97th-ranked Rybarikova, who eliminated 31st seed Daria Gavrilova in her previous match, got by the powerful Bencic 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 while Czech Karolina Pliskova dumped former Serbian world number one Ivanovic 6-2, 6-0 in 49 minutes.

After an uneven start at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, 18th seed Pliskova's game clicked into gear in spectacular fashion, reeling off 10 consec-

utive games to close out her one-sided victory. Ivanovic entered the tournament fresh off a run to the quarter-finals and semi-finals in Dubai and St Petersburg, respectively, while Pliskova had suffered a couple of early exits in the Middle East.

Pliskova, perhaps, perked up in seeing Ivanovic across the net. She had won all three of her previous encounters with Ivanovic, including earlier this year in Sydney. "We've played a few times already and I've always won. But I think I played really good tennis today and I'm happy that I made (the next round) so fast," said Pliskova, who powered in 18 winners. Next up for Pliskova will be Britain's Johanna Konta, who advanced 6-4, 6-1 over Czech Denisa Allertova, who had conquered second-seeded Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber in the previous round. — Reuters



Belinda Bencic (SUI) returns the ball during her match against Magdalena Rybarikova (SVK) at the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, on 14 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Evert stunned by Sharapova news; not by doping in tennis

INDIAN WELLS — Chris Evert said on Monday she was stunned to hear that Maria Sharapova failed a doping test, but not by the fact that there is doping in tennis, claiming that she knew players who doped during her career. Evert, an 18-times grand slam champion who retired in 1989, said the use of performance-enhancing drugs in tennis went on during her career - which was before the sport adopted current anti-doping rules - and that it likely goes on in all sports.

"You'd have to have your head in the sand if you didn't at least assume that every professional sport might have some sort of performing-enhancing

drugs being used," Evert told a conference call from Indian Wells, where she will do TV commentary for ESPN at the BNP Paribas Open.

"Honestly, in every professional sport I think this goes on to a certain extent. In tennis it doesn't worry me as much. This went on when I was playing."

"I know players on the women's tour who were using — who were using performance enhancing drugs and we didn't even have drug testing."

Sharapova faces up to a four-year ban by the International Tennis Federation for testing positive for meldonium in January, a drug she had taken for 10

years due to health problems and which was banned on 1 January.

Evert feels the length of Sharapova's ban will hinge on her medical records and that the former Russian world number one may only deserve to be barred for the rest of the year.

"It all comes down to viewing the medical records from the doctors that took care of her 10 years ago and examining exactly what her case is," said Evert.

"This drug is used for angina and severe heart issues. There's always suspicion when you hear what the drug is used for. That's why her defence needs to show medical records, and (her) dosage." —Reuters

Chelsea striker Costa charged by FA for improper conduct

LONDON — Chelsea forward Diego Costa has been charged for improper conduct following his red card in their 2-0 FA Cup quarter-final defeat by Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Costa, already booked for a first-half collision with Gareth Barry, squared up to the midfielder, shoving his face into the Everton player after being fouled in the 84th minute.

Referee Michael Oliver showed the Brazil-born Spanish international a second yellow card, meaning he was

sent off for Chelsea for the first time.

"It is alleged his behaviour, after being shown a second yellow card in the game, amounted to improper conduct," the FA said in a statement on Monday.

Costa has until 1800 GMT on Thursday to respond to the charge.

He also has until Wednesday to provide his observations to the FA in relation to an alleged gesture he made towards Everton supporters while leaving the pitch at half-time. —Reuters