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Myanmar to draft environmental policy: President



President U Htin Kyaw and dignitaries posing for a documentary photograph after the forum. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR is encountering the consequences of climate change, deterioration of the ecosystem, deforestation, endangered species, pollution of the air, oceans, rivers, lakes and land and infectious diseases like other countries in the world, President U

Htin Kyaw said in his speech at the Green Economy and Green Development Forum held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The president pointed out the importance of international

cooperation in the response to the impact of the deterioration of the world's environment and ecosystems.

The president went on to say that United Nation Assemblies have already approved conventions that contribute to the

implementation of policies and strategies to respond to challenges posed by interrelations among sustainable development, resilience, equality, inclusive development for the future, environment, energy and climate change. To counter climate change,

Myanmar is participating in international conventions such as the Paris Agreement 2015, sustainable development goals of the UN and the reduction of emissions of hydrofluorocarbons and cooperating with the international

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State Counsellor attends Development Assistance Coordination Unit Meeting

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi chaired the first meeting of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit (DACU) at 10am on Monday 28th November at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. The meeting was attended by DACU Deputy Chair Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, DACU members U Set Aung (Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Myanmar) and U Min Ye Paing Hein (Director Designate, Myanmar Development Institute), DACU secretary U Tun Tun Naing (Permanent Secretary,

Ministry of Planning and Finance), and members of the DACU technical support team.

During the meeting, it was noted that the government is committed to working with all Partners in Development to ensure that international development assistance brings maximum benefits to the people of Myanmar, and that the establishment of the Development Assistance Coordination Unit is in line with this commitment.

The meeting agreed that DACU will strive to improve the coordination and effectiveness of

future development assistance to Myanmar. DACU's work will be based on internationally-accepted principles of development assistance, namely: that Myanmar, as host country, should exercise ownership, leadership and guidance with regard to development coordination; that Partners in Development will align their assistance with Myanmar's development priorities and policies, and act in a transparent fashion; and that both the government and Partners in Development will be accountable to the people of Myanmar and the

donor taxpayers for achieving tangible development results.

It was agreed that among DACU's primary responsibilities will be: to identify priority sectors and potential projects for future development assistance, based on consultations across government; to draw up, in dialogue with Partners in Development, a nation policy for development assistance; to review, and if necessary revise, the existing aid coordination architecture, including Sector Working Groups, so as to ensure efficiency and inclusively; to support the Eco-

nomics Committee by reviewing and evaluating potential loans and major grant and technical assistance projects; and to identify constraints to the effective delivery of development assistance, and help to resolve those constraints where possible.

In carrying out all these tasks, and in accordance with the principle of inclusivity, it was agreed that DACU will establish a regular dialogue with all Partners in Development active in Myanmar, both traditional and 'non-traditional'.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

License revocation for distilleries that breach rules on waste management



Dr Tun Naing. PHOTO: MNA

DISTILLERIES that fail to adopt standards in discharging their waste water will have their licenses revoked, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe said to the Pyithu Hluttaw Session yesterday.

The minister made the statement in response to a motion urging the union government to take action against distilleries that



Dr Maung Thin. PHOTO: MNA

fail to observe the regulations of waste management.

The ministry has already taken measures for inspection and action for negligent distilleries and officials are reviewing the outdated excise laws,

In addition, the union minister said that issuance of new licenses for distilleries has been halted since 2010. The union

minister said that the motion should be taken into consideration and put into the record.

Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr Tun Naing responded to questions concerning the electricity supply to two villages in Tanyang Township and seven other towns, saying that electricity will be supplied to the two villages depending on the budget allocation of the union government and Shan State Government.

At the Pyithu Hluttaw Session yesterday, Representative Dr Maung Thin put forward a motion expressing the concern over sovereignty, the rule of law, stability and peace after civilians were killed, injured or forced to abandon their homes due to attacks, bombings, destruction of the KIA, the MNDAA, and the TNLA and the session agreed to debate the motion in a later session.

— Myanmar News Agency



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint receives H.E. Mr Vikram Misri, the Indian ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Receives Ambassador of India

U Win Myint, the Hluttaw Speaker, received H.E. Mr Vikram Misri, the Indian ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, yesterday afternoon at the Guest Room of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

Discussed at the meeting were mutual cooperation be-

tween Myanmar and India, the long friendship between the two countries, cooperation in accord with non-allied foreign policy and five principles of peaceful co-existence, inter-parliamentary cooperation and exchange of experiences.

— Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Industrial zones to be developed at site of paper factory (Sittaung)



U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA

THE site of the Sittaung Paper Factory will be developed as industrial zones by the Shwe Thanlwin Company, the Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho said at the Amyotha Hluttaw Session yesterday. The Shwe Thanlwin Highway Company was already issued 30-year land grants for 698 acres of land at the site on 10 September



U Khin Maung Cho. PHOTO: MNA

2014. Land rent for the site will be Ks41 million per year.

The ministry also returned the factory to the union government and machines were transported to other state-owned factories. The remaining building was sold to the company for Ks466.728 million, according to the union minister.

Staff quarters at the factory

were handed over to the Mon State Government and as a result, the ministry cannot do anything to rent houses at the staff quarters to former staff of the factory, the union minister said.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun also responded to questions at the Amyotha Hluttaw Session yesterday and he promised to provide generators, computers and photocopiers to schools in Chin State, depending on the budget allocation.

The deputy minister also replied to a question concerning a school in Namhsam owned by a dried tea factory of the Ministry of Defence. He said that the Ministry of Defence has already agreed to hand over the land of the school to the Ministry of Education. Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw also invited representatives to debate a bill concerning senior citizens at the session. — Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Israeli ambassador



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than shakes hands with Israeli Ambassador Daniel Zonshine. PHOTO: MNA

MAHN WIN KHAING THAN, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Daniel Zonshine at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They discussed promotion of cooperation between the two countries.

Also present were Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung and officials. — Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor attends Development Assistance ...

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DACU members also acknowledged the critical role that the private sector will play in the country's development, including in addressing infrastructure requirements, and noted that coordination between government, private sector, and Partners in Development will be key to attracting and facilitating the investment that is needed. DACU members also noted the importance of engagement with CSOs, INGOs, and major

domestic and international philanthropists, to encourage greater coordination and alignment of their valuable efforts with national priorities.

In carrying out all its tasks, it was agreed that DACU will be supported by the Foreign and Economic Relations Department of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, and will also draw on the support of the Myanmar Development Institute.

DACU members noted that

DACU would seek to be innovative and creative, and would be open to feedback and suggestions from stakeholders on how to improve the unit's effectiveness. Ultimately, DACU would have one simple but challenging objective: to ensure that the generosity and support of Myanmar's friends across the world is translated most effectively into genuine improvements in the lives of Myanmar's people in the years ahead. —GNLM

Precise statistics are invaluable: Vice President U Henry Van Thio

IT is necessary to collect precise statistics on the ground, as policies and plans cannot be adopted based on imprecise numbers, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said at the meeting of the Committee for Collection of Precise and Quality Statistics in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In addition, the vice president also said that a new statistics law has also been drafted and will be submitted to the Hluttaw with the approval of the union government.

Committees for collection of precise and quality statistics have also been formed at states and regions, according to the vice

president. In conclusion, the vice president urged officials to compile statistics that can contribute to adoption of policies as well as that can be trusted by the international community.

Later, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win and Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win reported to the meeting on measures to be taken for collection of true and precise statistics. State/regions ministers and officials also reported on the collection of precise and quality statistics. The meeting concluded with remarks by the vice president.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Henry Van Thio greeting the ministers and officials. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar to draft environmental policy: President U Htin Kyaw

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community to respond to the global challenges that will have an impact on people at present and future generations, the president added.

It is important to reduce poverty, prevent starvation, eliminate malnutrition, prevent the retardation of growth among children, create job opportunities, provide quality education and healthcare and respond to natural disasters, he said.

To respond to these challenges, it is necessary to enhance the national capacity of the nation to identify development trends

and to grasp opportunities available. It is important to avoid costly but unsustainable and incomplete policies and projects, according to the president.

In addition, the president urged participants to take lessons from the international community and said that Myanmar, which is abundant with natural and human resources, has potential for sustainable, resilient, systematic and equitable development.

Myanmar is cooperating with the international community to draft a national environmental policy and adopt its main tasks in order to contribute to sustainable

development, policies, strategies and work programmes relating to climate change, a framework for a green economy and strategies and work programmes for waste management, the president added.

Myanmar has placed emphasis on renewable energy development, setting goals for using renewable energy, conservation and effective utilisation of biodiversity, adoption of better consumption and production methods, the utilisation of waste as resources, creation of economic incentives and financial mechanisms that will encourage innova-

tion and enhancement of human resources and education to create opportunities, the president said.

The president said that the forum will focus on policies, strategies, financial measures, technologies, management, education, capacity building and international cooperation for green economy and green development, expressing his hope that these topics will contribute to comprehensive discussions.

In conclusion, the president said that the forum would result in recommendations for a green economy and development that will contribute to the interests of

the people.

The union minister for Natural Resources and Environment Conservation and Green Economy and Green Development Association member U Tin Win Aung, Ambassador of India to Myanmar Mr Vikram Misri, Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar Mr Tone Tinnes and Director General Madam Wakako Hironeka of Global Environment Action made speeches on the occasion and Professor Nay Tun, founder of the Green Economy and Green Development Association expressed his thanks to all.—*Morsi (Myanmar News Agency)*

Small Clinic Needs Big Help

Mark Angeles

Saw Oo, 30, arrived at the Shwe Pyi Hein Monastery in North Dagon at 6am on a recent Wednesday and stayed for about four hours, but he didn't come to pray.

The unemployed man, who says he is addicted to alcohol, came to see Dr. Pwint Phyu Phyu Thwe, who volunteers her medical services once a week at a one-room clinic in the monastery.

The clinic provides free medical care on a first-come, first-served basis.

"If you don't get here early, the slots will fill up and you won't get an appointment," said Saw Oo, who was told about the clinic from a friend who had received care there.

Dr. Pwint Phyu Phyu Thwe, whose full-time job is at Nitipon, a luxury beauty and skin clinic, gave Saw Oo medication to help ease the effects of alcohol with-

drawal. Saw Oo would be one of the first of about 30 patients she would see that day. By about 10am, she had treated patients for stomach cramps, flu symptoms, leg pain, chest pain, arm pain, dizziness and high blood pressure.

"At my job, most of my patients are wealthy, so it is fulfilling to also help people who cannot afford to pay anything", Dr Pwint Phyu Phyu Thwe said.

If this modest clinic did not exist, medical care for most of the poor people in the area would be nonexistent. Some refuse to go anywhere else.

"Before this clinic opened, I had never gone anywhere for treatment", said Tin Shwe, 90, a long-time cigarette smoker who first came to the clinic a year ago complaining of tightness in her chest.

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Dr. Pwint Phyu Phyu Thwe, right, a Yangon physician who volunteers her medical services once a week at the Shwe Pyi Hein Monastery Clinic in North Dagon, with a young patient. The clinic is in dire need of more donations and volunteer doctors. PHOTO: MARK ANGELES

The 2nd Myanmar-Australia Foreign Office Consultations Meeting held

THE delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar attended the 2nd Myanmar-Australia Foreign Office Consultations Meeting held on 28 November 2016 in Canberra, Australia.

Prior to the meeting, Minister of State U Kyaw Tin called on H.E. Ms. Julia Bishop, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia at 0900 hours on 28 November 2016 at her Office in the Parliament Building. During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining to the strengthening of the bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries including exchange of visits, providing assistance in the area of capacity building and education. The Minister of State briefed on democratic transition in Myanmar and the Government's ongoing efforts for peace and reconciliation including promoting peace and stability and development of Rakhine State.

Afterwards, Minister of State U Kyaw Tin and the delegation attended the 2nd Myanmar-Australia Foreign Office Consultation Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia from 10:00 hrs to 17:30 hrs. Ambassador of Myanmar to Australia U Tha Aung Nyun also accompanied the Minister of State in the said two occasions.

The meeting was co-chaired by Minister of State U Kyaw Tin and Mr. Gary Quilan AO, Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Australia. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the foreign policy of the two countries and their focus areas, exchange of visits between the two countries. They also exchanged views on ASEAN-Australia cooperation, East Asia Summit (EAS), regional issues, human trafficking, issue of non-proliferation, cooperation on matters related to promotion and protection of human rights at the United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights Council, cooperation on education sector including scholarship programmes for Myanmar students, enhancing trade and investment between the two countries. Both sides cordially discussed the challenges facing Myanmar during the democratic transition and rendering Australian assistance to Myanmar. Minister of State U Kyaw Tin briefed the meeting on Myanmar's efforts on peace and reconciliation including recent developments in Rakhine State.

U Aung Htoo accredited to Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Htoo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Indonesia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

U Htin Lynn accredited to Swiss Confederation

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Htin Lynn, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, Geneva, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Swiss Confederation.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

U Myint Lwin accredited to Republic of Turkey

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Turkey.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Golden paddy fields are being photographed. PHOTO: A1 SOE



Golden Paddy Fields, Mount May Yu and Northern Road of Maungtaw (Part 2)

Myint Maung Soe

Maungtaw-Kyikanpyin-Kyeinchaung road is the main street in northern Maungtaw district, but its surface could be generously described as “tertiary” — basically coarse stones and rocks. We left Kyeinchaung for Khamaungseik in the far north, so as to be able to present our readers — the public — with actual situations on the ground.

After leaving Kyeinchaung, the first village we arrived at was Aungsitpyin village. Here we were confronted with a choice of feeder roads — the left one leading to Taungpyo Letwe, and the right road leading to Khamaungseik. We chose the latter, reaching Yanaungmyin village, which is one of the Na Ta La villages. At the head to the entrance of the village, there can be seen a signboard which reads: “Yanaungmyin village (Na Ta La) 2009”.

The signboard depicts the alternate name for the village as well as the year it was built. The village, with a population of over 500 and rising, is full of small, spare houses. All its houses are roofed with corrugated iron sheets and walled with bamboo strips and woven-mats. At the head of the village, adults and children were found. Most were children and females. Middle-aged youths were not seen, seeming to have gone away for work or on business or for education. It was learnt that most of the residents here belonged to the ethnic group known as Thet. Under the aegis of the National Management Committee for natural disasters, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in cooperation with the Rakhine State Cabinet, supported provisions bought with national funds for natural disasters to the populace in this village.

U Khin Win, a responsible person in the village, asserted that they would never, ever abandon the land which belonged to the

‘Buffalo, cows and goats had been put out to pasture to feed themselves in harvested paddy fields. Not used as beasts of burden, the cows in the area seemed not to be as strong as ... ’

village. As we moved on to start our journey, we passed by the villages — Wetkyein, Padakar and Ywathit. Along the road, golden paddy fields and the beauty of the May Yu mountain range mesmerized us. Because it is such a fertile region, paddy plantations are numerous and fruitful. Paddy harvesters and carriers were seen here and there. Bullock-carts were not found because the people in the area seldom use bullock-carts in carrying paddy after the harvest. We saw the villagers carrying usually sized bundles of paddy at both sides of yokes on their shoulders, from the threshing ground to their destinations.

Buffalo, cows and goats had been put out to pasture to feed themselves in harvested paddy fields. Not used as beasts of burden, the cows in the area seemed not to be as strong as those in upper Myanmar, as were the goats. The State Cabinet has been carrying out arrangements for upgrading breeds of cows and goats.

Soon we reached the Tamanthar village-tract, which has a rural dispensary and schools. In this village, ethnic groups such as Myo, Khami, Thet and Dainet are reported to have lived for a long time. We presented dry rations such as rice, cooking oil and salt, giving words

of encouragement as well.

After passing Mingalar Nyunt & Natyarkai villages, we entered the town of Khamaungseik. It is a town perhaps in name only. Arrangements for building infrastructure is underway, which will endow it with the features of a typical town. It was designated to be upgraded as a town by the Ministry of Home Affairs this year. Similarly, Khamaungseik in northern Maungtaw and Myinlut in southern Maungtaw were also upgraded, it was learnt.

Also underway are plans to launch a town building with 5 wards. After construction of the town, it is expected that a border trade zone will be built with Bangladesh. The office of the township administration had also been opened to help build up Khamaungseik. It is only 40 miles far away from Maungtaw, making it likely that locals from around the region will enjoy all developments in communication, education and health by implementing projects, gaining peace and maintaining stability and development of the border area.

Provided that local ethnics and other believers peacefully co-exist and share their woes and happiness, peace and stability will last a long time, perhaps forever, and mutual trust will be able to be built among them.

In the evening, our team returned from Khamaungseik. The sun has set in the west. The convoy is moving rapidly along golden paddy fields with great momentum. Meanwhile a flock of egrets has flown into the range of Mount May Yu to roost. We saw farmers returning from fields, hearing sweet sounds of small bells from the pagoda from afar. I firmly believe that Maungtaw area will soon be peaceful, stable and developed for its abundant fertile land and nice season, if and when the local ethnics and other believers will peacefully co-exist.

LOCAL Business

One-stop service provided for licensing of Kalay industrially produced jeeps

ONE-stop service is provided for those seeking licensing of jeeps produced in the Kalay industrial zone starting from 27 November, according to the Kalay Industrial Zone supervisory committee.

Kalay's industrially produced cars — MMST-001, CDS-KL 01, MSJ, ASJ-KL and MMLT-KL — are granted licenses through the one-stop service. A fleet of 74 cars is produced from the Kalay industrial zone, including 32 MMST-001 cars, 20 CDS-KL-01 cars and 22 other models, it is learnt.

Jeeps produced in Kalay are necessary for local socio-cultural development. The government provides the one-stop service for issuing of licence. Ministry of Industry will also provide what is needed. The Minister for Industry will

also come to give guidance on technical development, said U Tin Soe, the chairman of Kalay Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee.

Jeeps produced in Kalay are in demand to reach hard-to-access areas in Naga, Chin State.

Those seeking a license pointed out that there is no difficulty in procuring one. However, the cars that require changing of body parts have to be repaired to be in accordance with the prescribed criteria on locally produced cars, said a licence seeker.

The tax rate levied on MMSJ and MSJ-1,2,3 cars in this fiscal year is Ks1.2million, whereas ASJ and CDS model cars are taxed at a rate of Ks1million.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Jeeps produced from Kalay industrial zone.
PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Sugarcane price increases by Ks15,000 per tonne compared to last year

SUGARCANE is currently being offered at Ks15,000 per tonne higher than the price of last year, said sugarcane growers from Yedashe Township.

During the previous year, the price of sugarcane was expected to rise, prompting a large number of locals to plant sugarcane. But the sugarcane growers suffered losses due to the low yield caused erratic weather conditions, the growers said.

Sugarcane plants need to be carefully grown. Growers must watch closely and cut the plants at the right time. More-

ver, the products are needed to be sent to the factory in a timely manner so that the weight of the cane stalks does not dry out and become lighter. Sugar cane that has dried does not fetch a high price.

The sugarcane price increased by Ks15,000 per tonne when compared to the last year. About 40,000 tonnes of sugarcane are likely to be sent to the Yedashe sugar mill. Additionally, about 10 more tonnes of sugarcane will be produced per acre compared to last year's yield, it is learnt.—200



Myayinanda Apartments developed by the Construction Ministry. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Myayinanda fair-cost apartments to draw lots in January

Aung Thant Khaing

THOSE wishing to live in Myayinanda's fair-cost apartments located in new townships in Mandalay will draw lots for 560 units in January, said U Aung Kyaw Oo, the director-general of the Urban and Housing Development Department.

The department required the civil staff, retired staff, low-income people and company staff to apply using different application colours depending on professions. The department will scrutinise applications until the end of December.

The apartments will fulfil the requirements of those who do

not own a house. Applicants who win the draw will promptly have their apartments released. Applicants have been informed of the rules, and those who fail to obey the prescribed rules will be faced with the confiscation of their apartment unit with no refund, it is learnt.

All applicants are required to present a letter of recommendation from a Hluttaw representative who can confirm that they do not have their own house, land or flat. This is to minimize those who seek to profit from resale.

"There are resellers and those who sublet the apartments previously developed by the city development committee", said

one apartment owner. "I find enforcement of the law for this to be weak".

The apartments will sell for Ks22.3million per unit at the basement level, Ks20.8million for first-floor units, Ks19.3million for second-floor flats, Ks17.8million for third-floor apartments and Ks16.3million for fourth-floor flats, according to the housing department.

If people wish to purchase an apartment through a bank loan, they have to deposit 30 per cent of the value of the flat. Then they can take out a loan through an 8-year instalment plan at the Construction and Housing Development Bank.

Myanmar rubber price hits record high

WITH the global rubber price rising, Myanmar's rubber price hit a one-and-a-half-year record high of Ks1,000 per pound, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Myanmar's rubber RSS3 fetched about Ks800 per pound in early November. The Myanmar rubber price is positively related to that of global rubber. The prevailing rubber price hit its highest point over the past year and a half. Concerted efforts are being made to boost the quality of local rubber, said U Khaing Myint, the secretary of the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Those whose businesses came to a halt because of a downward trend in rubber price are gearing up to resume their businesses with a higher price. Skilled labourers who can produce latex are also being sought, it is learnt.

The shortage of skilled labourers resulted in a problem in rubber production. Skilled labourers previously engaged in rubber production went abroad because of the low rubber price and low income, said Ko Than Tun, a rubber farmer in Mon State.

The global rubber price was US\$1,700 per tonne in early November, whereas the price increased up to US\$2,100 per tonne

by the end of November.

There are 1.6 million acres of rubber farms in Myanmar. Ninety-two per cent of the rubber production is for export, whereas only 8 per cent is meant for the domestic consumption, it is learnt.

Additionally, the quality control of Myanmar's rubber is required to maintain a high price. The Ministry of Commerce and the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association are co-operating to formulate a comprehensive rubber law that will take into account exports and quality standards.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Thailand's parliament to invite crown prince to become new king

BANGKOK — Parliament will invite Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn to become the new king following the death of revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej last month, the president of the legislative body said on Tuesday.

Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, president of the National Legislative Assembly, said in a televised session the prince would be invited to ascend the throne after the cabinet earlier on Tuesday formally asked parliament to begin the process of installing a new monarch.

Members of the assembly stood up during a short parliamentary session and shouted: "Long live the king!"

The prince will have to accept parliament's invitation in order for him to be proclaimed king, according to established procedure.

Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said: "We expect an audience [with the prince] within the next one to two days."

Two senior military sources said Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn would fly into Bangkok on Wednesday



A picture of Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn is displayed for sale at a royal memorabilia shop as Thailand's parliament is set to announce his ascend to the throne after revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away on 13 October in Bangkok, Thailand, on 29 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

day from Germany, where he has a home.

Reuters reported exclusively on 31 October that Thailand was making preparations for the crown prince to ascend the throne on 1 December.

The death of the much loved King Bhumibol on 13 October plunged the Southeast Asian nation into mourning. Most Thais

have known no other monarch.

King Bhumibol, who was the longest-serving head of state in the world when he died at the age of 88, played a stabilizing role during decades of often violent conflict in Thailand.

The crown prince's invitation to become monarch will likely allay some public concerns the succes-

sion might not go according to plan.

The prince, who will be known as King Rama X, or the 10th king of the 234-year-old Chakri Dynasty, can only be formally crowned after his father's royal cremation, which will take place next year.

Thailand will begin building the late king's funeral pyre next year and

8,000 people will be involved in the cremation ceremony, the government said last week.

The prince has not spoken publicly since his father's death and news about his plans has come through the government.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said last month the prince had asked to delay the succession in order to grieve with the public.

In a departure from the usual Tuesday cabinet meeting, members of the cabinet and the junta met jointly at Bangkok's Government House on Tuesday, according to a Reuters reporter.

Prayuth, who took power from an elected government in a 2014 coup, has said a year-long mourning period for the king will not affect a general election the junta has promised to hold in 2017.

The military, which has traditionally portrayed itself as he ultimate defender of the monarchy, is widely expected to remain a key power broker even after the 2017 general election.—Reuters

Japan institute to utilize AI for treating cancer

TOKYO — Japan's major cancer research institution said on Tuesday it plans to use artificial intelligence in diagnosing cancer and deciding the best courses of treatment for patients with the illness.

The National Cancer Centre said it will work with other organisations including the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology to make a system for cancer diagnosis and treatment for trial use within five years. The system will use a database created from massive data accumulated by the center, which includes genetic information and results of blood tests and diagnostic imaging, and also check relevant medical research papers, it said.—Kyodo News

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South Korea's Park asks parliament to find way for her to step down

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Tuesday asked parliament to find a way for her to give up power and decide when she should step down amid an influence-peddling scandal, but the opposition said she was just trying to avoid impeachment.

Park, 64, had apologised twice previously but until now resisted mounting public calls to quit, even as lawmakers readied to mount impeachment proceedings.

"I will leave to parliament everything about my future including shortening of my term," she said in a brief televised speech.

"I will step down from my position according to the law once a way is formed to pass on the administration in a stable manner that will also minimize political unrest and vacuum after ruling and opposition parties' discussion."

The main opposition Democratic Party rejected Park's offer, calling it a ploy to escape being



People watch a television broadcast of a news report on President Park Geun-hye releasing a statement to the public in Seoul, South Korea, on 29 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

impeached, Yonhap news agency said.

Park Kwang-on, a Democratic Party lawmaker, said it looked like she was trying to delay proceedings.

"She is handing the ball to parliament, when she could simply step down," he said.

"She is asking the parliament to pick a date for her to resign, which she knows would lead to a discussion on when to hold the presidential election and delay everything."

Shin Yul, a profes-

sor of political science at Myongji University, agreed.

"She doesn't want the parliament to impeach her and she doesn't think that the parliament can soon reach an agreement, so she is making things complicated and trying to shift some of her blame to the parliament," he told Reuters.

Some lawmakers from Park's own conservative Saenuri party had asked her to resign under an agreement that would allow her to leave office with

some dignity.

On Saturday, hundreds of thousands of South Koreans rallied for the fifth weekend in a row, calling for Park's resignation. Organisers said the crowd totaled 1.5 million, while the police estimated the crowd at 260,000.

No South Korean president has failed to complete a term since the current democratic system was implemented in 1987. If Park is impeached or resigns, an election would be held in 60 days to nominate a president to serve a five-year term.

Park's approval rating fell to just 4 per cent in a weekly survey released on Friday by Gallup Korea, an all time-low for a democratically elected South Korean president.

Park's friend, Choi Soon-sil, and a former aide have been indicted in the case. Prosecutors named Park as an accomplice in an investigation into whether big business was inappropriately pressured to contribute money to foundations set up to back Park's initiatives.—Reuters

Roadside bomb hits Philippine president's security team ahead of visit

MANILA — A roadside bomb in the southern Philippines on Tuesday wounded seven members of the president's security team, a day ahead of his planned visit to an area gripped by intense fighting between Islamist militants and government troops.

Rodrigo Duterte said he would defy his advisers and still go to Butig town on Wednesday to visit wounded soldiers, despite the bombing that hit his security staff and also wounded two soldiers.

"The truck carrying the president's advance security detail was hit by an improvised explosive device," Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told reporters in Manila. "There was no fire-fight."

The men injured in Lanao del Sur province were immediately airlifted to safety. Members of the president's official media team were also in the convoy but were unharmed.

Some 40 militants from the Maute Group, which has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, have been killed during an air-and-ground assault on an old munic-



Soldiers carry on a stretcher a wounded member of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's presidential security group who was airlifted at an army camp in Cagayan de Oro after being hit in a roadside bomb attack in Lanao del Sur, Philippines on 29 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ipal building they have occupied since Saturday, said military spokesman Colonel Edgard Arevalo.

Twenty soldiers have been

wounded in the fighting, which continued to rage on Tuesday.

The defence secretary said he would advise the president to cancel his visit.

"It's still not under control," Lorenzana said, adding the military was trying to validate links between local groups and Islamic State.

Duterte, known for ignoring his ministers and security experts, said he would still go and the situation was under control.

"The advice was to postpone. I said no, I will go there. And if possible, take the same route," he said in a speech.

"Maybe we can have a little gunfight here, gunfight there."

Police believe the Maute Group may also be responsible for the planting of a homemade bomb on Monday near the US embassy in Manila

National police chief Ronald dela Rosa showed reporters a sketch of a suspect and appealed to the public to help identify and locate him. Police said a man driving a taxi stopped near the embassy during the night and placed something in a trash bin. A street sweeper discovered the bomb, which police safely detonated.

Dela Rosa said the device had components similar to a Sept. 2 bomb in Duterte's home city of Davao, which killed 14 people and wounded dozens. Authorities believe the Maute group was responsible.—Reuters

UN Security Council to vote Wednesday on North Korea sanctions: diplomats

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Security Council is set to vote on Wednesday to impose new sanctions on North Korea for its fifth and largest nuclear test, slashing Pyongyang's export earnings by some \$800 million, diplomats said on Monday.

Diplomats said the council's five veto-wielding powers — the United States, China, Britain, Russia and France — had agreed to new measures, seen by Reuters on Friday, that largely target the hermit Asian state's coal export earnings.

"We didn't get everything we wanted," said a US official familiar with the draft resolution, though he added the proposed new sanctions were "pretty good."

North Korea has been under UN sanctions since 2006 over its nuclear and missile tests. It conducted its latest nuclear test on 9 September, and the United States and China, a North Korea ally, spent over two months negotiating new sanctions. The draft text was given to all 15 Security Council members on Friday.

China is believed to be the only country that now buys North Korean coal and under the US-drafted UN resolution likely to be adopted on Wednesday it would cut its imports by some 60 per cent, or \$700 million on

2015 sales, diplomats said.

The new sanctions would cap North Korean coal exports at \$400.9 million or 7.5 million metric tonnes annually, whichever is lower, starting on 1 January. Over the first 10 months of this year China has imported 18.6 million tonnes of coal from North Korea, up almost 13 per cent from a year ago.

Coal is one of North Korea's only sources of hard currency and its largest single export item. The draft UN resolution would also ban exports of copper, nickel, silver and zinc, which the US official said is worth about \$100 million a year. The draft text would prohibit the sale of statues by North Korea, which the US official said had reaped contracts worth tens of millions of dollars for Pyongyang. "Pyongyang has prioritized the pursuit of nuclear weapons over just about everything else ... so we don't think this action here in New York will immediately convince the regime's leader (Kim Jong Un) to cease his pursuit of nuclear weapons, the US official said.

"We do note that our action will be felt and will impede the DPRK (North Korean) regime's ability to continue these programmes," the official said.

The draft resolution would prohibit countries from selling North Korea helicopters or vessels.—Reuters

Malaysian PM voices support for Islamic laws as he seeks to bolster support



Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak talks to the media beside Indonesia's President Joko Widodo after a bilateral meeting at Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 1 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's prime minister has expressed support for strict Islamic laws as he seeks to consolidate support of ethnic Malay Muslims at a party meeting this week, as frustration over graft and the economy cloud prospects for the next election.

Prime Minister Najib Razak has battled calls to resign over the last 18 months, as a scandal at his pet project, 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), drew the anger of the public, opponents and members of his own United Malay National Organisation (UMNO) ruling party.

A new opposition party led by former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad and a former deputy prime minister, Muhy-

iddin Yassin, who Najib sacked for questioning his handling of 1MDB, is threatening to split the majority Malay vote that has handed UMNO victory in every election since independence in 1957.

Ahead of the annual party meeting, Najib said it was the responsibility of Muslims to support a plan by the rival Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party to push for the adoption of hudud, the Islamic penal code, that sets out punishments such as amputation and stoning.

"We want to develop Islam," Najib said in an interview with pro-government broadcaster TV3. "Non-Muslims must understand that this is not about hudud

but about empowering the sharia courts."

With rising prices and poor economic prospects for next year, Najib is expected to bank on ethnic and religious sentiment to woo majority Malay voters. An election is due by 2018.

Najib said his policy speech at this year's UMNO meeting would focus on the interests of Malays and Islam.

"This is my speech as UMNO president, so my main audience are UMNO members and the Malays and bumiputera," he said, using a term that roughly translates as sons of the soil, and includes Malays but not members of the ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

"It doesn't mean we don't care at all about the others, but this is an UMNO assembly," he said.

Najib faced the biggest challenge to his leadership last year after reports that hundreds of millions of dollars was misappropriated from state fund 1MDB, which he founded.

He acted swiftly to preserve his position -- sacking critics in his administration and closing a graft investigation.

Nevertheless, the scandal clouds prospects for an early election that Najib could call to cement his position, with multiple international investigations going on and a suit related to the case filed by the US Department of Justice.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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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.

Let us refrain from being gutter mouths!

Khin Maung Oo

The moment we come out of our mothers' wombs, we use our voices as in our own right and sometimes as a weapon. Out very first utterances may refer to our claim that we are now liberated from 9 months of detention, concurrently claiming that we will demand what we want through the help of our mouths — our own tools of great effect. Though being a tiny external organ on the face, its effect is wide-ranging — from small to immense, depending on the intention of the speaker and way of receipt the listener. A baby cries and the mother feeds it milk. As time goes past, voices differ. Students, adult youths, workers, people, races and be-

lievers make voices, that is, speeches, expressing their desires, sharing their knowledge, exchanging sweet notings and demanding what they need.

Generally speaking, speech can be divided into two categories — love speech and hate speech. Our speeches can bring about good and evil results to us. In other words, these result in benefits and danger. Benefits include happiness, pleasure, peace, wealth and bearing of fruit. Danger includes hatred, anger, altercations, quarrels, fighting, battles and war. Out of all dangers, perhaps religion-oriented danger is the worst. Hence we should be prudent so as not to spark any conflicts — verbal or armed —

among us.

"Sweet language can make an aggressive foe lend an ear to you," as a Myanmar saying goes. Our parents, forefathers and teachers taught us not to use rude words. With the advance of modern technology, we can enjoy many advantages. Today's youths can reap the benefits by quickly looking up cutting-edge information of any subject they like. They can dig up knowledge instantly from the internet. Yet, as per usual, the evil attends the good. Today, people from all walks of life join Facebook, a social network, posting their writings that are often full of abusive words. Their writings can be said to be 10 times worse than the inde-

cent words heard frequently on buses or in marketplaces. How ill-bred they are! I think this may be attributed mostly to their poor education.

The effects can be serious. A rude word begets anger, which causes a quarrel, which can potentially lead to violence, even murder. The vulgarity-laced writings of instigators joining Facebook which have the intention of launching subversive activities can cause racial and religious conflicts. We should keep in mind that out of all dangers, religion-based one is the worst — "Dhamman Daye". Let's avoid being gutter-mouths in building a civilised society, by keeping ourselves well-bred individually and collectively.

New book on 'Myanmar Political History' released in New Delhi

Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen

A NEW book examining the tumultuous transition of Myanmar from colonial rule to the establishment of its first civilian government was released at an elaborate ceremony by Ambassador Jayant Prasad, Director General, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses at the Constitution Club in New Delhi. The book has been authored by a Southeast Asian Studies scholar. Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen and pieces together the country's fall into military dictatorship and its transition from an authoritarian regime to a democratic government.

Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen is an Assistant Professor and Executive Director of Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs, O. P. Jindal Global University.

Delivering the welcome remarks at the launch ceremony, Professor (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University, lauded Professor Kipgen's contributions in scholarly research, and said, "Dr. Nehginpao is a remarkable scholar, researcher and respected public intellectual. He has done exemplary research work on the Southeast Asia region, and it is our privilege to be celebrating his contributions."

Speaking on the launch of the new book, Prof. Kumar, observed, "In the Indian framework, the knowledge, information and most importantly understanding of Myanmar is relatively limited. I am hopeful that through the academic work

of Prof. Nehginpao and the kind scholarly research and writing that he has consistently promoted, we will be able to develop a better sense of not only the beautiful country of Myanmar, but more importantly build a range of collaborative possibilities that will help develop substantive, stronger, deep and pervasive relationship between both countries."

Chief Guest of the occasion, Ambassador Jayant Prasad, Director General, Institute for Defence Studies, congratulated Dr. Kipgen for producing an exceptional publication and termed the book as a valuable contribution to scholarship.

Calling the book an insightful and lucid narrative on Myanmar's political evolution, Ambassador Jayant said, "The book traces a threefold transition in the country's evolution, first from military to civilian government, second the evolution of Myanmar's relationship with the countries of its contiguity and also with the great powers and finally an active intra Myanmar dialogue for national reconciliation among and between ethnicities going back to the Panglong agreement of 1947, which unfortunately remained still born and is the root of some of the problems that contemporary Myanmar faces. It neatly relates the national, regional and international transition of the country."

Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Former Ambassador of India to Myanmar, said, "The book has been authored by a scholar from Myanmar, a country that is extremely important



The book launching ceremony in progress. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

for India. The book is definitely being released at an opportune moment, as Myanmar has recently entered into a dramatic transition with a lot of uncertainty, it also sets the stage for a much better understanding of the issues we can expect and the times we are entering now."

Speaking on the occasion, Professor (Dr.) Sreeram Chaulia, Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA), said, "We are proud to have Prof. Nehginpao Kipgen as a faculty member at JSIA. He is a prolific writer, commentator and an outstanding scholar. As a country expert, Prof. Kipgen has conducted extensive research on Myanmar, one of India's most important neighbours and his new book, 'Myanmar: A Political History' is a lucid and well-researched narrative of contemporary Myanmar, which I am sure will prove to be a valuable guide to those interested in the future of Myanmar as well as South and

Southeast Asiaregion."

The book studies the different aspects of Myanmar political history: pre-independence to the first civilian government; the subsequent political transition from civilian government to military dictatorship, and the transition from authoritarian regime to a democratic government; and the importance of ethnic nationalities in the peace process.

It further explores Myanmar's international relations: U.S. - Myanmar relations under President George Bush and President Barack Obama; examines Myanmar- China relations in three broad areas - politics, economy and military; India-Myanmar relations in the context of India's look-east policy; cooperation problems on human rights within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with respect to Myanmar.

It also looks at the different patterns of political transition

under two military dictatorships in Southeast Asia: Myanmar and Indonesia. Speaking at the launch ceremony of his new book, Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen, Assistant Professor and Executive Director of Centre for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), JSIA, a political scientist who pursues a keen interest in comparative politics and international relations, said, "My new book studies the different aspects of Myanmar's political history and its foreign relations, covering pre-independence to the first civilian government. It examines the politico-historical antecedents of contemporary Myanmar: from colonial rule to the establishment of its first civilian government."

"I am hopeful that it will not only provide critical insights on the evolution of Myanmar, but also serve as a useful guide for academics as well as non-academics who have research and teaching interests, or a desire to understand the historical knowledge of Myanmar," noted, Dr. Kipgen.

The book launch was followed by a panel discussion which saw the participation of distinguished members from the government and academia. Participants of the panel discussion included Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Former Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Dr. Shankari Sundararaman, Professor, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Mr. Alok Bansal, Director of India Foundation and Adjunct Professor, New Delhi Institute of Management.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaking words of encouragement to a soldier patient. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services speaks words of encouragement to injured Tatmadawmen

ACCOMPANIED by officials, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services met with the rank-and-file of Tatmadaw and their families receiving medical treatment at the Tatmadaw Hospital in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday morning, giving cordial talks and speaking words of encouragement.

Hlaing and his wife spoke to Tatmadawmen injured in the line of duty in frontier areas, expressing words of sympathy and giving food and commodities, including monetary awards, in honour of their service.

The Senior General then went on to meet with patients being treated in the special intensive care unit.—*Myanmar News Agency*

107 restaurants and a hotel fined for not having stamp duty

THE Internal Revenue Department fined the owners of 107 restaurants and a hotel who failed to bear the stamp duty in their sale vouchers in Mandalay for the period from April to September, 2016, said U Kyaw Aung Moe, Assistant Director of Regional Internal Revenue Department.

“It is not our country alone that assesses taxes—every country imposes the taxes. Some pay taxes but some fail to do so. Only when the taxpayers are dutiful can the government earn its revenue. But there are some businessmen who fail to

pay the taxes,” he added.

The Internal Revenue Department will fine Ks0.2 million for the first offense, Ks0.5 million for the second offense and Ks1 million for the third offense. The department planned to add another Ks1 million for every incidence of failure to pay.

“The department is conducting the awareness training courses in the township. The businessmen from hotels ask their staff to attend the training courses. Actually, every businessman needs to participate in the training course,” he added.—*Aung Thant Khine*

Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donates Ks20 million for Shan New Year

THE Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated Ks20 million for a hot-air balloon competition to be held during the Shan New Year Festival, which is today. U Khin Aung and Daw Khin Win Ye of the foundation presented the cash donation to U Sai Myat Tun, chairman of the organising committee, in Taunggyi.

“We are donating cash to the festival to make all Shan nationals happy during the event, according to the wish of Daw Nang Lai Kham, the chairperson of the foundation. We are proud to get the opportunity to donate cash for the competition. We donate cash for the competition every year,” said U Khin Aung.

U Sai Myat Tun, the chairman of the organising committee, later thanked the foundation for their contribution.



Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donation ceremony in progress. PHOTO: THE NAING Oo

Similarly, Daw Nang Shwe Myint, the wife of Shan State Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut and a member of the foundation, also donated warm clothes for the elderly at Shan Yoma Home for the Elderly in Taunggyi on Monday.

The foundation imported 205,000 articles of warm clothes for people in severely cold regions across the entire country and has already delivered 160,000 of them to needy people so far. —*The Naing Oo (Myanmarsar)*



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"HANDS UP FOR #HIVPREVENTION"

Mid-Year Gem Emporium concludes

The Mid-Year Gem Emporium successfully concluded in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with a total of 44 gem lots and 4,041 jade lots placed on sale at the emporium during

the 10-day period from 20 to 29 November. Gem merchants were allowed to examine jade and gem lots with officials at the festival offering necessary assistance.

Yesterday, on the last day of the emporium, 31 jade lots, each worth at least 200,000 euros, were put up for sale.—*Morsi (Myanmar News Agency)*

One-room clinic in North Dagon monastery needs assistance

>> FROM PAGE 3

She was diagnosed with Lyme Disease, chronic pulmonary disease and asthma and is undergoing long-term treatment.

“I feel comfortable coming here for my medical care”, she said.

Despite its popularity and necessity, the clinic is in serious danger of shutting down.

Once staffed with several doctors who volunteered their time one day a week, Dr Pwint Phyu Phyu Thwe is now the only doctor left.

If she is accepted into a graduate university programme next

year to continue her sub-specialty medical education in dermatology, it is likely there will be no one to replace her.

“Some doctors have volunteered for one day, but don’t return”, she said. “The clinic supervisor is always worried I will not be able to come on Wednesdays because she will have to turn away many patients who wait for medical care”.

Daw Khin Mer Nyo, the clinic’s supervisor, said the facility is in dire need not only of volunteer doctors but also of donations.

The free clinic is run exclusively by volunteers, and the

medicine that is dispensed is purchased with money given by well-wishers. Maintenance of the clinic and its equipment is also managed mostly through donations.

The clinic is part of the nationwide Sitagu Hospital Programme, with 16 locations across Myanmar. The North Dagon clinic is the only location in Yangon.

The main hospital, Sitagu Ayudana in Sagaing Hills, was founded by Ashin Nyanissara. The affiliated Sitagu Missionary Association was established by the Sayadaw in 1989.

The Sayadaw abide by the teachings of Lord Buddha, who has said: “If you admire me, take care of patients in the same way you would do to me.”

Dr. Pwint Phyu Phyu Thwe has followed that teaching by volunteering her medical expertise to those who would otherwise not receive care. It is hoped that other can join her, monastery officials said.

The clinic, which opened in 2012, has had at least one unexpected positive influence - it has brought people to this place of holy worship, with its Buddha images and giant gong that vis-

itors can ring, who would otherwise probably never visit.

Ohn Kywe 71, who first came to the clinic a year ago complaining of weakness in his lower extremities and was diagnosed with hypertension, said it simply feels good to come here.

“I came here because my friend told me to come”, said Ohn Kywe, a retired second driver for a bus company. “I didn’t even know there was a monastery until I came to the clinic”. Those who wish to volunteer or donate to the clinic should contact Daw Khin Mar Nyo at 09796766255 or 0973126645.

KIA, TNLA armed group launch artillery attacks, fire shells in Muse

ARMED groups from the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) on Monday launched artillery attacks, fired shells and extorted money from workers in factories in Homon and Kaunghmuton wards in Muse, the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee said.

The artillery shell fired by the KIA, TNLA armed group into the gorge near the meal-selling shop on Thittaw Street in Homon Ward at 6:40pm on Monday exploded, with two other explosions nearby.

Explosions in the wards of Kaunghmuton, Hona and Sethmu Kwetthit occurred at about 9:40pm. About an hour later, more explosions occurred near Sethmu Lan and near the village of Mantmai, but caused no injuries, it is learnt. Upon learning that the KIA, TNLA armed groups had entered the wards of Kaunghmuton, Hona and Sethmu Kwetthit to extort some factory workers, Security forces were dispatched to clear the area, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A location of explosion (above), the explosives (under).
PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE



Four more M150 bottles found at Yangon Airport

FOUR energy drink bottles suspected of being hand-made bombs were found yesterday at Terminal 1 of Yangon International Airport. But, a squad of local mine experts did not find any explosive substances or chemicals, according to the State Counsellor's Office Information Committee.

The bottles in a green plastic bag were found on a desk near the air ticket counter of Terminal 1. The bottles were filled with a concentrated, yellow-colored liquid. The team of mine experts sent the bottles to the national laboratory, which found the traditional medicine essence in the M150 bottles. — *MNA*

KIA, TNLA & MNDAA armed groups' attack drives people from Monekoe into China

THE combined troops of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) attacked the Monekoe area in northern Shan State on Monday,

forcing many local residents to flee into Mansi township in China, according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

Over 1,000 displaced people were taking shelter at an abandoned school, an old factory and

in open spaces near the market in the town of Manhai in Mansi township since Monday, receiving help and subsidies provided by civil society representatives from Koekant region, who entered Manhai via Shweli, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Four improvised landmines found on Union Highway

FOUR improvised landmines, found in a conduit tube under the Lashio-Muse Union Highway between Kutkai and Theinni yesterday and security forces had to defuse them, according to the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The landmines were made of steel pipes, 6-inch in height and 4-inch in diameter, attached with 7 fuses and four 12-volt batteries.

Government troops, while conducting area clearance operations, were attacked with grenades by 10 members of the TNLA yesterday morning but they got away when government troops returned fire.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Four improvised landmines. PHOTO: C-IN-C' OFFICE

World Food Programme to help villagers in Koetankauk & Cheinkhali

The UN's World Food Programme will support 424 families in the village tracts of Koetankauk and Cheinkhali in Yathetaung township, Rakhine State, according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee.

It is learnt that 1,757 people from 321 families in Koetankauk and 1,497 people from 193 families in Cheinkhali -- a total of 3,254 people from 424 families -- will

receive provisions from the WFP, which are currently being kept in a warehouse in Shwepha village in Maungtaw Township. Following the 9 October 9 violent armed attacks and the attacks that followed, the WFP, the UNHCR & the UNOCHA provided humanitarian aid starting on 8 November, as did the Union Government, Rakhine State Cabinet and well-wishers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Group trying to emigrate to Bangladesh arrested

SECURITY forces detained 10 people apparently trying to emigrate to Bangladesh on Monday evening near the demarcation fence in Maungtaw township, according to the State Counsellor Office's Information Com-

mittee. A security clearance was being conducted by troops with torch lights when the group was discovered. Authorities said the 10 people will be investigated in accord with the rule of law, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Two local residents injured by KIA landmine

TWO local residents were seriously injured on Monday afternoon in the explosion of a landmine that had been planted by a KIA armed group in Shweku township, Kachin State, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

U Maung Myo of Hmataing village in Katha township, Sagaing Region lost his legs as a result of the explosion. U Zin Maung Soe of Hopin township was hit in the chest and neck by shrapnel. Both were hospitalized for major injuries. The two men had gone to Hopin, Kachin State to cut sugar cane plants when U Maung Myo stepped on the KIA landmine near Namlan.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A victim injured by a landmine laid by KIA. PHOTO: C-IN-C' OFFICE

Two Policemen From Namphatka Outpost Missing

TWO policemen from the Namphatka outpost in Kutkai went missing on Monday as they returned from justice court, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

The absence of police sub-inspector Myint Aye and police corporal Lin Htet was discovered when government troops found their car, a Honda Fit, on Monday. The police officers were returning to their

outpost after transporting two suspects to the Kutkai Court of Justice, it is learnt.

The car was found with two weapons inside, according to defence services.

Investigations are being made to find the two policemen and discover the circumstances of their disappearance. Authorities said government troops will continue to conduct area clearance operations.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A girl is led to an ambulance by emergency personnel following an attack at Ohio State University's campus in Columbus, Ohio, US on 28 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Car, knife attack at Ohio State injures 11; suspect's background probed

COLUMBUS (Ohio)— A car and knife attack by an Ohio State University student that injured 11 people on Monday before the suspect was shot dead by a police officer is being investigated as a possible terror attack, a US congressman and another government source said. The suspect, Abdul Razak Ali Artan, was shot and killed by a police officer with less than two years on the force after driving into a group of people and then jumping out of the vehicle and stabbing people with a butcher knife at the school's Columbus campus, said Monica Moll, director of public safety for Ohio State University. The assailant was an 18-year-old immigrant from Somalia and a lawful permanent resident of the United States, two US government sources said. Ohio State University Police

Chief Craig Stone told a news conference that Artan might have been as old as 20.

The officials said they could not speak on the record because of the ongoing investigation.

US Representative Adam Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said intelligence agencies were assisting in the investigation. "It bears all of the hallmarks of a terror attack carried out by someone who may have been self-radicalized," Schiff said in a statement.

Another US official, who asked not to be named because of the ongoing investigation, told Reuters that US agencies are investigating the Columbus attacker's background and motivations, but cannot clearly say yet whether he had any ties to suspected militant cells or groups.—Reuters

Syrian government drives rebels from swath of Aleppo

BEIRUT — The Syrian army and its allies announced the capture of a large swath of eastern Aleppo from rebels on Monday in an accelerating attack that threatens to crush the opposition in its most important urban stronghold.

Two rebel officials said the insurgents, facing fierce bombardment and ground attacks, had withdrawn from the northern part of eastern Aleppo to a more defensible front line along a big highway after losses that threatened to split their enclave.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the northern portion of eastern Aleppo lost by the rebels amounted to more than a third of the territory they had held, calling it the biggest defeat for the opposition in Aleppo since 2012.

Thousands of residents were reported to have fled. A rebel fighter reached by Reuters said there was "extreme, extreme, extreme pressure" on the insurgents.

Part of the area lost by the rebels was taken over by a US-backed Kurdish militia from another part of Aleppo in what rebels described as an agreed handover, a rare example of cooperation between groups that have fought each other.

Hundreds of miles to the south, people started to leave the rebel-held Damascus suburb of Khan al-Shih for other parts of the country controlled by insurgents under a deal with the government, the Observatory said.



A missile hangs on a parachute while falling over the rebel-held besieged al-Qaterji neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 28 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

It is the latest such agreement, characterised by Damascus as "reconciliations" but decried by rebels as the forcible removal of the populations of opposition areas, and a model that the government has suggested could be employed in east Aleppo.

Capturing eastern Aleppo would be the biggest victory for President Bashar al-Assad since the start of the uprising against him in 2011, restoring his control over the whole city apart from a Kurdish-held area that has not fought against him.

For Assad, taking back Aleppo would shore up his grip over the main population centres of western Syria where he and his allies have focused their firepower while much of the rest of the country remains outside their control.

It would be seen as a victory for his allies, Russia and Iran,

which have outmanoeuvred the West and Assad's regional enemies through direct military intervention.

"What happened in the last two days is a great strategic accomplishment by the Syrian army and allies," a fighter with a militia on the government side in the Aleppo area said.

Rebels say their foreign patrons including the United States have abandoned them to their fate in Aleppo.

Assad, whose backers also include the Lebanese group Hezbollah, has gradually closed in on eastern Aleppo this year, first cutting the most direct lifeline to Turkey before fully encircling the east, and launching a major assault in September.

A military news service run by Hezbollah declared the northern portion of eastern Aleppo under full state control.

The Russian Defence Ministry said about 40 per cent of the eastern part of the city had been "freed" from militants by Syrian government forces.

Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the Syrian army's advances with members of his Security Council on Monday, Russian news agencies quoted Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov as saying.

Officials with two Aleppo rebel groups said rebels had withdrawn to areas they could more easily defend, particularly after losing the Hanano housing complex area on Saturday.—Reuters

Under US plan, Afghans may get Black Hawks to replace Russian aircraft

KABUL — The US military wants to replace Afghanistan's well-worn fleet of Russian helicopters with American-made aircraft, according to a new budget proposal, a decision aimed at reducing the Afghan air force's decades-long reliance on Russian equipment.

The Afghan air force, trained and assisted by NATO advisers, has slowly gained strength, but remains too small to meet the needs of security forces struggling to combat a stubborn Taliban insurgency.

Now the US Defence Department is requesting funding to refurbish and update 53 older-model US military UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters for the Afghans, enough to replace the current fleet of Russian-designed Mi-17 helicopters.

Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election, and the prospect of warmer US-Russian ties, could yet impact the proposed move, but were it to go through, it would cost hundreds of millions of dollars and require retraining po-



A Blackhawk helicopter flies over Kabul on 3 October 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

tentially hundreds of Afghan pilots to fly the new craft.

Roughly 50 Mi-17 transport helicopters form the backbone of the air force, flying missions including troop and supply transport, medical evacuation and close air support.

Heavy fighting, hard conditions and maintenance problems have taken their toll on the fleet,

however, and the US military has faced legal barriers to providing new Mi-17s and parts amid deteriorating relations with Russia.

"The Department of Defence has determined that procuring US-made helicopters is a more sustainable long-term solution to meet the requirements," spokesman Adam Stump said.

Among the reasons were "le-

gal restrictions on spending DoD funds to maintain or buy more Russian helicopters."

The \$814 million request, made in a budget amendment submitted this month, would also provide money for other new attack aircraft for the Afghans.

It would help push the total funding for Afghan security forces to \$4.2 billion for 2017, surpassing

the \$1.2 billion requested for arming and supporting local forces in Iraq and Syria.

Under the proposal, UH-60A helicopters earmarked for the Afghans would be taken from the US Army's inventory and upgraded to a UH-60A+ variant, which Stump said was "suitable for the challenging Afghanistan environment."

Military planners hope to begin fielding the Black Hawks in Afghanistan, already a common sight during America's 15-year war there, within two years of Congress approving funding, he added.

The budget also requests funding for 30 additional armed MD-530 attack helicopters, six A-29 fixed wing close attack aircraft and five AC-208 aircraft for the Afghan air force.

Altogether, the military may order as many as 159 Black Hawks for the Afghans, said US Senator Richard Blumenthal, who represents Connecticut, home of the helicopter's manufacturer Sikorsky, and other lawmakers in a statement.—Reuters

North Dakota governor orders pipeline protesters expelled

CANNON BALL, (N.D.)— North Dakota's governor ordered the expulsion of thousands of Native American and environmental activists camped on federal property near an oil pipeline project they are trying to halt, citing hazards posed by harsh weather as a blizzard bore down on the area.

The "emergency evacuation" order from Governor Jack Dalrymple came days after the US Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the site, set a 5 December deadline for the demonstrators to vacate their encampment, about 45 miles (72 km) south of Bismarck, the state capital.

The Army Corps has insisted, however, that it has no plans to forcibly remove protesters, many of them members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The agency instead urged a "peaceful and orderly transition to a safer location."

Late Monday, Standing Rock Chairman Dave Archambault II denounced Dalrymple's order as a "menacing action meant to cause fear," and accused the Republican governor of trying to "usurp and circumvent federal authority."

Archambault noted



The Oceti Sakowin camp is seen in a snow storm during a protest against plans to pass the Dakota Access pipeline near the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, near Cannon Ball, North Dakota, US, on 28 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

that the evacuation order, which the governor said he issued for the campers' well-being in the face of dangerous winter weather, came a week after police turned water hoses on protesters in sub-freezing temperatures.

Activists have spent

months protesting against plans to route the \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline beneath a lake near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation, saying the project poses a threat to water resources and sacred Native American sites.

The governor did not

specify how he intended to enforce his order other than by directing state and local agencies to refuse emergency assistance and other services to anyone who remained at the site. He said the order was effective immediately and would stay in force "until rescinded."

But Standing Rock Sioux spokeswoman Phyllis Young told a news conference Monday night the tribe would stand its ground.

"We have lived for generations in this setting. That is our camp. We will continue to provide for our

people there," she said. "This is Lakota territory. This is treaty territory, and no one else has jurisdiction there."

Protest leaders suggested a forced evacuation could prove more dangerous to the activists than staying put.

"We're in the heart of winter now. To even think of a forced removal is terrifying," said Dallas Goldtooth, an organizer with Indigenous Environmental Network, who estimated there were about 5,000 people in the camp.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier added to the pressure by issuing a video statement urging protesters to avoid subjecting themselves to "life-threatening conditions" by remaining exposed to the elements with little shelter.

The National Weather Service has posted a storm warning for most of western and central North Dakota, forecasting the possibility of heavy snow through Wednesday. The 1,172-mile (1,885-km) pipeline project is mostly complete except for a segment that is supposed to run under Lake Oahe, a reservoir formed by a dam on the Missouri River.—Reuters

Plane carrying Brazil's Chapecoense soccer team crashes in Colombia, 75 dead

LA UNION (Colombia)— A chartered plane carrying top-tier Brazilian soccer team Chapecoense to the biggest game in its history crashed in the Colombian mountains, killing 75 people on board, authorities said on Tuesday.

Dozens of bodies were laid out and covered with sheets around the wreckage of the BAe 146 aircraft, which was lying in mud near La Union, a small town outside Medellin.

The plane went down about 10:15 pm on Monday night with 72 passengers and a crew of nine. It was unclear what caused the crash, although local media said the plane had reported an electrical fault shortly before it disappeared off radar screens.

A Reuters photographer said the plane split in two, destroying the tail end. Rain hampered the dozens of rescuers as they combed the muddy and forested area.

Chapecoense, from Brazil's top league, had



Wreckage from a plane that crashed into Colombian jungle with Brazilian soccer team Chapecoense, is seen near Medellin, Colombia, on 29 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

been flying to face Atletico Nacional of Medellin on Wednesday in the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana final, South America's equivalent of the Europa League. On Tuesday, Atletico Nacional offered the championship to Chapecoense.

It was the first time the small club from the southern city of Chapeco had reached the final of a major South American club competition.

Colombia's civil avi-

ation head, Alfredo Bocanegra, said by Tuesday morning, there were 75 confirmed fatalities, with six injured survivors. He said the death toll could rise.

Tributes poured in from the global soccer family and Brazil declared three days of mourning.

"I express my solidarity in this sad hour during which tragedy has beset dozens of Brazilian families," President Michel Temer said.—Reuters

Data breach from reported cyberattack not found: defence chief

TOKYO — Defence Minister Tomomi Inada said on Tuesday a recently reported cyberattack was not found to have resulted in a data breach, but did not confirm media reports that a ministry communication network shared with the Self-Defence Forces was hacked.

Noting that the ministry and the SDF receive suspicious e-mails on a daily basis, Inada said at a press conference, "We have not confirmed any leakage of information or destruction of equipment at

this point."

Kyodo News reported Sunday that the ministry and the SDF discovered around September that their shared communication network had suffered a cyberattack that enabled a hacker to penetrate the Ground Self-Defence Force's computer system, and that some information may have been leaked in the incident.

According to ministry sources, the Defence Information Infrastructure, a high-speed large-capacity communication network

connecting SDF bases and camps, was subjected to the attack. The sources suspect the involvement of a state-backed attacker.

The infrastructure consists of a system connected to the Internet and another that is used for information sharing by people inside the organisations, but the two systems are not completely detached.

Inada declined to comment on specific cases, saying that doing so could reveal the country's response to cybersecurity issues.—Kyodo News

Record number of boat migrants reach Italy this year

ROME — A record number of migrants have reached Italy by boat from North Africa in 2016, according to official data, as pressure on Italy's shelter and asylum systems grows. Italy has borne the brunt of new arrivals since the implementation in March of an agreement between the European Union and Turkey to curb the flow of migrants sailing for Greece. As of 28 No-

vember, 171,299 boat migrants had reached Italy's shores, the Interior Ministry said, compared to the previous record of 170,100 for all of 2014. There is no sign of a let-up in people crossing. Some 1,400 more migrants were rescued from rubber and wooden boats attempting to cross the central Mediterranean during Monday, Italy's coast guard said. In the past three years,

Italy has recorded nearly half a million migrant arrivals. Many have fled war, poverty or political oppression. The influx has brought a record number of asylum requests this year in Italy where more than 176,000 asylum seekers now live in shelters. This is putting the country's asylum process and legal system under increasing pressure.—Reuters

'Have cake and eat it': Is this the UK's Brexit strategy?

LONDON — Britain denied on Tuesday that a document photographed in the hands of a Conservative Party official which said the strategy for Brexit talks was to "Have cake and eat it" accurately reflected its plans for forthcoming EU divorce negotiations.

The handwritten note, which also said Britain would be unlikely to stay in the European single market, was pictured being carried by an aide to Mark Field, vice-chairman of Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative Party, after a meeting with Brexit officials in Downing Street.

The photograph was printed in newspapers on Tuesday and showed the memo contained the lines: "What's the model? Have cake and eat it" and "It's unlikely we'll be offered single market".

May has promised to trigger formal divorce talks with the European Union

by the end of March but has so far remained tight-lipped about what Britain is seeking to achieve in the two-years of talks which will then follow.

"These individual notes do not belong to a government official or a special adviser," a government spokesman said. "They do not reflect the government's position in relation to Brexit negotiations."

The handwritten note suggested a deal on manufacturing would be "relatively straightforward" to achieve but one on services would be harder. The government was "loath" to bring in "transitional" arrangements, it said, and suggested Britain could seek a "Canada Plus" deal, a reference to a trade deal agreed between Canada and the EU last month after seven years of talks. It also warns "French likely to be most difficult".—Reuters

Scientists record biggest ever coral die-off on Australia's Great Barrier Reef

SYDNEY — Warm seas around Australia's Great Barrier Reef have killed two-thirds of a 700-km (435 miles) stretch of coral in the past nine months, the worst die-off ever recorded on the World Heritage site, scientists who surveyed the reef said on Tuesday.

Their finding of the die-off in the reef's north is a major blow for tourism at reef which, according to a 2013 Deloitte Access Economics report, attracts about A\$5.2 billion (\$3.9 billion) in spending each year.

"The coral is essentially cooked," professor Andrew Baird, a researcher at James Cook University who was part of the reef surveys, told Reuters by telephone from Townsville in Australia's tropical north.

He said the die-off was "almost certainly" the largest ever recorded anywhere because of the size of the Barrier Reef, which at 348,000 sq km (134,400 sq miles) is the biggest cor-



A man snorkels in an area called the 'Coral Gardens' near Lady Elliot Island, on the Great Barrier Reef, northeast of Bundaberg town in Queensland, Australia, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

al reef in the world.

Bleaching occurs when the water is too warm, forcing coral to expel living algae and causing it to calcify and turn white. Mildly bleached coral can recover if the temperature drops and the survey found this occurred in southern

parts of the reef, where coral mortality was much lower.

While bleaching occurs naturally, scientists are concerned that rising sea temperatures caused by global warming magnifies the damage, leaving sensitive underwater ecosystems

unable to recover.

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee stopped short of placing the Great Barrier Reef on an "in danger" list last May but asked the Australian government for an update on its progress in safeguarding the reef.—Reuters

330,000 chickens, ducks culled as bird flu found in Niigata, Aomori

NIIGATA/AOMORI (Japan) — The prefectural governments of Niigata and Aomori on Tuesday began culling a total of about 330,000 chickens and ducks Tuesday after a highly pathogenic H5 strain of bird flu virus was detected at local farms. Experts are warning that the outbreak could spread nationwide as infected wild birds have been found in many parts of the country. These are the first cases of infection with the H5 strain of virus in domestic poultry since January 2015 when it was detected in Okayama and Saga prefectures. Tests have confirmed the presence of the highly contagious strain of virus at a poultry farm in the village of Sekikawa in Niigata Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast, while H5-strain samples obtained in Aomori will be analyzed at a laboratory in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture.

A local official found about 40 dead chickens at the Niigata farm Monday, and five of those birds tested positive. The Niigata prefectural government, which said early Tuesday the virus is highly contagious, has begun culling

the approximately 310,000 chickens at the farm. In Aomori, northeastern Japan, where 10 ducks were found dead Monday, the Aomori prefectural government is culling about 16,500 birds at a farm where ducks tested positive for the H5 bird flu strain in preliminary testing.

The samples will undergo further examination as officials suspect the virus is likely to be highly pathogenic. Both the Niigata and Aomori prefectural governments have restricted the movement of poultry and eggs in an area within 3 kilometers of the farms where the infected birds were found.

The Niigata government requested the deployment of the Self-Defence Forces to assist with the culling operation.

Farms within 10 km of the infected sites were banned from transporting birds and eggs out of those areas. There are about 60 farms with a total of some 500,000 birds within a 10-km radius of the farm in Niigata, and seven farms with more than 400,000 birds in the Aomori area, according to local authorities.—Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAPLE RUBY VOY. NO (1612)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAPLE RUBY VOY. NO (1612) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING
LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC XIAMEN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC XIAMEN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.11.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

'I Am Bolt' movie offers glimpse into sprinter's racing life

LONDON — Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt swaps the race track for the red carpet on Monday for the premiere of a new film looking at his record-breaking career.

"I Am Bolt" follows the nine-times Olympic gold medalist in his grueling training and competing as well as relaxing at home, giving fans a glimpse into the life of the man nicknamed "Lightning Bolt".

"Most people's concept of me is that 'Oh Usain, it's easy for Usain, there's no stress' ... but it's not," Bolt told a news conference in London on Monday ahead of the film's world premiere in the British capital.

"I wanted to make people see what I went through to get to where I'm at today."

The documentary, which includes location footage from the Beijing World Championships, Rio Olympics and London Olym-

pics, also has video from Bolt's youth and interviews with family members, friends and coach.

Bolt, who became the first person to win three consecutive 100 and 200 meters Olympic golds in Rio de Janeiro last summer and is a world record holder in the two disciplines, can also be seen talking about his nerves and fears ahead of a race. "I could feel all emotions throughout everything, like I was reliving my life again when I was watching that," he said of the film.

"That's what I wanted people to see, the struggles, the pain, the triumph, the stress that I've been through and then have more insight also on my life."

The 30-year-old has said he plans to retire from the sport after the August world championships in London. He told reporters he wanted to do more charity work afterwards.—Reuters



Athlete Usain Bolt (C) poses for photographers with dancers at the world premiere of the film 'I am Bolt' in London, Britain, on 28 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Singer Prince performs in a surprise appearance on the "American Idol" television show finale at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, California in this 24 May 2006 file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

Prince to be celebrated at Paisley Park one year after death

LOS ANGELES — Influential pop star Prince will be celebrated over a four-day festival at his Paisley Park Studios compound in Minnesota on the first anniversary of his death, organisers said on Monday.

"Celebration 2017" will take place from 20-23 April, with tickets starting at \$499 for the four-day event that will include artists such as Prince's band, The Revolution; Morris Day; and another Prince band, 3RDEYEGIRL. More artists will be announced at later dates.

Prince, known for songs including "Purple Rain" and "When Doves Cry," died on 21 April of an accidental overdose of the powerful painkiller fentanyl at his Paisley Park estate

in the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen. He was 57.

Organisers said the event will "reflect the spirit" of the singer's inaugural "Prince: A Celebration" June 2000 concert, which featured performances and events over four days.

Fans of the late singer have been able to pay their respects at Paisley Park since it opened to the public last month, allowing visitors to see instruments, artwork, wardrobe and other items belonging to Prince.

Last month, Stevie Wonder and Chaka Khan topped the bill for an all-star concert tribute in memory of Prince, held at an arena in St. Paul, Minnesota, about 30 miles (48 km) west of Paisley Park.—Reuters

Not happy that I am smoking again: Aamir Khan

MUMBAI — Superstar Aamir Khan says he is unhappy that he has started smoking again, but assured that he would give it up after the release of his film "Dangal".

With the pre-release nervousness of his much-awaited film "Dangal", Aamir has taken up smoking again. Prior to release of his films, the 51-year-old star gets very nervous and starts smoking. It had also happened during the time of release of his films like "PK", "Dhoom 3" and "Talaash".

"Yes, it has started again. I am stressed about the film. But I will give up after its release," he said.

Akshay Kumar had recently said on celebrity chat show "Koffee with Karan" that those who do not smoke and drink, their stardom will remain intact.

However, Aamir said, "I am



PHOTO: PTI

not happy that I am smoking again. I try not to smoke. But when my film is about to release I get nervous so I start smoking again but then I stop it as well. I don't think smoking has anything to do with acting. Due to smoking health will be affected. I tell everyone not to smoke and even I try not to smoke."

In another episode of "Koffee with Karan", superstar Shah Rukh Khan had said that he would like to be the "4th Idiot" (referring to the sequel of "3 Idiots"). To this, Aamir

said he would love to work with Shah Rukh. "Dangal" is a very special film for Aamir as he has undergone extreme body transformation for the role of wrestler Mahavir Singh Phogat.

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, "Dangal" is based on the life of Haryana-based wrestler Mahavir, who trained his daughters Geeta and Babita to make it big in the field of wrestling.

Produced by Aamir Khan, Kiran Rao and co-produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur, the film releases on 23 December.

However, the "Fanna" actor was not willing to speak on the alleged controversy surrounding Ranveer Singh and his advertisement. "I don't know about the ad. I haven't seen the ad. What ad it is," he said.—PTI

Metallica rocks to top of Billboard album chart

LOS ANGELES — Heavy metal rockers Metallica soared to the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, edging out new records from R&B singer Bruno Mars and country singer Miranda Lambert.

"Hardwired ... to Self-Destruct," Metallica's 10th studio album, sold 282,000 albums, 34,000 songs and was streamed 9.3 million times, totalling 291,000 album units according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan for the week ending 24 November.

Billboard said "Hardwired," driven by the strength of physical album sales, was the third-largest album debut of the year, behind Drake's "Views" and Beyonce's "Lemonade."

Mars' "24k Magic" debuted at No. 2 with sales of 231,000 album units, while Lambert's "Weight of These Wings"



Metallica performs at the Global Citizen Festival at Central Park in Manhattan, New York, US, on 24 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

opened at No. 3 with 133,000 album units.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal

one album). On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online song sales, hip-hop duo Rae Sremmurd held steady at No. 1 with "Black Beatles," selling 138,000 copies in the past week.—Reuters

IOC says 2 trillion yen budget for 2020 not good enough



International Olympic Committee (IOC) Vice President and Chairman of the Coordination Commission for the Tokyo 2020 Games John Coates and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike attend a meeting of the Four-Party Working Group, gathering representatives of the IOC, the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the government of Japan, in Tokyo, Japan, on 29 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — The Tokyo Olympic organising committee’s proposed cap on its overall budget of 2 trillion yen was shot down by the International Olympic Committee at a four-party working group reviewing costs for the 2020 Games on Tuesday.

The working group agreed to stick to the original plan of using the Sea Forest Waterway in Tokyo for the rowing/canoe sprint, over the metropolitan government’s suggestion of moving it to Miyagi Prefecture, and to build an aquatics center for the swimming with a fixed capacity of 15,000 that will not incur any additional costs for seat reduction post games.

Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike asked to postpone the decision on the volleyball venue until Christmas, a request that was granted by the IOC. Koike said her team needed more time to

review the pros and cons of hosting the volleyball in either yet-to-be-built Ariake Arena or Yokohama Arena.

IOC vice president John Coates said the organizing committee “can do much better” than 2 trillion yen, demanding a first draft of the budget from the hosts as soon as possible.

“I think we’re on the same page but let’s get this thing done,” Coates said. “You have heard that Tokyo 2020 are putting a ceiling on the budget at this stage of \$20 billion. The IOC has not agreed to that amount of money. We think the operational costs of the Games can be delivered for significantly less than that.”

“We think we’re in a good stage here, but I don’t want to let the international media have the impression that the costs of running the Games in a city like Tokyo, where you have so many

existing venues, is \$20 billion. It is not, and there will be significant savings to be found.”

“We now have confirmation of the aquatics venue remaining where it is, we now have confirmation of Sea Forest proceeding for the rowing/canoe sprint. We’re also very pleased to involve the Naganuma lagoon, which can be used by visiting rowing teams over the next four years for training camps.”

Coates said whether it ends up being Ariake or Yokohama for the volleyball, costs will continue to be driven down.

“The governor asked for a little bit more time until Christmas, and we’ve agreed to that,” he said.

“We have acknowledged more work needs to be done on reviewing the designing and costing of a proposed stadium at Ariake for volleyball and on

the other side, reviewing whether Yokohama could handle the volleyball and what the costs of taking extra land around there — what we call back of house — transport, the additional costs for broadcasters out there...so that there could be a fair comparison between the two before a final decision is taken.”

“We have previously made savings of \$1.8 billion to the cost of new venues, another \$400 million has been identified over the last month and we hope that whatever the decision, whether it’s Ariake or Yokohama, we are confident that there will be further savings there.”

“As far as the IOC is concerned, we are extremely pleased with the progress that has been made over the last month towards further cost savings for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.”—*Kyodo News*

More Australians undertaking further studies than ever before: statistics

CANBERRA — More Australians are choosing to undertake further studies than ever before, according to data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) on Tuesday.

ABS’ Programme Manager of Education, Crime and Culture Michelle Marquardt said one in five Australians aged between 15 and 64 years was enrolled in a further studies course in 2016.

“In May of this year, it is estimated that more than 3 million people in that age range were engaged in some form of study, from school education through to university degrees,” Marquardt said.

She said that men and women in both younger and older age groups were choosing to undertake studies later in life, thanks in part to the rise in popularity of further studies outside of university courses.

“Among young wom-

en aged 15 to 24 years, the proportion studying rose from 56 per cent in 2006 to 64 per cent in 2016, while for young men the proportion increased from 55 per cent to 61 per cent,” Marquardt said.

“For people aged 25 to 64 years the proportion of women studying grew from 7.9 per cent to 10.5 per cent in the last decade, with a moderate increase for men from 5.7 per cent to 7.2 per cent over the same period.”

According to the ABS, 42 per cent of men and 41 per cent of women were undertaking bachelor degrees in Australia, while more men than women (22 per cent to 16 per cent) were studying a technical and further education (TAFE) course.

The ABS also found there was a greater discrepancy in male and female representation within university courses, depending on the subject undertaken.—*Xinhua*



Supplied photo shows an image of an aquarium to be built by Japan’s Yokohama Hakkeijima Inc. in Taoyuan, northern Taiwan, scheduled to open in 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japan’s Sea Paradise operator to run aquarium in Taiwan

TAIPEI — Yokohama Hakkeijima Inc., a member of Japan’s Seibu Group, announced Monday that it will operate an aquarium to be built in northern Taiwan.

Construction will begin next year and the facility is expected to open in 2020, the company’s president, Nobuyuki Furukawa, told reporters after signing a joint venture agreement with Lee Chang-ken, president of Cathay Financial Holdings, at a Taipei hotel.

The Japanese company already operates six aquariums in Japan including Yokohama Hakkeijima Sea Paradise and Aqua Park Shinagawa.

Lee, whose company will construct the aquar-

ium, said he hopes it will boost tourism in Taoyuan, a city of over 2 million people that is located southwest of Taipei.

The facility is forecast to attract 1.6 million visitors in its first year of operation.

It will be built as part of Taoyuan Aerotropolis, an urban project designed around Taoyuan Airport that will consist of business buildings, hotels, a shopping mall and a cinema, besides the aquarium.

The administration of President Tsai Ing-wen hopes to promote Taoyuan as an example of a modern city and an Asian Silicon Valley, reflecting Tsai’s desire to reshape Taiwan’s industrial base.—*Kyodo News*

Myanmar International Programme Schedule

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07:03	Am	News	10:26	Am	The Man and The Elephant
07:26	Am	Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises	10:55	Am	Creations of a Designer: Fashion
(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			
07:27	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (EP-1)			
07:46	Pm	Moe Hnyin Than Buddh, The Unique Pagoda In Monywa			
08:03	Pm	News			
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1)The Culture Of Pennant Pillar			
08:40	Pm	Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu			
08:47	Pm	Living in Off-Season			
(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)					

City game not the acid test for Chelsea, says Courtois

LONDON — Chelsea's clash with Premier League title rivals Manchester City will not define their season and the games against lesser teams will be more significant, goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said.

Chelsea stayed top with a 2-1 home win over Tottenham Hotspur, their seventh successive league victory going into the game against third-placed City on Saturday.

"We are taking it match by match. It's quite hard to keep a run going in this league but after the couple of matches we lost we have won seven in a row which is very good," Courtois told the club's website (www.chelseafc.com). Chelsea, who finished 10th last season, have scored 19 goals

and conceded one during their winning streak.

"Now we are going to Man City to try and get another result, and then after it the next away games are at Sunderland and Crystal Palace, and it is games like those that decide if you are going to be champions or not," Courtois added.

"You can win big matches even if you're not having a good season, because it is a big match or a derby, but it is the smaller matches against difficult adversaries that you will see if you are going to be champions or not."

Chelsea are one point ahead of Liverpool and Manchester City with Arsenal two points further back after 13 games.—
Reuters



Chelsea's Thibaut Courtois.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Walcott hopes goal rush can lead to caffeine boost

LONDON — Arsenal forward Theo Walcott is eager to continue his rich vein of form by scoring 10 goals before Christmas, which he plans to celebrate by receiving a coffee machine as a gift from his wife.

The England international scored in Sunday's 3-1 Premier League victory over Bournemouth to take his tally up to nine goals in 15 appearances this season.

"I want to get 10 (goals) so I can get a coffee machine for Christmas from my wife. She said 'if you get 10 goals before Christmas I'll buy you this coffee machine'," Walcott told British media.

"So I can't wait for that and hopefully it will happen. Coming from the wing as well, I'm obviously delighted with my goals so far. There's been a lot of ups and downs but hopefully... we're back to the level we want to be at."

Winger Alexis Sanchez has excelled since moving into a central role this season, having scoring 10 goals in 18 appearances, and Walcott has said that he had also benefited from the Chile international's positional shift.

"Obviously me and Alexis



Arsenal's Theo Walcott.
PHOTO: REUTERS

are having a very good relationship at this moment in time. At the start of the season we created a lot of goals for each other and everything was happening," Walcott said.

"But Alexis has definitely stepped up to making this position. I think he's enjoying it. I can see the smile he's playing with. He even did an interview today in English, which he never does."

Arsenal are fourth in the table on 28 points, three behind leaders Chelsea after 13 games.

The Gunners host Southampton in the quarter-finals of the League Cup on Wednesday before travelling to face London rivals West Ham United in the league three days later.—
Reuters

West Ham's Antonio tips Southgate for England job

LONDON — Gareth Southgate's unique relationship with players in the England set-up makes him the right man for the job, West Ham United midfielder Michail Antonio has said.

Southgate was in charge of the under-21 side before taking over the senior role on an interim basis for four matches following the sacking of Sam Allardyce.

Under Southgate, England beat Malta and Scotland, and drew with Slovenia in World Cup qualifiers before drawing 2-2 in a friendly against Spain earlier this month.

"I feel he does look like the right man for the job. He's young enough to bond with the boys and he's got a relationship with quite a few of the boys through the under-21s," Antonio, who was included in one England squad, told British media.

"We haven't had that for the last few years, someone who is young, who has actually got a relationship with the boys before he's met them so he knows what to do with them, and it shows because he's doing well."

Antonio joins a growing list



Gareth Southgate. PHOTO: REUTERS

of players, which include midfielders Jordan Henderson and Adam Lallana, who have publicly backed Southgate for the England job.

"I'd say he's a great tactician. He wants us to play and the way he trusts the players, he believes the boys can do it, that they are good enough to do it," Antonio added.

"To play for England you have to be quality so it's just about working out the kinks and

making the players believe in themselves and have the confidence to play.

"He knows all the players. You can't be around players and not know what makes them tick. That's the difference between him and other managers."

Southgate had expressed interest in taking up the England job on a permanent basis and was interviewed for post last week at St George's Park, according to the British media reports.—
Reuters

Woods 'not dead', says itching to return in Bahamas

NEW YORK — Tiger Woods is counting down the minutes to his competitive comeback at this week's Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas and says after a year on the sidelines he is even enjoying the pre-tournament nerves.

The 40-year-old has been sidelined for 15 months due to back-related issues. He planned to return at last month's PGA Tour's Safeway Open in California but withdrew three days before the opening round, saying his game was not sharp enough.

The 14-times major champion told British media that had been the right decision and he was now in better shape to return at the 1-4 December tournament he hosts.

"I'm not dead, I'm ready to go," said Woods. "I'm nervous for every tournament I play in whether it's after a lay-off or six in a row or a major. I care. If I care, I'm nervous. And it's good to be that way."

"To have that nervous energy and channel it into aggression, into focus, concentration, that's good stuff. If I wasn't nervous, that would mean I didn't care. I don't want to be out there flat. I

want to be out here so bad; and now I am."

Woods has not played on the PGA Tour since August 2015, having undergone surgeries in September and again in October of that year due to ongoing back problems.

The greatest player of his generation and arguably of all time, he has not won a tournament anywhere since 2013 and his title

drought in the major championships dates back to 2008.

Woods, who has fallen to 898th in the world, said it had been a wise decision not to rush his return.

"The competitor inside me wanted to go so badly and was itching to go. I thought if I only have a few shots, it's good enough to get it around," he added.—
Reuters



Team USA vice-captain Tiger Woods talk at the 13th green during the practice round for the Ryder Cup at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska, Minnesota, on 18 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS