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False news in UK's Daily Mail the latest in misinformation

A news report in a British tabloid claiming torture of a child by a Tatmataw soldier using a stun gun has been debunked, but is only the latest example of inaccurate coverage that has hurt the country's image, according to the State Counsellor's Information Committee.

The news article written by David Burke containing photos and video in Wednesday's online version of the UK's Daily Mail allegedly showed a "Rohingya toddler tortured with a stun gun by a laughing Burmese soldier as Burma continues crackdown on the country's Muslim minority" that quickly circulated on social media was found to be false.

The incident actually took place in the Mondulkiri province of Cambodia, it is learnt. A Dutch man and two Vietnamese men have been arrested for the horrific torture of the child. A third Vietnamese man is still being sought.

The story was taken down from the Daily Mail's website soon after it was found to be inaccurate, but archived versions of the article continue to circulate on Twitter, Facebook and other social media.

The Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office noted that even though the story was deleted from the newspaper's website, no apology, explanation or clarification was given concerning the accuracy of the report or the damage it has caused.

"The Daily Mail deleted the news without taking responsibility and without making a news correction for wrongly describing the incident", according to the Information Committee's statement. "Description of this false news, which did not actually occur in Myanmar, made misunderstanding of the country only increase."

State Counsellor Daw Aung



Archived images from the now-deleted Daily Mail post. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

San Suu Kyi and presidential spokesperson U Zaw Htay have consistently stated that inaccurate, manufactured news that is being fed to international news organisations is being disseminated without appropriate vetting.

This has occurred, the Information Committee said, following the October 9, November 12 & 13

attacks on Myanmar security forces and after security forces carried out area clearance operations.

"Invented news with false photos and video recordings from other places are being spread among the people" according to the State Counsellor's Information Committee.

"Recently, BBC, CNN, CNA and Al Jazeera described

the false news based on unreasonable statements made by John McKissick, one of the UNHCR based in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh" according to a release from the Information Committee.

The Information Committee said an appropriate response to the false Daily Mail report will be forthcoming.—Myanmar News Agency

Investigation Commission invites those in affected communities to give factual information

Investigation Commission has been formed to probe into the violent attacks in Rakhine.

Following the full text of the press release.

Following the formation of Investigation Commission by the notification 89/2016 of the President Office on 1 Decem-

ber 2016, Commission members held its first meeting on 8th December 2016, headed by the Vice President 1 U Myint Swe as its chair.

The Commission is mindful

of the heavy burden of responsibility placed on its members and the right timeframe to undertake its responsibility including the causes of the attacks, deaths, injuries, destruction and other

damages; documentation of measures taken to establish stability and rule of law; verification of allegations during the clearance operations; status of guarantee for security and human rights of

the people and the situation humanitarian aid as well as provide recommendations for conflict prevention and measures to avoid similar incidents in the future.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw debate agricultural loans and public security



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu. PHOTO: MNA

EXTENDING agricultural loans through a door-to-door system and public security were discussed at the Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday.

As agricultural loans have increased from Ks2 billion in 1994-94 fiscal year to Ks1,700 billion this year, it is impossible to grant the loans through a door-to-door system, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu told the session.

Another difficulty pointed out by the union minister was the cost for transportation of a very

large sum of cash and security arrangements for the cash as well as for staff members.

In addition, the banks extending the agricultural loans do not have enough staff to provide the service, according to the union minister.

The union minister was responding to the motion urging the union government to grant agricultural loans through the door-to-door system.

Some representatives also pointed out some of the difficulties the union minister mentioned

while others debated in support of the motion.

The Pyithu Hluttaw session put the motion on record.

Concerning public security, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe said that the police are taking measures to reduce the number of crimes in cooperation with ward/village administrators, partnership organisations, elders and youths while laws are being amended to take effective actions against offenders.

—Myanmar News Agency



Judge of the Union Supreme Court U Soe Nyunt. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr Tun Naing. PHOTO: MNA

OVER 31,000 households in the towns of Minbya, Pauktaw, Kandaunggyi, Kyaukpuru and Tuttaung in Rakhine State will be supplied with electricity starting from early 2017, Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr Tun Naing told the Amyotha Hluttaw session yesterday.

In response to the question raised by another representative, the deputy minister said

that land for an oil and gas pipeline was confiscated as part of a project of the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, with land ownerships transferred to the MOGE. As a result, it is unnecessary to make a new agreement with the foreign ministry in question, according to the deputy minister.

The deputy minister was responding to a question whether the union government has plans

to make a new agreement for Kyaukpuru-Kumming Oil and Gas Pipeline, as a foreign company bought most of farmland from farmers directly, which breached the law.

The deputy minister denied that the foreign company bought the land directly from the farmers and said ownership of farmland had already been transferred to MOGE. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

More households in Rakhine to be supplied with electricity

Union Minister for Information talks about media freedom

A WORKSHOP on the promotion of media freedom was held at the Ministry of Information yesterday, with the opening address by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint.

In his speech, the union minister said that the Ministry of Information is implementing reforms for the democratic transition and contributing to its success as the ministry appreciates its duty for freedom of expression, which is the essence of democracy.

In addition, the union minister said that the focus is placed on freedom in drafting laws for, the media and publishing, but existing laws cannot meet the international standard as it is difficult to move too far from the current situation, the union minister said.

It is thus necessary to carry out infrastructural reform properly so that the transition can be smooth



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addressing Workshop on promotion of media freedom. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

while compatible changes are required in the practical field, according to the union minister.

In conclusion, he pointed out that it is vital to amend laws in such a way that they are practical and make efforts for freedom.

Afterwards, a senior legal officer from the Article 19 explained the disciplining of the television media, the public service media and comparison of the News Media Law with the international standards.—Myanmar News Agency

NRCs, border passes seized in Shan State clearance operation

Government troops conducting a security patrol near the village of Namkoot in Mongko Township, Shan State were attacked with gunfire and artillery Monday evening by a combined force of the KIA and the TNLA.

Tatmataw troops returned fire, causing the KIA/TNLA group to retreat to the south. There were no fatalities, but some military officers and rank-and-file were injured, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Government troops clearing a nearby site discovered 7 thatched huts in which they found two national registration cards and two border passes.

According to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, the documents are evidence that the attackers were members of a KIA armed group from the region of Karmai and Tanai in Kachin State, holding border passes in order to trespass for armed attacks. —Myanmar News Agency



Border passes found during the area clearance operation in Mongko. PHOTO: INFORMATION TEAM OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

Traffic fatalities on the rise in Taungoo

NEARLY 120 people died in 865 traffic accidents in Taungoo District over the past 11 months, while over 650 individuals sustained injuries, according to the district traffic police. Although non-fatal injuries decreased by over 130 compared with last year, traffic fatalities rate far exceeded last year's total of 92.

In 2015, a total of 428 road accidents occurred in six townships in Taungoo District, leaving 92 people dead and 785 others injured.

The high death toll in road accidents is the result of failure by drivers and pedestrians to abide by traffic safety rules and regulations, a police officer said.

To reduce road-related deaths, traffic rule enforcement efforts have been made throughout the district, with the result that the number of traffic rule violators has significantly decreased since September, when the project was started to implement, police said. —Kyi Thar

Vice President to Rakhine commission: The world is waiting

VICE President U Myint Swe yesterday said the goal of the Rakhine State investigation commission should focus on seven key areas and be diligent and swift in their mission because of the international scrutiny being focused on Myanmar.

“The Office of the President of the State laid down 7 key points to be reported — the background situation of armed attacks in Maungtau region, casualties and losses in armed attacks, arrangements for peace and stability of the area and rule of law, investigations as to whether accusations over the area clearance operations are right or wrong, ensuring the safety and basic rights of the populace, prevention of conflicts, providing humanitarian aid and plans so that similar incidents will not happen again,” the Vice President said at the first meeting of the Investigation Commission on Rakhine State held yesterday morning in the meeting hall of the Office of the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were the Vice President, who is the chairman of the Investigation on Rakhine State, and members U Aung Kyi, U Tun Myat, Dr Thet Thet Zin, Dr Aung Tun Thet, U

Nyunt Swe, U Saw Thalay Sao, U Aung Naing, Dr Hla Maung, U Tha Nyan, Secretary U Zaw Myint Pe and responsible officials.

“This is the first meeting of the commission formed under the notification of the Office of the President of the State on December 1, 2016. Our commission is required to enquire into the background situations over the attack of October 9 and attacks on November 12 & 13 in Maungtau region, Rakhine State, arrangements for prevention of further incidents, submitting to the President of the State reports on suggestions after investigating whether the process of dealing with these armed attacks were managed in accord with the nation’s existing laws and regulations not later than 31 January 2017.”

The investigation will require on-site inquiries, the Vice President said.

“The commission is to go to the places at which incidents occurred for investigating on-the-ground situations — three incidents on October 9, 12 incidents from October 10 to November 9, three incidents on November 12 and two incidents on November 13 to compile a detailed report,

hence the need to go the places in Buthitaung and Maungtau region as soon as possible”, the Vice President said.

U Myint Swe defended the ongoing clearance operations that have been conducted since 9 October.

“Tatmataw-Myanmar Police Force combined troops made a series of area clearance operations, with a view to investigating those involved in armed attacks and recapturing looted arms and ammunition, confronting frequent attacks. Starting from October 9 till now, 7 soldiers and 10 policemen were killed with 3 soldiers, 7 policemen and one civilian injured, and 2 firearms of the Tatmataw and 39 units from the police force lost.”

The actions, recommendations and behavior of the commission are especially important because of worldwide attention being given to events in Rakhine State, he said.

“International organizations and the public are watching the incidents that occurred in Buthitaung and Maungtau region, Rakhine State, with great interest. Therefore, the commission needs to make a prompt response so that it can reduce their worries.”

Afterward, U Zaw Myint Pe, secretary of the commission clarified the assignment of duty to the commission and the process of activities to be performed further.

On behalf of Myanmar Police Force Chief Police, Brigadier-General Myo Swe Win explained in detail about the background situation of the armed attacks in Maungtau region and causes of the incidents.

Then commission members discussed based on their respective experiences.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the first meeting of the Investigation Commission on Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar drug policy consultations conclude

THE third and final round of drug policy consultations convened by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Myanmar Police Force (MPF) Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), concluded this week in Nay Pyi Taw, laying the foundation for a new drug policy and related legal reforms in 2017.

The final session closes a process which began with high-level meetings between a Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (the Myanmar Parliament) committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs, MPF and the UNODC Regional Representative and Country Manager in late June, followed by rounds of consultation with staff and experts from government ministries, agencies and civil society in October, No-

vember and December.

The drug challenges facing Myanmar are significant, including areas of opium poppy cultivation and heroin production, increasing methamphetamine production and trafficking, cross-border precursor chemical trafficking, and increasing drug use and associated harms. Given the situation, the three rounds focussed heavily on reviewing and considering data, what has been done or not done, and what is needed. To ensure relevance and so that no aspects would be missed, CCDAC structured the sessions to follow themes of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS) of April this year, including law enforcement and justice, supply reduction and alternative develop-

ment, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and cross cutting issues including human rights. Discussions also emphasised regional cooperation to respond to the transnational nature of the drug problem and associated organised crime — Myanmar is a key player in the Mekong MOU on Drug Control which facilitates cooperation and collaboration between countries of the region.

During the closing, Brigadier General Kyaw Win, Commander of the Drug Enforcement Division and Joint Secretary of CCDAC, called on stakeholders to consider drug control part of the larger development discourse of the country. “The drug problem requires all parts of the Government of Myanmar, civil society and our partners UNODC to work together,” he said.—*UNODC*

State Counsellor receives BIMSTEC S-G



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Mr Sumith Narkandala, Secretary-General of (BIMSTEC). PHOTO: MNA

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Sumith Narkandala, Secretary-General of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Permanent Secretariat based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, at 10 am on 8th December 2016 at

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to the cooperation between Myanmar and BIMSTEC and future cooperation of BIMSTEC.

Also present on the occasion were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Turkish Ambassador Mr Kerem Divanhoglu. PHOTO: MNA

Turkish Ambassador calls on State Counsellor

MR Kerem Divanhoglu, who has been appointed as Ambassador of Turkey to Myanmar, called on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Un-

ion Minister for Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, at 11 am on 8th December 2016 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Investigation Commission invites those in affected communities . . .

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Commission members are committed to conducting its work in an open and transparent manner and in accordance with national and international norms. The Commission looks forward to collaborating with relevant national and local actors and

individuals including affected communities to uncover factual information that will contribute to designing measures to avoid incidents and conflict in the future. In this regards, the Commission will spare no effort in undertaking its responsibility.—*Investigation Commission*

RFID to be installed in licensed taxis

THE Yangon regional government ministry in charge of transportation will install an RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Device) system in licensed taxis so that authorities can take action against unlicensed taxis that are operating in the Yangon region, it is learnt.

“There are a total of over 80,000 vehicles running in Yangon, some with a permanent license, some with a temporary taxi license and the rest without any license. We will install the RFID in the licensed taxis so that we can easily to

take action against unlicensed taxis drivers,” said Daw Nilar Kyaw, the regional minister for electricity, industry and transportation on Tuesday at the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw Third regular session.

Regional Hluttaw Kyauktada township Constituency 2 representative Daw Mya Hla San tabled a motion to discuss traffic congestion problem in Yangon region.

Traffic jams occur in Yangon region because stands have not been properly installed in the Yangon region. This forces taxi drivers looking for the

passengers to stop on the road, blocking other cars. The authorities must be strict with the taxi drivers, to be able to solve those problems.

About 50 per cent of the vehicles that are towed are not demanded back because most of the vehicles are unlicensed, it is learnt from the ministry of electricity, industry and transportation.

Modern Traffic Control Centers, CCTVs and traffic lights are being installed around the city of Yangon to help control the traffic problems.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



A city taxi is being hired by passengers in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

KBZ named Bank of the Year in Myanmar for four consecutive years

KANBAWZA Bank (KBZ) has been named Bank of the Year in Myanmar 2016, a title it has held for four consecutive years.

Bank Chairman U Aung Ko Win accepted the award at the Banker Awards 2016 ceremony held at the Hilton London Bankside Hotel in London on 7th December. The title is bestowed annually by the Financial Times, the well-known business journal based in London.

Awards for the best banking services were won by banks from 149 countries including Bank of America in the United States, China Merchant Bank in China, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group in Japan, Lloyds Banking Group in England, DBS Bank in Singapore and Bangkok Bank in Thailand.

The ING Group in the Netherlands was crowned Global Bank of the Year 2016 at the ceremony. The Financial Times awards the prizes based on set criteria against which data concerning banking services collected by reporters and the media are measured.

This year's award comes at the time when the Financial Times, which was founded in 1926, celebrates its 90th birthday.

KBZ Bank was chosen as the winner for its important role in improvement of the economy of Myanmar, being the most reliable bank for the people in Myanmar, achievements in im-



Bank Chairman U Aung Ko Win. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

proving banking services and system efficiency, the establishment of ATM machines and bank branches nationwide, owning a large share of the market, making a large number of loans to businesses, showing higher income and profits, the improvement of the calibre of its staff, the use of modern equipment, connectivity with other international banks and being number one on the country's tax-paying list for four years consecutively and taking a leading role in philanthropic works in the country.

KBZ Bank was also crowned with the title of “Best Bank in Myanmar” by the London-based publication Euromoney on 14th July, 2016, “Best Bank in Myanmar” by Finance Asia on 1st September and “World Quality Commitment” by Spain-based Business Initiative Directions in 2016.—*Thiha Tun*

Crime NEWS

K 900 million worth WY tablets seized in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces arrested five men and seized stimulant tablets from a boat at the south of Kin Nyin Creek, eastern Maung Ni village, Maungtaw yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, security forces on patrol with military vessels inspected a boat crossing to Bangladesh and arrested five men: Nu Mamad, 18, son of Nu Kar Mar living at Shwe Zar middle village; Har Bar Lu Raw Harman, 18, son of Adu Halik;

Awli Mati, 19, son of Raw Shi Tar Mauk; Arhat, 19, son of Shar Ah Laung living at Shwe Zar west village and Mamad Sultan, 55, son of Zaw Lar Mauk, together with 446,500 stimulant tablets stamped with the WY/R logo worth Ks893,000,000.

Security forces continued to take measures that will ensure that the suspects will be able to appear in court in accordance with the law.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Five men with stimulant tablets pose for a photo in Maungtaw. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

Stimulant tablets, ICE seized in northern Shan State

LOCAL security forces searched a vehicle driven by Yan Chon Kyone, 32, with Kwan Mai, 35, on board on Lashio-Mai Yaw Road yesterday and discovered large quantities of cash and illegal drugs.

Police seized methamphetamine (ICE) weighing 33

kilograms, ephedrine powder weighing 5 kilograms and Ks304,000, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

Similarly, a special task force searched a farm hut at a rubber plantation near Shin Lon Kyaing village in Kunlon

Township on Thursday.

Police arrested Kwan Chain, 40, and his wife Ma Aye Lu (alias Pan Mein), 36, after they discovered 60 grams of heroin and 38,000 stimulant tablets bearing the WY/88/1 logo.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Car crashes into palm tree

A car trying to avoid a motorbike instead hit a palm tree yesterday on Hinthada-Inbin-Myan Aung Highway, Hinthada district, Ayeyawady region, at which point the driver of the car boarded a bus and fled.

“Currently, we are looking for the driver who fled from the scene. We will proceed accord-

ing to the law,” said sub-inspector of police Aung Kyaw of the Myan Aung police station.

The accident occurred near Ohn Gon village, beyond milepost 55/5.

“The car was heading from Inbin to Myan Aung township. The road is too narrow, forcing the drivers to drive very careful-

ly. The car was trying to avoid a motorbike, then it hit the palm tree. The driver was not injured. He got onto a passenger bus to flee in the direction of Htoo Gyi,” said a villager from Ohn Gon. The police are still investigating the case and are searching the driver who fled the scene.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Accident kills three on Hinthada-Myan Aung Road

A motorbike with four people on board collided head-on with a passenger bus on Hinthada-Myan Aung Road in Hinthada district, Ayeyawady Region on Wednesday, leaving three dead.

The passenger bus driven by Tun Tun with a conductor on

board was en route to Pyay from Hinthada when it crashed into the motorbike between mileposts 56/5 and 56/6 near Jin Kar Gone Village, Myan Aung Township.

Three people aboard the motorbike died at the scene. The fourth person who had been on the motorbike, Lin Lin Tun,

was seriously injured in the accident. He is receiving medical treatment at Myan Aung General Hospital.

The police have opened an investigation into the matter and plan to take action against the careless driver.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Another Myanmar bank begins issuing debit card from Japan's JCB

A second major Myanmar bank has begun offering a debit card in conjunction with Japanese lender JCB following the first issuance earlier this year.

Co-operative Bank, widely known as CB Bank, began issuing the CB MPU-JCB Co-Brand Card on 1 December. It combines the JCB brand of JCB International Co. and the MPU brand of Myanmar Payment Union Public Co., which operates a national banking network connected with 23 local banks.

A ceremony launching the JCB debit card was held at CB Bank's headquarters on 30 November in Yangon, Myanmar's commercial capital.

The card comes in platinum, gold and standard types, allowing all cardholders to access JCB services including staffed counters around the world.

In addition, platinum and gold cardholders will receive cash back and discounts at CB Bank's member merchants. For platinum card owners, JCB also offers exclusive services, including airport lounge, concierge desk and special hotel services.

Cardholders can use over 1,490 automated teller machines and about 3,000 point-of-sale machines in Myanmar, as well as JCB's global network with 31 million merchants in 190 countries and territories.—*Kyodo News*

Foreign investment slumps by nearly US\$ 650 million

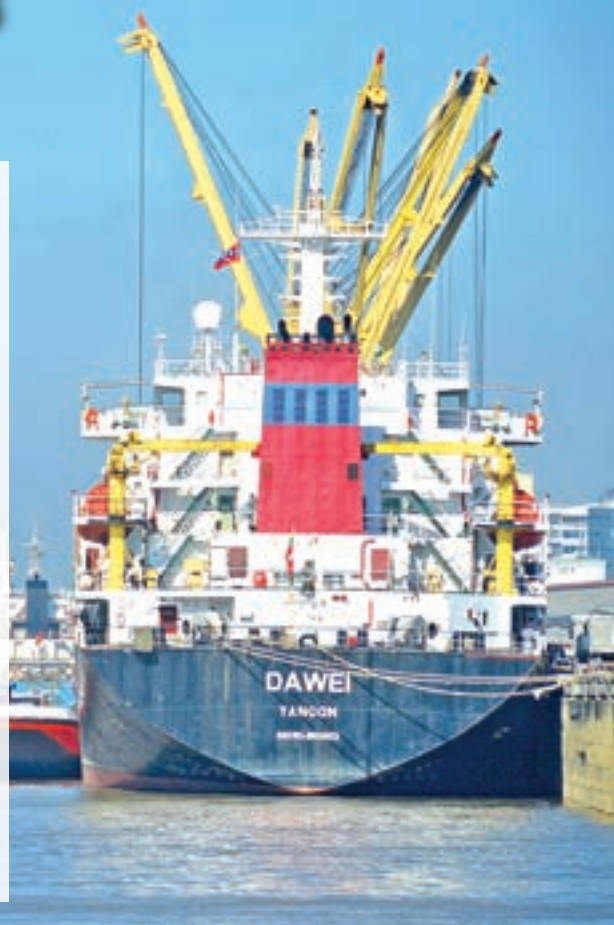
FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) as of the end of November in the current fiscal year slumped by nearly US\$650million when compared to the similar period last year, according to statistics released recently by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

In the same period, FDI of US\$3,943.184million entered Myanmar in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, with investment in 129 projects. Foreign investments of US\$3293.616million flowed into 71 enterprises in Myanmar as of the end of November this fiscal year, with FDI of US\$1,615.892million in the Transport and Communication sector, US\$728.215 million in the manufacturing sector, US\$605.672million in the power sector, US\$105.000million in the real estate sector, US\$97.226million in the hotels and tourism sector, US\$86.688million in the livestock and fisheries sector and US\$54.923million in other services, according to the statistics of DICA.

Myanmar Citizen Investments as of the end of November in this fiscal year amounted to Ks12,357,648.568million with a total of 1,223 projects. The Myanmar Citizens investments consisted of Ks2410475.860million in manufacturing, Ks2,235,982.420million in transport, Ks2,148,031.780million in real estate development, Ks1,350,030.957million in hotels and tourism, Ks942,991.690million in construction, Ks575,305.800million in industrial estate, Ks456,681.422million in power, Ks1,38037.711million in mining, Ks66,764.104million in livestock and fisheries, Ks50,713.390million in agriculture and Ks1,982,633.434million in other sector, according to DICA.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) reviews investment proposals on the basis of the opinions and assessments of relevant regional and state governments to check whether the proposal meets the criteria before approval is granted.—*Ko Khant*

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH



Mogok precious stone brokers faced with scarcity of raw stones and high price

GEM stone brokers from Mogok are being faced with a scarcity of raw gemstones and high prices because the permitted companies engaged in precious stone mining in Mogok do not auction off the stones in external markets, said the stone brokers.

The companies are taking all of the gem stones dug by machinery and these precious raw stones are not put up for auction in Mogok, resulting in a scarcity of raw materials in Mogok, said a merchant dealing in gems and jewellery.

The scarcity of raw



gemstones in the outside market results in exorbitantly high prices, making it difficult for locals to earn a living. If the companies made an auction of stones, they could help the locals to do better financially, said the stone brokers.

High-quality raw gem materials as well as wild gemstone materials are rare in the market. The price of wild stone materials has risen from Ks50,000 to Ks10million even, said U Kyaw Zaw from the stone brokers' group.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Individual car importers can seek permit under old policy by 23rd December

THOSE who want to individually import the cars under the old policy can apply by 23rd December, according to an announcement released by the supervisory committee for motor vehicles.

The car importers have to seek a permit under the new policy starting from 2017. There is no deadline announcement relating to the cars imported with a slip issued after de-registration of old vehicles, although the deadline for car importers who wish to seek a permit under the old pol-

icy has been announced. Those who fail to apply for an import permit by 23rd December will be denied. They can reapply for a permit only after 1st January. The committee has already imposed the model-year limits for imported cars in 2017. Currently, the change in policy resulted in an increase in the car price. However, there is not much demand in the auto market. The price for 2011 model cars with 1300 CC engines is higher than the previous price, said car brokers.—*200*

ရွှေ စီမံကိန်း၏ အသက်မွေးဝမ်းကျောင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် POSCO အယ်ဂျေး ကော်ပိုရေးရှင်း (PDC) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိခိုက်မှုဆန်းစစ်ချက် (EIA)

POSCO အယ်ဂျေး ကော်ပိုရေးရှင်း (PDC) သည် ရွှေသဘာဝဓါတ်ငွေ့ ကွင်းစီမံကိန်း၏ ရွှေမြေ နောက်တစ်ဆင့် ကို စတင်ရန် စီစဉ်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ၎င်းတွင် ပလက်ဖောင်း၊ ပင်လယ်တွင်းစင်အောက်အဆောက်အအုံများ၊ ပိုက်လိုင်းများနှင့် ထုတ်လုပ်ရေး ဆိုင်ရာ တူးဖော်ရေးများ ပါဝင်မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ရွှေကွင်းသည် စစ်တွေမြို့မှ ၇၀ ကီလိုမီတာနှင့် ကော့ကရိမြို့မှ ၁၀၅ ကီလိုမီတာကွာဝေးသည့် ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ် ကမ်းလွန် လုပ်ကွက်အမှတ် A-1 နှင့် A-3 နေရာတွင် တည်ရှိပါသည်။

ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်၏ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဥပဒေ နှင့် ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး နည်းဥပဒေ များ အရ PDC သည် အဆိုပြုလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိခိုက်မှုဆန်းစစ်ချက် (EIA) ကို ဆောင်ရွက်ရန် လိုအပ်ပါသည်။ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိခိုက်မှုလေ့လာချက်ကို ပတ်ဝန်းကျင် အရင်းအမြစ်များ စီမံခန့်ခွဲရေး ကုမ္ပဏီ (ERM) နှင့် မြန်မာ့ သယံဇာတနှင့် ဝန်ဆောင်မှု ကုမ္ပဏီ (REM) တို့မှ PDC ကိုယ်စား ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိခိုက်မှုဆန်းစစ်ချက်ဆိုင်ရာ လုပ်ငန်း လုပ်ဆောင်မှုများ (၂၀၁၅) နှင့် အညီ စတင်ဆောင်ရွက်ခဲ့ပြီး ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ သက်ဆိုင်ရာ သက်ဆိုင်သူများနှင့် တွေ့ဆုံမိန့်ဆက် ဆက်သွယ်မှုများကို နေပြည်တော်၊ စစ်တွေ နှင့် ကော့ကရိမြို့ တို့တွင် အမျိုးသား နှင့် ဒေသအဆင့်ရှိ ဆောင်ရွက်ခဲ့ပြီးဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိခိုက်မှုဆန်းစစ်ခြင်းလေ့လာချက်၏ အစိတ်အပိုင်းတစ်ခုအနေဖြင့် နောက်ထပ် တွေ့ဆုံ မိန့်ဆက် ဆက်သွယ်မှုများကို ၂၀၁၇ ခုနှစ် ဇန်နဝါရီလ တွင် ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်ရှိ ပြုလုပ် ဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

နယ်ပယ်အတိုင်းအတာသတ်မှတ်ခြင်းအစီရင်ခံစာ မိတ္တူကို PDC ၏ ဝက်ဘ်ဆိုက် www.daewoo.com တွင် လေ့လာနိုင်ပါသည်။ စီမံကိန်းနှင့် ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိခိုက်မှုဆန်းစစ်ခြင်းလေ့လာချက် နှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ သိလိုသည်များ မှတ်ချက်များ သို့မဟုတ် အကြံဉာဏ်များကို arkar@posco-daewooenp.com သို့ စာရေးသား ပေးပို့နိုင်ပါသည်။

POSCO Daewoo Corporation (PDC) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Future Development of the Shwe Project

POSCO Daewoo Corporation (PDC) is planning on commencing the next Phase of development of the Shwe Gas Field Project. This will include installation of a platform, subsea facilities, pipelines and production drillings. The Shwe Field is located in Block A-1 and A-3, offshore Rakhine State; 70 km from Sittwe and 105 km from Kyaukphyu.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PDC is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed activity. The EIA Study has commenced and is being conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM), on behalf of PDC, in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015). Associated stakeholder engagement has been undertaken at the national and local levels in Naypyidaw, Sittwe and Kyaukphyu. Further engagement as part of the EIA Study will be conducted in Rakhine State in January 2017.

A copy of the Scoping Report can be found on PDC's webpage www.daewoo.com. Any queries, comments or suggestions on the Project and the EIA Study can be provided in writing to arkar@posco-daewooenp.com.

Nearly 300 schools reopened in Maungtaw district

Myint Maung Soe

ACCORDING to U Ohn Myint, head of Maungtaw district education department, all government basic education schools have been reopened following outbreaks of armed attacks in Maungtaw district.

He said, "Starting from October 21, schools were opened gradually in the area which gained peace and stability in Maungtaw district. Now all schools in Buthitaung in Maungtaw district have

been reopened."

That there were 10 State High Schools, 106 State Middle Schools and 103 State Primary Schools in Maungtaw District and all had been reopened.

Similarly, there were 9 State High Schools, 29 State Middle Schools and 32 State Primary Schools—70 in all reopened, it is learnt. Yet, according to the office of Maungtaw District Education Department, 7 SHSs, 79 SMSs and 113 SPSs are still left to reopen.

U Ohn Myint added, "Out



PHOTO: A ONE SOE

of schools that remain to open, 50 or so are to be reopened this week with the rest 50 left are to gradually reopen depending on peace and stability of the area.

Teachers have been assembled at a place.

Schools left to reopen are in villages of northern Maungtaw and more schools are to be

opened as soon as the area gains peace and stability. Presently, nearly 300 schools have been reopened in the whole district out of 402 schools.

Two Bangladeshis arrested in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces detained two migrants from Bangladesh found in a boat on Wednesday, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

While patrolling by watercraft, security forces found the

two illegal migrants, Adu Shuku, 43, and Bulu Myar, 42, from Teknaf, Bangladesh, in a boat in the middle of the night. They will be charged in accordance with rules and regulations, said the press release of the committee.

— Myanmar News Agency

Arms and ammunition seized in area clearance operations around Mongko



Arms and ammunition seized by the government forces are seen in Mongko. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

AFTER reinforced troops had arrived in Mongko, security forces conducted area clearance operations around Mongko in eastern Shan State. On 7th December evening, the security forces seized eight M-22s, one cartridge, six revolvers and 200 rounds of bullets and one magazine of bullets from the Mongko Police Station.

Yesterday, the security forces confiscated one 60-

mm launcher, one stand, seven shells, two pistols and 37 rounds of bullets, two M-22, one carbine, one rifle, one homemade firearm, nine M-22 cartridges, 940 rounds of bullets, 13 hand grenades, 380 rounds of M-16, one sniper and one walkie-talkie wireless set.

Government troops are conducting area clearance operations around Mongko. — Myanmar News Agency

Five arrested for accepting cash for Maungtaw unrest

SECURITY forces arrested Imran Nu Saung in Maungtaw yesterday on suspicion of receiving and transferring cash assistance from abroad to violent attackers, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

The arrest came following

the interrogation of four other men who were arrested on Tuesday on suspicion of being involved in provoking unrest in Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

The security forces, acting on a tip-off that some people accepted money from abroad in return for fomenting discontent in their

villages in Maungtaw Township, inspected Thawunchaung (North) Village and Chainkharli Village at about 5:30 pm on Tuesday and arrested four suspects together with Ks3 million.

Action will be taken against the five in accordance with the law. — Myanmar News Agency

More bodies of police found in Mongko

ACCORDING to the news released by the State Counsellor Office's Information Committee, the government troops found 3 corpses of police who died of gun wounds near the bushes between the school and police station at 9 am or so on

Thursday during the thorough area clearance operation in Mongko area.

Out of 16 missing in action in series of Mongko attacks, northern Shan State, four were found alive, 9 killed and three missing. — Myanmar News Agency

KIA armed group forces to recruit two men

THE State Counsellor Office's Information Committee released the news that KIA armed group conscripted two men residing in the town of Anjanyan in Kachin State on their way to their terraced farming at 8:30 am on December 7. — Myanmar News Agency

Improvised bombs found in Kutkai

SECURITY forces defused nine improvised bombs in a conduit near Nangpachi Village in Kutkai yesterday, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

Acting on tips, security forces demined the conduit under the union highway near Nangpachi Village and discovered 9 improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The IEDs were made of iron containers, 6-inch in height and 4-inch in diameter and they were found together with one 14.8 volt battery, nine detonators and one circuit-board for remote control. The security force defused all IEDs. — Myanmar News Agency



Improvised Explosive Devices seized by the government troops. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

Search resumes after Indonesian quake as death toll passes 100

PIDIE JAYA, (Indonesia) — Rescue efforts resumed in Indonesia's Aceh province on Thursday after a strong earthquake killed more than 100 people, while medical teams struggled to treat the hundreds of injured as supplies trickled slowly into the area.

Wednesday's 6.5 magnitude quake was the biggest disaster to hit the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island since the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, which killed more than 120,000 people in Aceh alone.

Traffic congestion around the epicentre in Aceh's Pidie Jaya regency slowed logistical and medical supplies sent by government agencies and NGOs.

"There are a lot of government trucks and private vehicles loaded with supplies ... but this is causing a lot of congestion and some logjam in the early response," said Paul Dillon of the International Organisation for Migration, a non-government organisation.

Television images showed some patients being treated in makeshift tents in car parks because hospitals were full. Indonesia's national disaster management agency put the death toll at



Indonesian rescue workers carry a survivor from a fallen building after an earthquake in Trienggadeng, Pidie Jaya, in the northern province of Aceh, Indonesia. PHOTO: REUTERS

102 on Thursday, with more than 700 injured and thousands left homeless.

The agency said more than 1,000 personnel, including military officers and volunteers, had been deployed to help in search and rescue operations.

The search on Thursday was expected to focus on a collapsed marketplace, where at least five people

were believed trapped under rubble. Some of the victims included people attending a wedding party, *The Jakarta Post* reported.

"They planned to attend a wedding. They spent the night here," the newspaper quoted resident Muhammad Armi as saying. Wednesday's quake hit the east coast of the province, about 170 km (105 miles) from Banda

Aceh, the provincial capital. Aceh's Pidie Jaya regency, with a population of about 140,000, was worst hit.

Experts said the quake did more damage than expected because of poorly constructed buildings.

"Assessment of some of the initial information shows that single storey houses without reinforced internal brick or masonry

walls have been damaged severely or collapsed," said Behzad Fatahi, a geological expert at the University of Technology in Sydney.

Aceh was devastated by a massive earthquake and tsunami centred on its western coast near Banda Aceh on 26 December, 2004. That tsunami killed 226,000 people along Indian Ocean shorelines.—Reuters

China hints 3-way summit with Japan, South Korea difficult by year-end

BEIJING

China indicated Thursday difficulties in holding a trilateral summit with Japan and South Korea by the end of this year in line with an initial plan.

"Currently, there is no way to finalize it," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a press briefing, in response to a question whether it is true that the three countries cannot hold the summit as scheduled due to South Korea's domestic political turmoil.

"Your description is very correct," Lu also said.

Japan has sought to host an annual trilateral summit involving the three countries on 19-20 December in Tokyo.—Kyodo News

Thailand to resume peace talks with Muslim separatists in Malaysia

BANGKOK — Thailand on Thursday said peace talks with Muslim separatists would resume in Malaysia next week after a round in September ended without progress.

Separatists waging a decades-old insurgency in the Muslim-majority southern Thai provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat have stepped up attacks since 2004 with more than 6,500 people killed, according to

an independent monitoring group. A peace effort began in 2013 under a civilian government and was picked up again by a military government set up after a 2014 coup.

Talks on 2 September between the Thai government and separatists in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, ended with no breakthrough. Mostly Muslim Malaysia has been trying to nudge the process

forward.

"Next week a small team will travel to Malaysia to talk to groups who have different opinions in order to discuss 'safety zones'," General Aksara Kerdpol, the Thai government's lead negotiator, told Reuters.

"Our goals is to minimize losses and violence. Talks right now are at the trust-building stage and these safety zones are one way of building this trust,"

he said. The safety zones would be an area where insurgency-related fighting is off-limits, according to the Thai military, but details about the zones have not been made clear.

Six people were shot dead on Wednesday and Thursday in predominantly Buddhist Thailand's far south, though four of the deaths were thought to have been linked to personal disputes, the Thai military's

Internal Security Operations Command said.

A string of bombings killed four Thais and wounded dozens of people, including foreigners, in tourist towns in August, raising fears that insurgent violence was spilling out of the far south. No group claimed the bombings and the government gave mixed signals as to whether the Muslim rebels were believed to have been responsible, though

police did link the coordinated attacks to the insurgents.

The government of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra responded to the flare up in southern violence in 2004 with force and imposed emergency laws that gave broad powers to security forces.

Muslims in the far south complain of decades of neglect by the Bangkok-based establishment and bureaucracy.—Reuters

DICA Requests for Public Comments on Myanmar Investment Rules

Myanmar Investment Law was enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 18th October 2016 by Law No. 40/2016.

Accordingly, in order to fully implement the said Law, we are working on drafting the Rules. In supporting the drafting process, the bilingual version of "Briefing Paper on Myanmar Investment Rules" was posted on our website www.dica.gov.mm to seek public comments or suggestion on Rules.

Therefore, DICA invites the public to provide comments or suggestions via email at policylegal.dica@gmail.com, or by fax at 01-658139, or by phone at 01 658131.

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration
Ministry of Planning and Finance

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2016 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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.

Religion should not become a stepping stone

Kyaw Myaing

MYANMAR is a country where all citizens have been given the freedom to profess and practice religion. Moreover, it is a country where the exploitation of religion for political affairs is prohibited. Also, the using of race and religion to cause hatred, enmity, and disunity among different groups and people on different sides of an argument is prohibited. In Myanmar, right from the time of the ancient Myanmar kings, there has been absolutely no discrimination based on beliefs or religion. It is perfectly clear that with the different religious beliefs professed by their citizens, the kings had given their encouragement and had made donations accordingly.

As the whole world is focusing their attention on and monitoring what is happening in Northern Rakhine state, rumours and false news have been circulating and as a result, based on such facts, certain organizations and individuals have been blaming

and criticizing Myanmar without any careful reasoning process. Especially in the events in Rakhine state, the violent attackers and civilian organizations supporting them from behind, have tried to disguise and portray them in such a way that the whole world would view these incidents as religious discrimination and persecution. On the other hand, they have portrayed these events as "genocide" by magnifying the news and gaining the initiative in disseminating incorrect news, so that governments and people of countries with the same religion would blame and criticize Myanmar out of misunderstanding.

In actual fact the Rakhine state issue which numerous previous Myanmar governments had tried to solve and which the current government is trying to solve is a very sensitive racial and religious problem. Because of backwardness in the areas of education, social welfare, health and also because of poverty and

lack of knowledge and understanding and extremist views etc., we may say that the nature of this conflict is very subtle. The new government has identified the Rakhine state issue as a matter to be solved on a priority basis. It formed the Rakhine State Advisory Commission in August of this year and appointed former UN Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan as Chairman. It began to try to understand and solve this problem using a new approach. This was done about two months prior to the violent and murderous attacks on the border police outposts in Maungdaw district.

The coordinated attacks on border police outposts which occurred on 9th October were just the first stage of a carefully planned operation. In the following days using social networks and foreign media which they had approached in advance, they disseminated propaganda and false news. They also accused the security forces which were conducting clearance operations of

having violated human rights. They thus carried out their plan stage by stage with clear objectives in mind.

At a time when the government is trying to tackle the problems in the Rakhine state with great care, exercising utmost restraint, some foreign organizations, foreign media and one person who was trying to salvage his political image, have acted without observing any ethical codes or standards. This may complicate current efforts to solve the ongoing events in Myanmar. Myanmar is a country where religious rights and religious freedom have been given. Every Myanmar citizen has a right to freely observe their religious beliefs. By Myanmar citizen, it has been defined as a person born to parents both of whom are ethnic nationals and to those who have become naturalized citizens according to law. Therefore, we wish to say that all acts to use religion to confuse the issue should cease henceforth.

The 72nd Myanmar Writers' Day

Maha Saddhama Jotika dhaza Sithu,
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

ON the first waxing moon day of Nattaw, Myanmar Era ME 1378, 30 November 2016, the 72nd Myanmar Writers' Day was fittingly celebrated at 9 a.m. at National Theatre, Yangon by awarding national literary Awards and titles to the deserving writers for the year 2015. It is one of state organized events in which either Head of State, Head of Government or Vice president, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Chief Ministers, political and literary dignitaries, artistic luminaries, diplomats and writers of old and new generations are invited. This year the event was graced by H.E Vice President U Myint Swe.

Here it is necessary and appropriate to give a brief background history of Myanmar Writer's Day for foreign guests and new generations of Myanmar Writers. Nattaw is the second month in Myanmar Cold Season of four months...

1. Tazaung Mon
2. Nattaw
3. Pyatho and
4. Tabo dwe

corresponding to November, December, January and February respectively. Each month has its own traditional monthly festival.

Nattaw's traditional Festival is the Festival of Nat-Spirits. Ganesha [Maha Peinne Festival] held on the full moon day of Nattaw.

Myanmar Writers' Day or Sasodaw Festival (စာဆိုတော်နေ့) in Nattaw originated in the Period of Japanese Occupation during the Second World War. In the Sakarit year M.E 1306 [1944] a group of literati headed by Dr. Ba Han assembled at Kun-ghan Kon town to discuss the holding of U Ponnya' Day. U Ponnya or better known as Saley U Ponnya was a noted playwright of Late Konbaung Period, whose literary talent was likened to that of William Shakespeare. With the unanimous agreement of that group, U Ponnya's Day was commemorated on the 13th waxing moon Kason of that year. His plays were recited and some were performed on stage by the then outstanding writers. The holding of U Ponnya's Day paved the way for the emergencies of Sasodaw Day and Festival [Writers' Day and Literary Festival] in the month of Nattaw.

On Monday the Second Waxing moon of Kason of that year, the then Minister for Education, Health, and Municipality, H.E U Hla Min convened a meeting at his office to which eminent writ-

ers were invited. About eleven literary figures, including Sayagyi U Pe Maung Tin, were present at the meeting. The Minister requested the meeting to choose a day to honour men of letters. Journalist U Chit Maung proposed that as Myanmar Kings used to honour every year in the month of Nattaw men of letters and men of might by conferring titles and giving awards, that good tradition should be maintained by choosing a day in the month of Nattaw and mark it as Sasodaw Nay (စာဆိုတော်နေ့) [Writers' Day]. The Chairman of Writers Association Thuriya U Thein Maung seconded that proposal and the meeting agreed. So the 1st Waxing moon of Nattaw was unanimously chosen as the Writers' Day.

To hold the Writers' Day for the first time, a leading committee was formed consisting of six members, namely Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing, U Pe Maung Tin, Dr. Ba Han, U Lin, Deedok U Ba Cho and Pahtama Kyaw U Kyee Pe. A 15 member Executive Committee was formed including...

1. U Tin
2. U Ba Nyunt
3. Myoma Saya Hein
4. U Kaung
5. U Thein Han (Zawgyi)
6. U E Maung
7. Dr. Htin Aung
8. U Than Tint
9. U Po Chain

10. U Htun Pe
11. U Thein Maung
12. Thakhin Tin Maung Gyi
13. U Htun Myint
14. Daw Chit and
15. Daw Yee Kyein

On the first waxing moon day of the month Nattaw of that year 1944, the first Myanmar Writers' Day was observed with due celebration. The then Myanmar Government headed by Adipadi Dr. Ba Maw contributed kyats 10000/ to the Executive Committee for the celebration of Writers' Day.

The event took place in the afternoon at Myaing Theatre at Kandaw Gyi Lake side, Bahan Yangon. Some veteran writers and school master, by turn gave talk on Myanmar literati of historic fame such as Ananta Thuriya, Shin Maha Rahtathaya, Shin Maha Thilawuntha, Nat Shin Naung, Nawade, Letwie Thondara, U Paw U, Ma Mya Galay, Hlaing Hteik Kaung Tin, U Ponnaya and Achok Tan Sayay Pe. Some of them recited their poems. At the meeting of writers from Upper and Lower Myanmar, literary topics were discussed and traditional Myanmar refreshments were served with plain green tea. Since then Myanmar Writer's Day and Festival have been observed without fail.

After Myanmar regained independence, Myanmar Government provides financial support and other facilities. The Government honours the winners of National Literary Award, Sapay Beikman Manuscript Award by holding prize distribution ceremo-

ny at which winners are awarded with cash by the Minister and Deputy Minister of Information. Winners are selected on the literary qualities of their literary publications of the year ending in different categories...

1. Prose
2. Verse
3. Drama
4. Aesthetics
5. Knowledge
6. Economics
7. Politics
8. Culture
9. Pure Science
10. Applied Science
11. Technology and
12. Translation.

Doyen writers of 80 years old and above are invited to State Homage Paying Event annually held at the Yangon Municipal Town Hall to receive homage, cash and in kind, medicine given by the minister and younger generation writers who receive blessing in words of admonition in return. Those veteran writers, who cannot be present on the occasion, do receive their cash and in kind support at their house. Besides the State awards "Life Long Literary Achievement" title with cash to the deserving writers. It is called တစ်သက်တာ စာပေဆု [Ta Thetta Sarpay Su].

There are Township Literary and Journalist Associations across the country which hold literary Seminars, discussions and talks at which speakers and audience interact on various aspects of literature.

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Commander-in-Chief speaking words of encouragement to a patient. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief visits Mongyai Station

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, together with senior military officers and Commander of Northeast Command Maj-Gen Phone Myat, visited Mongyai yesterday.

The senior general deliv-

ered a speech to officers and other ranks of the local battalion in the hall of the Mongyai Station. After the speech, the senior general presented food to families of the battalion and Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented cash awards to the Maternal and Child Welfare Association

of the Mongyai Station.

Later, Senior officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief presented sports gears for the battalion before the senior general greeted warmly with the troops and their families.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Dentists to offer free care services for Mandalay residents

DENTISTS from Mandalay Region Myanmar Dental Association plan to offer free oral care for people across the region next year, a dentist said.

Established in 1984, the organisation initiated its free dental health services for needy citizens after 1990 to reduce the treatment gap between rural and

urban areas, said Dr Thin Naing Oo, general secretary of the association, who invites dentists to join the philanthropic programme.

Currently, volunteer dentists from 30 mobile teams offer necessary care, including surgical operations, to both urban and rural communities on a fee-

for-service basis, treating mostly common oral diseases and sharing knowledge about oral hygiene. According to a small-scale survey conducted by the MDA, more than 80 per cent of five-year-olds has tooth decay. Tooth decay and gum diseases are very common in Myanmar.

—*Myitmakha News Agency*

U Myint Lwin concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Algeria

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 People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.—*Myanmar News Agency*

New Myanmar Investment Law takes effect in January

MYANMAR's new investment law will take effect on 1 January, 2017, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.

The new law will combine the Foreign Investment Law and the Myanmar Citizens Investment Law, said U Aung Naing Oo, secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

The commission will continue its functions in accepting proposals submitted by some

investors since before the enactment of the Myanmar Investment Law, until 31st December 2016, he added.

The MIC will deal with investment proposals in accordance with the new Myanmar Investment Law that will be effective starting from 1 January next year. President signed the new Myanmar Investment Law, which was promulgated on 18th October this year.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein signs on 8 December 2016 in the book of condolence for the passing away of Ms. (Selvi) j. jayalalitha, Tamil Nadu State Chief Minister of India.

PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Tourist arrivals increase in Mandalay this year

Aung Thant Khaing

THE number of tourist arrivals in Mandalay, the last royal capital of Myanmar, over the past ten months reached almost 300,000, an increase of 26 per cent compared with 2014, according to the region hotel and tourism development department.

Between January and October this year, the region received a total of 284,711 international visitors. It hosted 306,432 in 2015 and 242,566 in 2014.

According to the official figure this year, 40,533 travellers entered the country in January, 39,150 in February, 38,384 in March, 20,262 in April, 21,080 in May, 17,988 in June, 23,748 in July, 26, 228 in August, 23,131 in September and 34,207 in October.

Tourism depends on the country's political situation, an official from the department said.

Since October, flocks of



Tourists cross U Bein bridge over Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay, on 27 November, 2016. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

tourists continue to enter Mandalay, mostly from China, France, Germany and the U.S, said U Soe Win, chair of Boat Association.

He went on to say that they usually visited significant destinations including the Golden Palace Monastery, Taungtha-

man Lake and U Bein Bridge, Mandalay Hill, Kuthodaw Pagoda, Atumashi Monastery, Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, Maha Muni Buddha Temple and so on.

"Some tour operators rented boats ahead of their tour plan. The rental fees for a boat

per trip is Ks8,000," U Soe Win added.

There are 168 hotels with 6,788 rooms in Mandalay. Among other sites, globetrotters mostly visit cultural zones of ancient Bagan, Inwa and Amarapura. International tourist arrivals for the year are estimated to reach over 400,000.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism predicts that the tourist arrivals in the country are likely to reach around 7.5 million by 2020, with plans to spend about US\$500 million funds on tourism development until the target period.

The ministry targets at raising income obtained from tourism-related service businesses to over \$10 billion in 2020 from \$534 million in 2012.

The country's tourism industry earned \$254 million in 2010, \$319 million in 2011, \$534 million in 2012, \$926 million in 2013 and \$1.8 billion in 2014.

The 72nd Myanmar Writers' Day

>> From page 8

This year 2016, there were two awardees of "Life Long Literary Achievement" title which is awarded to Doyen writers of 80 years and above.

Besides various private patrons and NGOs have set up their own literary organizations such as Pakokku U Ohn Pe Literary Award Fund, Saya Wun Tin Shwe Literary Award Fund, Thuta Swe Zone Literary Award Fund and Htun Foundation Literary Award Fund. Myanmar Writers' Association has contact and inter action with its counterparts abroad- China, Japan, South Korea, India, Singapore, London, America, Germany, France and UNESCO. Exchanges of visit for Literary Seminar do take place every year.

South Korea parliament introduces bill to impeach Park; vote due Friday

SEOUL — South Korea's parliament introduced a bill on Thursday to impeach President Park Geun-hye, setting the stage for a historic vote to oust the embattled leader engulfed in an influence-peddling scandal.

Parliament is expected to vote on Friday in favour of impeachment, although the Constitutional Court must decide whether to uphold the motion, a process that could take up to 180 days.

Opposition parties have said they believe they will get the two-thirds majority needed to pass the bill, with support from about 30 members of Park's conservative Saenuri Party to secure the necessary 200 votes.

Park, 64, said this week she would await the court's ruling, signalling that the country's six-weeks-long political crisis is set to continue.

Park, the daughter of a former military ruler, is under intense pressure to resign immediately, with big crowds taking to the streets of the capital, Seoul, every



Lawmakers and members of opposition parties chant slogans during a rally demanding the impeachment of South Korean President Park Geun-hye at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, on 7 December 2016. The signs read 'Impeach Park Geun-hye immediately!'. PHOTO: REUTERS

Saturday calling for her ouster.

Her approval rating is at a record low of 4 per cent. A Realmeter poll released on Thursday said 78.2 per cent of respondents wanted Park to be impeached.

She would be the first

democratically elected South Korean president not to serve a full five-year term. Former President Roh Moo-hyun was impeached by parliament in 2004, a motion that was overturned by the Constitutional Court which said grounds for impeach-

ment were insufficient.

Park is accused of colluding with a friend and a former aide to pressure big businesses to donate to two foundations set up to back her policy initiatives.

She has denied wrongdoing but apologised for

carelessness in her ties with the friend, Choi Soon-sil.

An impeachment vote must be held within 72 hours of the motion's introduction, and the speaker of parliament, Chung Sye-kyun, asked for a vote on Friday.—Reuters

Philippines' Duterte says no plot to unseat vice president

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday vowed to retain the country's vice president until her term ends, just days after she resigned from the cabinet, complaining of a "plot to steal" her position.

Vice President Leni Robredo resigned from the cabinet on Monday, saying she would lead the opposition and challenge Duterte's policies, such as his deadly war on drugs and moves to reinstate the death penalty.

"I will assure Leni and the rest of the Bicol region that you will have her until the very end of this term," Duterte told reporters after a ceremony to break ground for an airport in the central region of Bicol.

"And there is no such thing as removing a vice president."—Reuters

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Pakistan mourns 47 killed in air crash, as investigators seek answers

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan on Thursday mourned the 47 victims of its deadliest plane crash in four years, among them a famed rockstar-turned-Muslim evangelist, two infants and three foreigners, as officials sought to pinpoint the cause of the disaster.

Engine trouble was initially believed responsible, but many questions remain, stirring new worries about the safety record of money-losing state carrier Pakistani International Airlines.

The ATR-42 aircraft involved in the crash had undergone regular maintenance, including an "A-check" certification in October, said airline chairman Muhammad Azam Saigol.

"I want to make it clear that it was a perfectly sound aircraft," Saigol said.

The aircraft appeared to have suffered a failure in one of its two turboprop engines just before the crash, he added, but this would have to be confirmed by an investigation.

"I think there was no technical error or human error," Saigol told a news conference late on Wednesday.

day. "Obviously there will be a proper investigation."

Television images appeared to show rescue officials retrieving the aircraft's "black box" flight recorder from the wreckage, and the airline confirmed the recovery to the Geo News channel.

Outpourings of grief erupted online soon after flight PK661 smashed into the side of a mountain near the town of Havelian,

in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, late on Wednesday afternoon, after taking off from the mountain resort of Chitral.

It crashed just 50 km (31 miles) short of its destination, the international airport in Islamabad, the capital.

Worried relatives of the dead gathered in stunned silence at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad,

some weeping quietly, others besieging officials with questions.

"What can I tell you?" said Raja Amir, as he waited for his mother's remains. "I don't know what we will get of her. There is still another hell to go through."

Remains are being brought by helicopter to Islamabad, where DNA tests will be used to identify them, authorities said.—Reuters



Rescue workers survey the site of a plane that crashed a day earlier near the village of Saddha Batolni, near Abbotabad, Pakistan, on 8 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nearly 150 patients evacuated from east Aleppo — ICRC



An injured woman walks at a site hit by an airstrike in the rebel-held al-Ansari neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria, on 7 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

GENEVA — Nearly 150 civilians, most disabled or in need of urgent medical care, were evacuated overnight from a hospital in Aleppo's Old City, the first major evacuation from the eastern sector, the International Committee of the Red Cross said on Thursday.

They had been trapped there for days by nearby fighting and as the front line moved closer. Eleven patients had died from lack of medication or been killed in crossfire before ICRC and Syrian Arab Red Crescent teams could reach them, it said.

The head of the ICRC delegation in Syria, Marianne Gasser, who is in the city, said in a statement on the evacuees: "Many of them cannot move and need special attention and care."

Of the evacuated disabled, mental health patients and wounded from Dar Al-Safaa hospital in the Old City late on Wednesday, 118 patients were taken to three hospitals in the government-controlled west of Aleppo.

Trauma and emergency cases were taken to Al-Razi surgical hospital and University Hospital, ICRC spokeswoman Krista Armstrong told Reuters, and Ibn Khaldoun hospital took the mental health and elderly patients, she said.

Thirty other men, women and children were taken to shelters, also in the west of the city, the ICRC statement said.

As heavy fighting continues in eastern Aleppo, the humanitarian situation is "known to be catastrophic", the ICRC said. The agency called on all warring sides to allow a humanitarian pause to be able to deliver aid supplies in the besieged sector which has been inaccessible since April.

The Syrian army has gained control of all parts of the Old City, a war monitoring group said on Wednesday, part of an advance which has seen insurgents lose about two thirds of their main urban stronghold over the past two weeks—*Reuters*

Almost 84,000 displaced as fighting rages in Iraq's Mosul

GENEVA — A total of 83,998 civilians have fled the Iraqi city of Mosul since military operations to reclaim one of the Islamic State (IS)'s last strongholds began in October, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said on Wednesday.

Up from 76,464 a week ago, figures from the organisation showed that almost 14,000 families have been displaced as a result of ongoing fighting in the northern city. According to statistics, 81 percent of those recently displaced by military operations are living in formal camps.

A further 13 per cent have taken shelter in private settings, while four per cent are in critical shelter arrangements and two per cent are

either passing through screening areas or in emergency sites.

Supported by Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, Iraqi troops began operations on 17 October to take back the city which fell into IS hands in June 2014 after government forces fled, enabling IS militants to take control of parts of Iraq's northern and western regions. International aircraft as well as Iraqi and US-led coalition artillery units are supporting ground operations there. According to reports, more than 5,000 IS militants were initially holed up in Mosul.

The UN refugee agency had warned before the military campaign kicked off that as many as 1.2 million civilians could be displaced by the fighting.—*Xinhua*

Israeli police report attempted stabbing in West Bank; alleged suspect shot dead

RAMALLAH/JERUSALEM — Israeli security forces shot and killed a Palestinian youth after he allegedly tried to stab them in West Bank on Thursday, the latest in a yearlong wave of violence.

The Palestinian Ministry of Health said in an emailed press release that it was informed that a Palestinian was killed after Israeli soldiers opened fire on him at an Israeli military checkpoint near Nablus city.

Israeli police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the suspect moved toward a group of border police, pulling out a knife; the police responded with gunfire, killing the man on the spot.

Governor of Nablus Akram Rajoub condemned the incident

and told *Xinhua* that the Israeli army "targets Palestinian youth to kill them." "We observe a systematic policy by the occupation army, giving clear directives to its soldiers to shoot to kill," Rajoub said. "Otherwise we would not have seen that the result of each shooting is death."

Two weeks ago, security guards shot dead another Palestinian youth after he allegedly pulled a knife at a guard in the Shuafat neighbourhood in East Jerusalem.

A wave of violence in the West Bank and Israel has claimed the lives of at least 235 Palestinians and 34 Israelis since September 2015.

Israel says that most of the Palestinians were killed while per-

petrating or attempting to perpetrate stabbing, car-ramming, and shooting attacks.

The Palestinians and human rights organisations say that Israel is using excessive force to quell the uprising, and in many cases, kill Palestinians who could be stopped without using lethal force. Some of the casualties were mistaken to be attackers, according to Palestinian officials and rights groups. Israeli leaders accuse the Palestinian National Authority of "inciting" the unrest, while the Palestinians say it is the result of nearly 50 years of Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

More than 5 million Palestinians now live in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.—*Xinhua*

Iran minister says in US interest to stay committed to nuclear pact

TOKYO — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Thursday it was in the interest of the United States to remain committed to a multilateral nuclear treaty.

The US Senate voted last week to extend the Iran Sanctions Act (ISA) for 10 years, and Iran vowed to retaliate, saying it violated last year's agreement with six major powers to curb its nuclear programme in return for the lifting of international financial sanctions.

A diplomatic thaw between the United States and Iran over the past two years appears in jeopardy with US President-elect Donald Trump taking office next month.

Trump said during his election campaign he would scrap the nuclear agreement, calling the pact "a

disaster" and saying it could lead to a "nuclear holocaust".

Zarif, in Japan as part of an Asian tour that included India and China, told a seminar in Tokyo that while the agreement was multilateral and endorsed by the UN Security Council, this did not mean it might not be violated by the United States, which he said had a "less than respectable" history in respecting international laws.

"I'm not basing our hope on an illusion that people will respect international law out of their goodwill or good natures," he said.

"I believe it is in the interests of the United States as well as the rest of the international community to respect this multilateral agreement."

Sanctions against Iran had not worked in the past and would ac-

complish nothing if strengthened, especially since the other treaty partners would be unlikely to buy into them, he said.

"Sanctions will harm us, but won't break us," he said.

Zarif said on Saturday the US vote to extend the ISA for 10 years showed it could not be relied on to act on its commitments.

US officials said the ISA renewal would not infringe on the nuclear agreement. US lawmakers have also said the ISA extension would make it easier for sanctions to be quickly reimposed if Iran contravened the nuclear deal.

But Iran's nuclear energy chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, who played a central role in reaching the nuclear deal, described the extension as a "clear violation", if implemented.—*Reuters*



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif attends a joint news conference with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, Japan, on 7 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Greeks strike against austerity before budget vote, bailout review

ATHENS — Greeks went on strike on Thursday to protest planned labour reforms and painful austerity cuts demanded by the country's European Union and International Monetary Fund lenders as part of a crucial bailout review.

Passenger ships remained docked at ports, city transport was disrupted and local administration offices shut down as workers joined the 24-hour nationwide walkout called by the country's largest private and public sector unions, GSEE and ADEDY.

"The burden we carry is already unbearable," said GSEE in a statement, calling lenders' demands "irrational". "The downturn must finally end," its rally poster read.

Workers and pensioners will march in central Athens later in the day. Turnout in street protests has been low since Greece signed up to a third international bailout in July 2015 after tough negotiations that almost forced it out of the euro

zone.

Euro zone finance ministers said on Monday that Athens and its lenders needed to speed up the review which has hit a snag on labour reforms, including liberalising mass layoffs and reviving collective bargaining between employers and unions.

Energy reforms and measures to plug a projected fiscal gap in 2018, when Greece's bailout programme expires, are also among thorny issues in the review which may resume next week.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras hopes a deal can be reached by the end of the year for the country's bonds to be included in the European Central Bank's bond buying programme by March 2017. This would help Greece return to markets next year, for the first time since 2014, and eventually reduce its dependence on bailout loans. Athens has rejected its creditors' demands for more austerity measures beyond 2018. —Reuters



Anchored ships are seen during a 24-hour general strike against austerity, at the port of Piraeus, near Athens, Greece, on 8 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cuba wants to sign accords with US before Obama exit

HAVANA — Cuba said on Wednesday it hoped to sign off on at least half a dozen agreements with the United States before businessman Donald Trump, who has threatened to derail detente between the former Cold War foes, becomes president on 20 January.

Cuban and US officials held talks in Havana to discuss what more could be accomplished during President Barack Obama's remaining weeks in office, agreeing to arrange more high-level visits and technical meetings.

The more Cuba and the United States deepen their detente, the more irreversible it will become, analysts said.

"At the moment we are negotiating 12 more (accords) with the aim to be able to conclude and sign a majority of them," Josefina Vidal, the Cuban foreign ministry's director of US affairs, told a news conference.

The accords would be in areas such as seismology and meteorology, she said, adding that Cuba and the United States had already

signed a dozen accords in the two years since they agreed to normalise relations, ending decades of hostility.

They have also opened embassies, restored commercial flights and opened travel options.

But some fear all that is now at stake, given Republican Trump has

said he would seek to reverse the opening unless Communist-ruled Cuba gives the United States what he calls a "better deal". Vidal declined to comment on Trump's statements but said she hoped his administration would recognise that the detente had the backing of most Cubans and Americans.

"Cuba would hope the new US government takes into account the results we have achieved... that are backed by the majority of the Cuban population (and) US citizens," she said.

Cuba was willing to continue improving relations but "within the respect of the existing differences and without having to make any kind of concession to the principles in which Cuba firmly believes," Vidal added.

In Washington on Wednesday, US lawmakers joined more than 100 Cuban entrepreneurs to urge Trump to continue the thaw.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration is pressing American companies to complete business deals in Cuba by then.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd and Norwegian Cruise Line said on Wednesday they had received approval from Cuba's government to operate cruises to the island.

The number of US visitors to Cuba had jumped 68 per cent in the first ten months of this year to 208,000, Vidal said.—Reuters



US President Barack Obama waves as he arrives to deliver a speech at the Gran Teatro in Havana, Cuba, on 22 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Paris imposes driving restrictions, plans clunker ban as smog hits highs

PARIS — The French capital Paris announced on Wednesday licence-plate based driving restrictions for a third day in a row and plans bans on old cars as the City of Light experienced the worst air pollution in a decade.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Paris banned cars from circulation based on whether their license plates ended with odd or even numbers. It will now ban half of all traffic again on Thursday.

Other French cities such as

Lyon are also planning bans as clouds of pollution hang over many European cities due to a lack of the winds that normally blow in off the Atlantic Ocean.

It is only the fourth time in 20 years that Paris has imposed such a ban and the first time it applies for consecutive days. Municipalities around Paris also imposed the ban.

With its famous Eiffel Tower shrouded in a grayish haze and some Asian tourists donning face masks, the city also made all pub-

lic transport, residential parking and the Velib' bicycle and Autolib' electric car schemes free.

"Cars are poisoning the air. We need to take preventive measures," said Paris city hall transport official Herve Levife.

Besides instant measures like license-plate based driving bans, the city also plans to step up its fight against chronic pollution by gradually banning the oldest and most polluting vehicles from the city center, he said.

"We want these bans to au-

tomatically take effect when the pollution exceeds a certain level, not have to negotiate them with the government each time," Levife added.

From mid-January, Paris will become the first French city to launch the new "Crit'Air" vignette system that will require all cars to have a color-coded sticker indicating their age and pollution level. The stickers will allow police to control which vehicles can circulate in the city centre.

—Reuters

Madrid prosecutor charges three former Real Madrid players with tax avoidance

MADRID — The Provincial Prosecutor in Madrid on Wednesday confirmed that former Real Madrid players, Xabi Alonso, Ricardo Carvalho and Angel Di Maria were charged with offences of tax avoidance.

The Prosecutor also confirmed that investigations against former Atletico Madrid, Chelsea and Manchester United striker, Radamel Falcao and Real Madrid's Portuguese left back Fabio Coentrao have also been opened to see if they have committed fiscal offenses.

However, no investigations have so far been opened nor charges placed against Cristiano Ronaldo in the light of revelations on the website "Football Leaks" and reproduced in Spain's *El Mundo* newspaper. The leakage claimed that the Real Madrid forward had diverted 150 million euros (around 170 million US dollars) of earnings from his image rights to the British Virgin Islands, in order to avoid paying taxes. Real Madrid on Wednesday posted a statement on the club's official website, asking for "respect" for the player and insisting he was "up to date with all of his tax obligations." That statement contrasts with Jose Maria Mollinedo, the General Secretary of the Union of Spanish Tax Technicians (GESTHA).

Mollinedo told radio station RAC1 that his union's members believed "the Ronaldo case should go directly to the prosecution service," and warning that if found guilty the striker could face six years in jail.—Xinhua

Solar Impulse founder sees electric passenger plane in 10 years



Swiss aviator of the solar-powered plane Solar Impulse 2 Bertrand Piccard, speaks after landing at San Pablo airport in Seville, southern Spain, on 23 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

GENEVA — The co-founder of a project that saw a solar-powered aircraft complete the first fuel-free flight around the world this year expects electric passenger planes to operate in just under 10 years.

Bertrand Piccard, who along with fellow pilot Andre Borschberg founded Solar Impulse, also shrugged off concerns that US President-elect Donald Trump's appointment of a fossil fuel industry defender as his top environmental

official could hamper global clean technology efforts.

Since completing their historic fuel-free flight in July, Piccard and Borschberg have been working on projects to show how the technologies used in their plane can be used in other applications.

Borschberg said they were especially interested in how the technology could be used to develop small electric planes with a flying time of about 1.5 hours. The two plan to announce their next project

early next year, Borschberg said.

"In 9 years and 8 months, you'll have 50 people traveling short-haul on electric planes," Piccard, founder and chairman of Solar Impulse told an IATA airlines association briefing in Geneva.

"Why 9 years and eight months? Because since four months, I've been saying it will be '10 years'. It will happen," he added.

Piccard said that it didn't matter what peo-

ple thought about climate change because clean technology was getting cheaper and would help to drive growth.

He cited examples of insulation making homes cheaper to live in, of LED lights reducing lighting costs.

"Five years ago everything that was clean tech was more expensive - that is not the case today.

If the aim is to be profitable and create jobs, then coal is out of business," he said. —Reuters

Invitation for Bids

Date: 9th December 2016

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P4 dated 5th September, 2014

IFB No.: MR/BD/104

1. The Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase I. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Package CP104: Rolling Stock.
2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidders shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partner is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.
3. Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications now invites sealed Bids from interested eligible Bidders for the design, execution and completion of Rolling Stock (Diesel Electric Multiple Unit) ("the Works"). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA's Single-Stage Bidding Procedure.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the head office of Myanma Railways at the address shown below, during office hour from 09:30 a.m. to 16:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
Address : Tender Office, Myanma Railways Head Office, Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone : +95-67-77011
: +95-67-77024
Facsimile number : +95-67-77012
: +95-67-77164
Electronic mail address: gmmne.rail@mrt.gov.mm ,
dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of United States Dollar one thousand (1,000 US\$). Unless Bidder's eligibility is confirmed the Employer will decline to provide any Bid information.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address above on or before 14:00 p.m. on 9th March 2017 and must be accompanied by a bid security of Japanese Yen one hundred and twenty five million (JPY 125,000,000).
7. Technical Bids will be opened in the presence of prequalified Bidders' representatives who choose to attend. The opening of Technical Bids will take place on 7th April 2017, at 14:00 p.m. at Myanmar Railways Head Office Conference Room, Nay Pyi Taw.
8. If Bidder is only one, the Employer may consider returning his Bid unopened.

Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Managing Director

Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound,
Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Telephone : +95-67-77011
: +95-67-77024

Facsimile number : +95-67-77012
: +95-67-77164

Electronic mail address: gmmne.rail@mrt.gov.mm, dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm

Invitation for Prequalification

Date: 9th December 2016

Loan Agreement No.: MY-P4 dated 5th September, 2014

IFP No.: MR/PQ/104

1. The Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received ODA Loan (Loan Agreement dated 5th September, 2014) from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase I (hereinafter referred to as "the Project"). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications, (hereinafter referred to as "the Employer") intends to prequalify suppliers and/or firms for the procurement of rolling stocks under the Project; namely the Package CP104: Rolling Stock (hereinafter referred to as "the Contract").
Brief description of supply under the Contract:
Numbers: 4 train sets of 6-car each (total 24 cars)
Type of car: diesel electric multiple units (DEMU)
Maximum operating speed: 100km per hour
Place of delivery: Insein DRC Depot, 15km away from Yangon
Purpose : operating on the Yangon Mandalay railway line
3. Invitation for Bids is made on the same date of the Invitation for Prequalification for the simultaneous process of Prequalification and Bids.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement. The Eligible Nationality of the Applicants shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partners is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that total share of work of Japanese partners in the joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at Tender Office in the head office of Myanma Railways at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, during office hour from 09:30 a.m. to 16:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested eligible Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of non-refundable fee of United States Dollar One Hundred (US\$ 100).
Unless eligibility of Applicant is confirmed the Employer will decline to provide any Prequalification information.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by 14:00 p.m. 9th March 2017 and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project Phase I: Package CP104: Rolling Stock."
8. If Applicant is only one, The Employer may consider returning the application unopened.

Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications
Managing Director

Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound,
Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Telephone: +95-67-77011

Advertise with us. Hotline: 09-974424848

'La La Land' duo Emma Stone, Ryan Gosling cement mark in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES — Actors Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling left their literal mark in Hollywood on Wednesday as their hands and feet were imprinted in cement, in support of their most recent role playing lovers aspiring for success in the modern-day musical "La La Land."

The two actors pressed their hands and feet into cement at the famed TCL Chinese Theater, where the ground is embedded with slabs of concrete bearing prints of hands and feet belonging to many of Hollywood's biggest names, such as Marilyn Monroe, Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep.

Stone, 28, said she had visited the Chinese Theater when she moved to Hollywood at age 15, and found that her hands were "an exact match" for "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" actress Jane Russell. "If you're looking for a Jane Russell hand-double, I'm your girl," she quipped.

"This is just an incredible experience and making this movie was an incredible experience, so what a place to get to commemorate that," she added. Gosling, 36, joked, "I'm still, I guess, not completely convinced that we're not going to be arrested for vandalism, but I'm going to take your word for it that we're allowed to do this."

"La La Land," about an aspiring actress and jazz musician falling in love while trying to succeed in Los Angeles, is considered an Oscar front-runner, with critics praising Stone and Gosling's performances.—Reuters

Actor Brad.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Brad Pitt's request to seal divorce documents denied by judge

LOS ANGELES — Actor Brad Pitt's request to seal court documents in his high-profile custody and divorce proceedings involving actress Angelina Jolie was rejected by a Los Angeles judge on Wednesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Richard Burdge Jr. rejected Pitt's motion at an emergency hearing, a court spokeswoman said. Pitt and Jolie did not attend.

While Burdge ruled against sealing the entire case, he said requests to seal specific documents would be considered, especially if they involved the children.

cially given that the six children at the centre of the custody case are all minors.

"The court recognizes privacy rights of minor children and would be guided by what's in the minor children's best interest," Burdge said. Jolie's representatives did not respond to phone and email messages from Reuters seeking comment, and Pitt's representatives said the actor would not comment on the matter. Jolie, 41, and Pitt, 52, known collectively as "Brangelina," were together since 2005 and married for two years before their sudden split in September, which has been widely covered by news media.

—Reuters

Johnny Depp, Will Smith, George Clooney on 'overpaid' Forbes list

NEW YORK — Johnny Depp and Will Smith topped a list on Wednesday of Hollywood's most overpaid actors, an illustration that star power does not always bring in dollars at the movie box-office.

Fan favourite George Clooney also found himself on the annual Forbes list after the limited commercial appeal of films like "Hail Caesar," "Money Monster" and the 2015 flop "Tomorrowland."

Depp led the list for the second straight year after his movie "Alice Through The Looking Glass" brought in just \$300 million at the global box-office after costing about \$170 million to



A combination photo showing actors Johnny Depp (L) posing during premiere of "The Danish Girl" in Los Angeles, California, on 21 November 2015 and Will Smith attending the premiere of the film "Suicide Squad" in New York, on 1 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

produce. Forbes compiles the list by comparing the estimated pay for a lead actor in his or her last three movies with the estimated production costs and box-office gross of those movies.

It calculated that Depp, whose 2015 movie "Mortdecai" also bombed, returned just \$2.8 dollars at the box-office for every \$1 he was paid.

Depp, 53, who became one of Hollywood's highest paid actors with "Pirates of the Caribbean," also had a bad 2016 on the personal front. His split from actress Amber Heard made headlines when the pair exchanged allegations of violence and blackmail that were later dropped, and Depp paid out

\$7 million in a divorce settlement.

"Concussion", the 2015 film about football head injuries that starred Smith, grossed just \$13 million more than its \$34 million budget. It followed disappointing receptions for "Focus" and "After Earth" and led to a \$5 return at the box-office for every \$1 Smith was paid, Forbes calculated.

Clooney came in 5th on the list, with a box office return of \$6.70 for every \$1 he was paid, largely because of the failure of "Tomorrowland" which cost \$190 million to produce.

"Magic Mike" star Channing Tatum and comedian Will Ferrell rounded out the top 5 on Forbes list of most overpaid actors.—Reuters

Pixies frontman is troubadour of alt-rock after 30-year career

LONDON — Pixies frontman Black Francis has been called many things in his time — surrealist poet, alt-rock progenitor and singer in "one of America's greatest bands ever," that last one according to Bono of U2.

Sit-

ting backstage at the O2 Academy in London's Brixton before another sold-out gig, the singer tries on yet another label for size as he discusses what drives him 30 years into a career that many argue changed the face of music.

"What motivates (us)? ... It's not about being inspired by something or being motivated by something. If you decide to become ... pardon the expression, a 'troubadour' then you become a troubadour, that's who you are," says the 51-year-old, also known as Charles Michael Kittridge Thompson IV.

"It's not even like 'Do you feel like doing it today?' It's just like — that's what I do."

The Pixies began with four albums and an EP in the late 80s and early 90s. They broke up, then after a few more serious bumps in

the road, came back and kept going.

That first seven-year burst cut through the gloom of 80s pop with raw screaming vocals, loud-quiet-loud dynamics and songs about lust, the bible and UFOs, among them "Debaser" and "Monkey Gone To Heaven". Everyone from Nirvana to David Bowie queued up to pay homage.

The band split in 1993 as tensions boiled over between Thompson and bass player Kim Deal, then reformed to huge acclaim in 2004.

Deal left again in 2013, leading to the Pixies' third reincarnation, possibly their most challenging yet, as a band ploughing on after the revolution it triggered had been absorbed into the mainstream.

It is a shift underlined half way through the Brixton concert, when the Pixies' new bass play-

er Paz Lenchantin steps up to the mic and sings "All I Think About Now", a song she wrote with Thompson, a plain-spoken tribute to Deal.

"The only reason I am here is Kim, so I thought it would be good to sing about Kim, like a thank you letter," says Lenchantin backstage. "We're kind of waiting for her (Deal's) sung response," adds Thompson, chuckling.

In an early blow, "Indie Cindy", their first album after the reunion, secured dire reviews.

But many critics have held up their current release "Head Carrier" as a return to form. And there is a new solidarity about the band since Lenchantin joined full-time.

"She completes the band because without her we're just like three dudes who just used to be in a band," says Thomson. "We're a band again. We're Pixies again."—Reuters



Pixies guitarist Joey Santiago performs at the O2 Academy, Brixton in London, Britain, on 6 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fashion designer Carolina Herrera receives Lincoln Centre honour



Fashion designer Carolina Herrera arrives for the National Portrait Gallery's presentation of the inaugural American Portrait Gala in Washington in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Veteran designer Carolina Herrera spoke about the interconnectivity of fashion and art as she was honored by a New York arts organisation for her leadership and longevity in the fashion industry.

Herrera, 77, was presented with the Women's Leadership Award by the Lincoln Centre Corporate Fund on Tuesday at a star-studded event at the Manhattan performing arts venue. Herrera said on the red carpet that the award "means a lot" coming from Lincoln Centre.

"Art always inspires fashion and fashion is art in movement," she said.

The annual fundraising event picks a new honoree every year and supports 10

artist organisations on the Lincoln Centre campus.

Actresses Christina Ricci, Julianna Margulies and Emmy Rossum were among the guests at the event, which included a performance by Diana Ross and an exhibition of some of Herrera's notable designs.

"She's modern, she's a New Yorker, she's feminine, she's classy, she's sensual," Rossum said. "She's confident and smart and I think that that's the way she makes you feel when you wear her clothes."

Herrera, who was born in Venezuela, is celebrating the 35th anniversary of her New York-based eponymous fashion label, which has become a global billion-dollar brand.—Reuters

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Student pushes Japan to go green at 2020 Ecolympics

TOKYO — An old, unused smartphone lying around the house just collecting dust might one day be an object of admiration, dangling proudly around an Olympic athlete's neck at a medal podium ceremony.

Hironao Ito, a sophomore at Waseda University, is hoping that this idea alone will spark excitement among Japanese and give the country an excuse to ramp up efforts to move toward a greener society ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The 21-year-old Ito belongs to a university club known as Environment Rodrigues, a student-run body whose mission is to raise environmental awareness within the campus community.

The club, named after the lush tropical island in the Indian Ocean, was formed in 1997 and now has 50 members including Ito. Of the many projects the club is engaged in, Ito says none has attracted as much public interest as the "urban mine medal project", a joint effort by Rodrigues and an academic society known as Ecomaterials Forum to create all three classes of Olympic medals using 100 per cent recycled metals.

"I understand it would cost the country money, but I don't see why anyone would say no to the idea of electronic waste recycling," Ito said in an interview with Kyodo News.

Tokyo Olympic organisers said early last month they will support the recycling campaign by appealing to the public to donate old mobile phones and electric home appliances to

be used specifically for this purpose.

They also revealed that two tons of scrap metals now regarded as "urban mines" are needed to make a total of 5,000 medals — gold, silver and bronze.

A spokesperson for the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee said they are recruiting waste-collection companies until the 19 December deadline, and hope to start their scrap metal gathering next spring.

Japanese mobile giant NTT DoCoMo Inc., which reclaims more than 3 million old mobile phones from subscribers annually, has also announced its plan to submit a cooperation proposal to the Games organisers and contribute to the nationwide movement.

Should Japan succeed in its advanced eco-friendly effort, it will become the first host country to offer Olympic medals containing 100 per cent recycled materials.

According to Ito, using e-waste to make bronze, or even silver, is not much of a challenge, but the steps involved in recovering gold from recycled metal are very time-consuming and costly.

The Rio 2016 Organising Committee revealed the silver and bronze medals used in this summer's Games were produced using 30 per cent recycled materials such as coins, mirrors and x-ray plates.

"Because of the financial burden, no country has been able to make gold medals using only recycled materials. It means a lot that Japan takes on this challenge, more so because Japan is not resource-rich," he said.—Kyodo News

Prince Harry turns trader for charity day

LONDON — Prince Harry turned trader on Wednesday, taking calls alongside brokers at British inter-dealer ICAP for the company's annual charity day.

Wearing a navy suit, the prince answered the phones alongside traders in fancy dress costumes for the charity day where all ICAP's profits from 60

offices are donated to more than 200 charities worldwide.

ICAP, buyers and sellers of bonds, currencies and swaps, began

their charity day in 1993 and have raised over 120 million pounds with celebrities brought in to help raise money.—Reuters



Britain's Prince Harry takes part in a charity trading day at ICAP on the Aus/Nz forwards Desk with Jack O'Brien and Phil McMahon in support of his charity Sentebale, in London, on 7 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(9-12-2016 07:00 AM ~ 10-12-2016 07:00 AM) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes: Akha- Their Life and Customs (Part-1)
07:46	Am	A Way of Life: Karate-do
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Chance to Change Their Future
08:45	Am	Five-Star Ocean Liners in Myanmar Waters
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar
09:47	Am	The 110th Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	The Green Corner (Episode - 5) Plastic Chandelier
10:36	Am	Yoga & Health
10:56	Am	Myanmar Street Foods

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Dawei - Tavoy, Travel To The Southern Part of Myanmar
07:45	Pm	village Belle
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes Kayaw: Their Life and Customs
08:53	Pm	Nang

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

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



FC Porto's Yacine Brahimi in action with Leicester City's Harvey Barnes during UEFA Champions League Group Stage, Group G, at Dragao Stadium, Porto, Portugal, on 7 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Porto crush Leicester 5-0 to ease into last 16

PORTO (Portugal) — Porto eased into the Champions League knockout stages on Wednesday with a 5-0 win over Leicester City's hapless second-string side, who suffered the heaviest defeat ever by an English side in the European Cup.

With their qualification as Group G victors assured, the English champions changed 10 of their first-team line-up, leaving their hosts to cash in hungrily with a double from Andre Silva and fine strikes from Jesus Corona, Yacine Brahimi and Diogo Jota.

No English team had suffered such a huge loss in the 61-year annals of Europe's premier club competition and it was the worst reverse for any Premier League club in continental combat since Everton's 5-0 defeat, also in Portugal, at Benfica in the 2009-10 Europa League.

The dismal performance prompted manager Claudio Ranieri, who has overseen a poor

defence of the Foxes' league title while thriving on European nights, to admit afterwards: "I want us to show our character and our strength. We didn't do that well enough."

"I have a clearer idea about my players now."

Leicester had conceded only one goal in their previously unbeaten first Champions League campaign but young stand-in goalkeeper Ben Hamer became the first English goalkeeper to concede five goals on his Champions League debut.

He shipped three in 45 minutes with Silva starting the rout by heading home unchallenged from Corona's corner after six minutes.

One-way traffic and two brilliant goals ensued, Corona's magnificent first-time volley from Alex Telles's cross in the 25th minute being followed by Brahimi's cheeky backheel finish from a Maxi Pereira delivery just before halftime.

After a fairytale start to their European adventures which matched their Premier League heroics last season, Leicester, who had left players such as Riyad Mahrez and Jamie Vardy at home, were suddenly left with nothing but thoughts of damage limitation.

They improved markedly but Danny Drinkwater's 65th-minute foul on Silva allowed the striker to get up and slot home his fifth European goal of the season from the spot before Jota crashed home a fifth.

The best news for the hopelessly outclassed visitors was that an injury which forced Drinkwater, one of the few first-team regulars on duty, to limp off was said by Ranieri to be not serious.

With Copenhagen winning at Club Bruges in the other group game, Porto finished two points ahead of the Danish side and two adrift of Leicester. —Reuters

Kane ready for a first against Mourinho's Man United

LONDON — Harry Kane has yet to score against Manchester United in the Premier League but that could end at the sixth attempt on Sunday.

Tottenham Hotspur's England striker is not short of confidence ahead of the trip to Old Trafford, having scored twice against Swansea City in a 5-0 thrashing at White Hart Lane last weekend after agreeing a new six-year deal.

Victory for fifth-placed Tot-

tenham would send them nine points clear of Jose Mourinho's side, who are sixth, and leave United with a yawning gap between them and a place in the Champions League next season.

Tottenham beat United 3-0 at White Hart Lane last April, before Mourinho took over in May, but Kane did little to stand out — to the amusement of Reds' fans on social media and his own frustration. United, who won 1-0 at home in August 2015, are the

only club other than Watford and now-relegated Cardiff City, among the 24 opponents Kane has played against in the top flight, that have yet to see the Tottenham striker on the scoresheet. The 23-year-old, last season's top scorer who has been linked regularly to United in transfer speculation, is back in dangerous form having gone five league games without a goal at the end of last season and the start of the current campaign. —Reuters

Unbeaten Thailand storm into AFF Suzuki Cup final

BANGKOK — Thailand will meet Indonesia in the final after putting on a devastating performance in the second half to defeat Myanmar 4-0 in the second leg.

After a nervy start, Thailand took the lead through Sarawut Masuk's diving header in the 33rd minute. Myanmar had their chances as well, but failed to take any and they were made to pay in the second half.

A clumsy challenge from Yan Aung Kyaw gave Thailand a penalty which Theerathon Bunmathan converted, before Siroch Chatting and Chanathip Songkrasin wrapped up the win with a goal apiece eight minutes apart, for a huge 6-0 win on aggregate.

Goals

33' (1-0) A teasing cross from Theerathon sets Sarawut up perfectly, and the latter's diving bullet header finds the bottom corner of the net.

65' (2-0) Sarawut earns a penalty after Yan Aung Kyaw made a poor high challenge. Up steps Theerathon, who sends the goalkeeper the wrong way.

75' (3-0) Siroch latches onto a superb ball from centre field by Charyl Chappuis, outmuscles his defender and beats Kyaw Zin Phyo at the near post with a vicious drive.

83' (4-0) Excellent football from Thailand sees Sarawut and Chanathip exchange passes before the latter makes a cool finish into the bottom corner.

Match highlights

Thailand warning -

Thailand carve open Myanmar's backline in the 10th minute and Teerasil Dangda has an opportunity, but the Thailand cap-

tain skies his shot despite being unmarked.

Close for Thailand -

Theerathon's corner is headed on by Teerasil, and Sarawut's slight touch sends the ball crashing against the crossbar before it bounced away in the 26th minute. Wasted opportunity for Myanmar -

David Htan makes a superb run down the right before finding an unmarked Myo Ko Tun, who can only fire wide from eight yards out in the 35th minute.

Kawin to the rescue -

Yan Aung Kyaw gets a great connection on his volley from range and the ball looks to be dipping into the top corner until Kawin tips it over at full stretch.

Unlucky Myanmar -

Than Paing is given acres of space inside the box and he fires a ferocious shot that cannons off the bar just two minutes after the restart.

Big stop from Kawin -

Myanmar breaks past the static Thailand backline again in the 61st minute, and this time Myo Ko Tun has a great chance but cannot find a way past Kawin, who made himself big.

Sarach's effort stopped on the line -

A moment of madness from Myanmar goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Phyo sees him go way off his line and make a poor clearance. The ball falls for Sarach, whose shot is stopped by David Htan, the only defender protecting the open goal.

Aung Thu denied -

Finding space for himself in the 85th minute, Aung Thu fancies his chance with a low strike but Kawin reads it well. —AFF

Zidane 'angry' as Real surrender lead and top spot

MADRID — Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane criticised his players for switching off against Borussia Dortmund and throwing away a two-goal lead that cost the European champions top place in Champions League Group F on Wednesday. Just as in Dortmund in September, Real conceded a late goal to draw 2-2 with Thomas Tuchel's side, although they still equalled a club record 34-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

Karim Benzema scored in each half to put Real in a comfortable position to win the group, but Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang responded and Marco Reus levelled in the 88th minute.

"When you see how the second half went you get a bit angry. We had the game in our hands but this is football. You need to carry on right until the end," Zidane told a news conference.

"We created a lot of chances

to score the third goal. Instead, we allowed Dortmund back into the game. Dortmund deserved first place. They demonstrated how strong they are." Real failed to finish top of their group for the first time since 2012-13, when they also came second to Dortmund.

Finishing second could yet prove to be a blessing for Real, who will avoid fellow runners-up Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain as well as fellow Spaniards Atletico Madrid and Barcelona, but could meet Zidane's former side Juventus. "I haven't thought about the draw, I wanted us to finish top and we did everything to do that but I'm not going to keep going over it. We'll see who we get on Monday," the coach said.

"I don't want to get Juventus for two reasons, but there's nothing we can do about that."

—Reuters