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## Eight suspected drug dealers arrested in Maungtau

SECURITY forces arrested eight people together with marijuana weighing about one kilo in a boat in the Naf River in Maungtau Township yesterday.

While conducting an area clearance operation, the security forces found a suspected boat at about 2.55 am and gave a signal to the boat to stop.

However, the boat ran away and the security forces finally managed to stop the fishing boat from the a neighbouring country and arrested eight suspects in the boat. The security forces detained Nu Karsin, Muhammad Shudis, Swarlin, Susintan, Barbul, Amen Husson, Mujulah and Sardis and 28 packs of marijuana weighing about one kilo.

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M.S Seven Seas Voyager carrying 654 tourists and 439 crews arrived the Myanmar Thilawa International Terminal on 16th December 2016. The tourists will visit Yangon, Bago, Bagan and Mandalay before they left the MITT on 18 December for Phuket Port in Thailand. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses getting US\$ 56.8 million loans for agricultural development in eastern states

AS regards the matter to get loans of US\$ 56.8 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development to implement “the Agro-Economic Development Project in Eastern States of the country for the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock breeding and Irrigation” sent by the President, the parliamentarians took part in the discussion on the 9th day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 3rd regular session held at 10 am on Friday.

U Win Win of Minbu constituency discussed, “Being the interest-free loan, the present loan is well worth borrowing for the country. We are pleased to hear that the loan is designed to increase the income of poor residents in villages, farmers and peasants living on small-scale farming and growers of forest crops and forest farming. If possible, we want to know as to whether project planning teams comprising the experts can choose project areas and whether local

experts including the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation have the right to choose the project areas.”

U Saw Victor Khalite of Thandaungyi constituency discussed, “It is learnt that the present project includes alleviation of poverty, small-scale farming, hilly region gardening, farming and forest agriculture, cash crop farming, research work, educating on agriculture, making and utilization of natural fertilizers. It will be beneficial for nearly 200,000 acres of farming and forest land and over 3 million populace within the project area. If implemented effectively, fruitful benefits will result in project areas.”

U Hla Myint(a) U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency 11, U Than Soe(a) Than Soe (Bawgabeda) of Yangon Region constituency 4, Daw Nan Than Than Lwin of Pa-an constituency, Dr Daw Than Ngwe of Taunggyi constituency, Daw Naw Chris Htun of Kayin State constituen-



U Maung Maung Win, deputy minister for planning and finance. PHOTO: MNA

cy 7, U Khun Than Htoo of Sisai constituency and U Soe Thein of Kayah State constituency 9 respectively expressed their support during the discussions.

Concerning getting the loan, Dr Aung Thu, the Union Minister, clarified results of the project, standardized selection systems and selected regions, aims and objectives of the project on the 7th

“It will be beneficial for nearly 200000 acres of farming and forest land and over 3 million populace within the project area.”

day meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held on 13 December.

The Hluttaw recorded changing and cancellation of names of towns, wards, villages, village-tracts and expansion of town area in Sagaing Region, and expansion of 16 villages in Mandalay Region.

As regards getting loans of Euro 50 million from the gov-

ernment of Poland for the services department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, sent by the President, parliamentarians took part in the discussions.

U Soe Htay of Kawkaireik constituency said, “The Fire Services needs to be equipped with modernized equipment. For conservation of the natural environment, we need to have fire-fighting choppers equipped to promptly extinguish wildfires, if ever. And, in case of accidents and fire outbreaks on the highway, emergency aid will need to be provided. Likewise, if there were aviation accidents, fire-outbreaks in off-shore oil drilling areas, evacuation of victims in times of natural disasters, rescue of displaced people during military operations, helicopters would be urgently needed. Thus, the purchase of two helicopters from Poland should be included in the list of purchasing modernized vehicles for the Fire Services Department.”

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Kyin wrestling being seen in the arena. PHOTO: TIN TUN (RAKHINE STATE INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT)

## Sittway observes Rakhine National Day with traditional 'Kyin' wrestling competitions

TO MARK the 42nd Rakhine State Day, the Rakhine traditional 'Kyin' wrestling competitions kicked off yesterday in Sittway, Rakhin State.

The ceremony, which was organized by the Rakhine State Government, was opened at the Wunkabar Sports Ground in Sittway, with demonstration of Kyin

by wrestlers. The sport game is caterorised into two : golden and silver events: and will be held until 18 December.

The opening ceremony was attended by Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Nyi Pu and wife, Rakhine State Chief Justice, Rakhine state ministers, departmental officials and local people.

Kyin or wrestling contests were held resoundingly in urban and rural areas for the vigorous strength, health and fitness. Every youth of Rakhine national has to preserve Kyin Sport to be skillful from generation to generation.—*Tin Tun (Rakhine State Information and Public Relations Department)*

## Rakhine State Government observes Rakhine State Day



Officials observing the award winning essays, cartoons and stories. PHOTO: TIN TUN (RAKHINE STATE INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT)

RAKHINE State Government observed the Rakhine State Day in Sittway on 15th December, with conferring honorary degrees on

outstanding people by the government.

At the ceremony held at U Ottama Hall in Sittway, Rakhine

State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu read the message sent by President U Htin Kyaw on the 42nd Rakhine State Day and townselder U Maung Thar Sein delivered an address on the Rakhine State Day.

The chief minister, the Speaker of the Rakhine State Hluttaw and Rakhine State cabinet ministers presented honorary degrees to the outstanding people in education, health, livestock, environmental conservation, agriculture fields and other special issues.

Besides, the students who won the essay, cartoon and story telling competitions in commemoration of the Rakhine State Day were honoured at the ceremony.—*Tin Tun (Rakhine State Information and Public Relations Department)*

## 42<sup>nd</sup> Rakhine State Day observed in Yangon

THE 42nd Rakhine State Day was observed in Yangon, with a vow to carry out development of Rakhine State while solving current issues in Rakhine State.

In his remarks at the ceremony held at the Rakhine State Religious Building in Yangon, U San Shwe Aung, a member of the Pyidaungzu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee, said Rakhine State is currently solving the issues which have arisen in successive eras.

The ceremony was also attended by Speaker of Yangon Region Parliament U Tin Maung Tun, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Affairs U

Zaw Aye Maung and Rakhine community in Yangon.

At the ceremony, the message sent by President U Htin Kyaw and the message by the Rakhine National Party on the 42nd Rakhine State Day were read by a representative.

Buddhist monks and laypersons who made utmost contribution to the Rakhine people and state were honoured with a ceremony by the speaker, the deputy speaker and the Rakhine Affairs Minister.

Commemorative pennants were also conferred on the Buddhist monks and persons at the ceremony.—*Min Thit*



A commemorative medal stand being handed over. PHOTO: HLA MOE

### Correction

Please read "The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has started collecting data to issue smart identity cards in Mandalay and the capital Nay Pyi Taw as a pilot project," in the news story "Electronic ID cards being issued in pilot project areas" on page-9 of December 15 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—*Ed*

## Myanmar, US discuss peaceful coexistence of two communities in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung held talks with US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel yesterday over peace making process and regional stability and development in Maungtaw.

The meeting in Nay Pyi Taw also focused on measures being taken by the ministry for assisting in peaceful coexistence of the two communities in the Rakhine

State, building mutual trust and development of the socio-economy in the state. Besides, the Union minister also clarified the measures stepped up by the ministry for development of border areas and human resources development in the ethnic areas.

They also discussed matters related to further cooperation between the two countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung meets with US Ambassador Mr Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## Ceremony marking 100th anniversary of death of King Thibaw held

A donation ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the death of King Thibaw was held in Ratnagiri, India, yesterday.

It was attended by a Myanmar delegation led by Bamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara, chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, comprising Vice President U Myint Swe and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, U Soe Win, the great grandchild of the deceased King Thibaw and members of the royal family and responsible officials.

At the ceremony, the congregation took the Five Precepts from the Bamo Sayadaw and the members of Sangha recited parittas.

The congregation donated offertories to the members of Sangha and shared the merits gained. The ceremony ended with submission of the letter of supplication to the deceased king by U Soe Win and Daw Dewi Khin on behalf of members of the royal family. The late king Thibaw, queen Supayalat and two infant daughters were exiled to Ratnagiri, India, after abdicating the throne.

Following the ceremony, the Myanmar delegation met with Buddhists from Goa State at the Thibaw Point.

At the meeting, the Buddhist people received the Five Precepts from Bamo Sayadaw, and Thitagu Sayadaw delivered a sermon.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Bamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumara, Vice President U Myint Swe and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and royalities of late King Thibaw are seen at the ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of King Thibaw in Ratnagiri, India. PHOTO: MNA

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses getting US\$ 56.8 million loans...

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U Win Maung of constituency 6, in Magwe Region, U Kyaw Min of Kamayut constituency, U Ohn Khin of Palaw constituency, Dr Myint Thein of Nyaungglaybin constituency, U Khin Maung Yi of Hinthada constituency, Daw Myint Myint Soe (a) May Soe of Botahtaung constituency, Dr Kyaw Ngwe of constituency 10, in Mandalay Region, U Sein Bo of Myawady constituency and U Hla Hsan of constituency 1 in Magwe Region provided support in their discussions.

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning

and Finance clarified the discussion of U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkyi-Khanaungto constituency, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency and U Myo Win of constituency 8 in Mon State.

Regarding the discussions over report on Findings and Conclusions of Public Account Combination Committee concerning the report on the first half of the Union Budget of 2016-2017 financial year, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister, replied the Ministry would emphasize the facts of the report 7/2016. The Hluttaw decided to approve the report.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Eight suspects arrested together...



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Similarly, the security forces detained two suspects at around 1.15 am.

The two suspects are Akar Mawdi from Indin Village and Mamauk Elnu from Kotankauk (Ywama) Village in Maungtau Township. The security forces also arrested two suspects approaching the border fence in Maungtau Township on 15 De-

ember together with 500 takas and two sickles. A piece of paper in which a telephone number in Bangladesh was noted was also found.

During interrogation, the two suspects namely Adu Sarlaung and Saudi Mullah from U Shae Kya Village confessed that they were arrested while going to the neighbouring country.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Vice President U Henry Van Thio attends the ceremony marking prayers about the Birth of Jesus & Christmas friendship dinner

U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, was present at a ceremony to mark prayers about the birth of Jesus & Christmas friendship dinner held at 6 pm on December 16 under the sponsorship of Nay Pyi Taw Christ Church Council.

Present at the ceremony held at Myanmar Baptist Church Council at Shwechi Ward in Pyinmana were Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, U T Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture, ministers, pastors from the Nay Pyi Taw Christ Church Council, invited guests and responsible officials.

According to the agenda, Dr Tin Maung Aye, Rever-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, officials and priests are seen at the ceremony to mark prayers about the birth of Jesus & Christmas friendship dinner. PHOTO: MNA

end Priest, chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Christ Church Council gave a welcoming address on the birthday of Jesus Christ, followed by a speech on loving kindness by Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister. Afterward, U Htun Hla, reverend priest, gave words of praise on the virtue of the sacred

gospel of Jesus, followed by U Saw Shwe Lin's words of special prayers.

After posing for documentary photos, the Vice President attended the friendship dinner hosted by the Christ Church Council in Nay Pyi Taw.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Two killed in fire caused by negligence in Buthitaung Township

On Thursday morning, a fire broke out in the village of Phonnyoleik in Buthitaung township, Rakhine State, killing two people and destroying houses and shops, it is learnt. The fire started from the remnants left unattended and un-extinguished in the kitchen of Khobiarmat's house at about 2:30 am on December 15. The fire was brought under control and extinguished at about 3 am, killing 2 people and ruining 8 houses and 9 shops worth Ks 20 lakh. Phonnyoleik Police Station is taking action against Khobiarmat about the fire, it is learnt.— *Myanmar News Agency*



The fire caused by negligence destroys houses and kills two people in Buthitaung Township. PHOTO: STATE COUNCELLOR' OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the 2nd co-ordination meeting of committee for revision and drafting rules and regulation on television and broadcasting law. PHOTO: MNA

## Committee for revision & drafting rules and regulations on television and broadcasting law holds 2nd coordination meeting

The 2nd co-ordination meeting of committee for revision and drafting rules and regulations on television and broadcasting law was held at 10 am on Friday in the meeting hall of the ministry of information in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information disclosed, "At the first coordination meeting held on November 23, 2016, 11 items were decided. Now they will be discussed. Media is a place of assessment as

to how many changes Myanmar gained in the process of democratic movement. Media law depicts to which extent media is achieving freedom of expression. People are closely watching private and other media exercising freedom of expression to which extent. And every person who contacts us is asking and demanding this. There was a law on television. According to changing situations, arrangements are under way due to the needs for revision

of the law. Ways and means are being searched for other interested persons to run the television and broadcasting business."

Afterward, U Myint Htwe, director-general of MRTV, clarified the situations of preparation in accord with the decision of the 1st coordination meeting on revision and drafting rules and regulations on Television and Broadcasting Law, followed by advices of the attendants. —Myanmar News Agency

## Representatives for group of political parties at national-level political dialogues nominated

TWO remaining secretaries of political parties to participate in the forthcoming national-level political dialogues were nominated by political parties at the Orchid Hotel yesterday.

The meeting also nominated representatives for committees in five sectors including politics, economics, social, land and natural resources and security.

The list of nominees will be submitted to the meeting of the UPDJC secretariat on 17 December.

The Myanmar News Agency talked with Secretary U Sai Kyaw Nyunt of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy about the discussions during the meeting.

"We discussed selection of members of the working committees and supervisory committees today. We are required to choose three secretaries each

for politics, economic, social, land and natural resources and security sectors and there will be four representatives each for

"The list of nominees will be submitted to the meeting of the UPDJC secretariat on 17 December."

the government, ethnic armed groups and the group of political parties," he said.

Concerning the selection of two remaining secretaries for the UPDJC, he said that three secretaries of the political parties have been selected in-

cluding himself, U Naing Ngan Lin of the National League for Democracy and U Myint Soe of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, and two more secretaries have been nominated including U Kyaw Zeyar Oo of the Mon National Party and U Tar Hla Pe of the Ta'ang Palaung National Party. As for difficulties of the group of political parties at the national-level political dialogues, U Sai Kyaw Nyunt said that political parties had difficulty finding sources of funds as they are not allowed to accept funds from others.

For the timeframe of the Second Meeting of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference, he said that outcomes of the conference are more important than the timeframe and it should be flexible, suggesting a postponement of the conference for one or two months. —Ye Khaung Nyunt



## Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission tours Mandalay Region

TO strengthen the rule of law by the public cooperation in the legislative, executive and judicial pillars of the State, a meeting was held at the city hall in Mandalay yesterday. It was attended by Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann, Vice Chairmen Dr Than Win and Dr Aung Khin and members of the commission and guests. At the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann pointed out that the rule of law is essential for commu-

nity peace and tranquility and stability of the country that are vital to the development of the country. Later, the chief justice of Mandalay Region and representatives of the rule of law centre and civil society organizations discussed the weakness and strengths of the current legal system.

Afterwards, the commission chairman and members visited the Chanayetharzan Township Court and Chanmyaytharzi Township Rule of Law Centre. —Myanmar News Agency

## Crime NEWS

### Over 80 cases of electrocution in seven months

SEVENTY-EIGHT people died while 34 others were injured in electrocution for the past seven months of 2016 across Myanmar, it is learnt from Ministry of Electrical Power and Energy.

"The accidents occurred chiefly because of poor quality of electrical apparatuses, poor

wiring system, using old and damaged appliances and equipment and lack of knowledge about electricity, said U Htay Aung, deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy at the press conference held in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

"Some people died of electrocution because of the wires on the lamp posts getting off onto the road. So, Yangon Electricity supply corporation (YESC) has the responsibility for cases of electrocution, said U Myint Aung who lives in Yangon. —Myitmakha News Agency

## Couple commit romantic suicide

A COUPLE committed a romantic suicide after they had a quarrel over their love for and attachment to each other in Paungde town, Bago region on Thursday, it is learnt from Paungde police station.

"Couple was on a date when they had a quarrel. The girl said out of anger that she does not love him any more and

left him blue. The guy shouted to her, saying if you cannot love me, I have nothing but to die. No sooner did she leave the scene of quarrel than he undressed the longyi to use it as a rope to commit suicide. We called the girl to the police station for interrogation. The next morning, we received the news that the girl has jumped down into a well to commit suicide," said an official

from Paungde Myoma police station.

The couples were identified as Ko Myint Zaw, 30, and Ma Win Win Aye, 18, from Paungde town. The police recovered the girl corps from the well.

The bodies were sent to the general hospital for postmortem. The police are still investigating the case. —Myitmakha News Agency

## Hnin Cherry Express hit road-divider on Ygn-Mdy Highway



Hnin Cherry Express is being seen on the road-divider. PHOTO: MPF

AN EXPRESS named Hnin Cherry driven by Than Tun Aung en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon hit the road-divider between mile posts 130/2 and 130/3 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway at about 7am on 16 December 2016.

The Hnin Cherry Express hit the road-divider and stopped at the

scene when the driver lost control because of mechanical faults. The passengers on board were not injured but the express vehicle was a little damaged. Bawdigon Highway Police filed charges against the reckless driver under section 279 of the Penal Code. —Than Oo (Lemyethnar)

# LOCAL Business

## Rice price increases by Ks2,500 per bag in domestic market due to high demand

THE PRICE of rice has increased by Ks2,500 per bag in local market due to high demand from merchants in central arid regions, according to Yangon's wholesale markets.

During one week, the price of rice has obviously risen by about Ks100,000 per 100 baskets as rice buyers from Mandalay and Pakokku townships directly purchased rice in Yangon to resell the crop in their regions. The majority of rice traders from Mandalay bought the crop to export to Muse market. They mostly purchased good quality rice produced from Patheingyi and Myaungmya townships in Ayeyawady Region.

According to the rice depots in Wahdan Street market, a bag of high quality rice has been sold for at least Ks40,000 while brokers sold low quality rice for at least Ks12,500 per bag, an increase of Ks2,500 per bag compared with the price last week.

Myanmar's rice mainly goes to European market and Africa. According to Myanmar Rice Federation, the country sends around 60,000 tonnes of rice to Africa a month.

Between April and November this year, rice and broken rice



Woman transplanters are being seen on a paddy field. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

weighing over 670,000 tonnes were exported to foreign buyers, a decrease of over 220,000 tonnes compared with this period last year, according to the official figures released by the Ministry of

Commerce. The country earned over US\$230 million from the export of rice and broken rice this year.

Local exporters estimate that the export volume of rice is

likely to reach about 1.5 million tonnes this year. Myanmar exported about 1.4 million tonnes of rice and broken rice to partner foreign buyers in 2015-2016 financial year.—*Kyel Sin*

## Record value of dollar affects imported goods

PRICES for imported personal goods have jumped to at most Ks800 per item depending upon the types of goods because of the dollar appreciation, according to groceries in Yangon's Nyaungbinlay market.

The appreciation of dollar has reached a record high of over Ks1,400 per Myanmar kyat on Thursday in domestic market. The dollar exchange rate on 15 December in the local market increased to Ks1,420 in the afternoon and then dropped a bit to Ks1,412 in the evening.

The high value of dollar affects some imported commodities such as personal goods, foodstuff and beverages as well as medicines. The prices of those items have risen to at least Ks300 from its original selling price.

Among other items, prices of imported soaps, toothpastes, shampoos, soft drinks and washing powders are higher between Ks300 and Ks800 as a result of the depreciation of Myanmar currency.

Hnin Yu, the owner of a grocery in Lanmadaw Township in downtown Yangon, said that demand of merchants from countryside also decreased by half.

The dollar exchange rate was on the rise from 5 to 7 December. It then slipped to Ks1,370 per dollar on 8 December. The rate of hard currency started an upward trend on 9 December. It continued to go up and reached a record high price of over Ks1,400 on 15 December, according to the sheet currency exchange market.

The dollar price dropped back to around Ks1,360 per kyat on 16 December.—*Khine Khant*

## Myanmar-Japan joint venture eyes investment

A joint venture between Myanmar's leading heavy machinery distributor, Myanmar Kaido Co., and Japanese trading giant Mitsubishi Corp. aims to capitalize on the rapid development of the Southeast Asian country's urban infrastructure through the rental of construction and other equipment.

An opening ceremony for the joint venture, Diamond Rental Myanmar Co., 50 percent owned by Mitsubishi, 30 per-

cent by Myanmar Kaido and 20 percent by Mitsubishi subsidiary Nikken Corp., was held at a hotel in Myanmar's commercial hub of Yangon on Dec. 9.

At the ceremony, Yangon's chief minister, Phyo Min Thein, said the Myanmar-Japanese partnership will benefit not only the local firm but also Myanmar's ongoing development projects, especially Yangon's urban development plan drawn up with the help of the Japan International

Cooperation Agency.

"The capacity of heavy machinery will play a major role when we implement the urban development projects in the city," the chief minister said.

The three companies have collaborated in the rental business in Myanmar since 2013.

In November 2015, they established DRM after making trial operations in April the same year at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, one of three SEZs under

development in Myanmar.

Tomonori Hattori, managing director of DRM, said the company aims to be the No.1 rental company in Myanmar.

Myanmar Kaido was established by Myanmar nationals in 1993. The company is distributing heavy machinery and related spare parts to the mining, construction and manufacturing industries by importing equipment, mainly from Japanese manufacturers.—*Kyodo News*

## Ks 14.414 billion and US\$ 30.5 million to spend on electricity sector

MINISTRY of Electric Power and Energy will spend Ks 14.414 billion and US\$ 30.5 million on electricity sectors for safety of the public as well as for ensuring steady and regular voltage, it is learnt.

"Ministry of Electric Power and Energy will spend Ks14.414 billion from Union Fund and US\$ 30.5 million loans from ADB to build new sub-power

station, change of old lamp-posts and damages wires and expansion of power lines for safety of the public and regular voltage in 2016-2017 Fy," said U Htay Aung, deputy permanent secretary of the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy at the press conference held Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Ministry of Electric Power and Energy is unraveling the

complicated wires in Tamwe, Hlaing, Dala and Hlaingthaya townships.

"ADB's loans will be used only for freedom from danger of electrocution. We borrowed the ADB's loan to build new sub-power station in Yangon region, said U Aung Kyaw Oo, director of Yangon

Electricity supply corporation.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



High-voltage power lines being seen. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

# Philippines says won't protest China actions in Spratly Islands

MANILA — The Philippines would not protest China's moves to militarise its man-made islands in the South China Sea, Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay said on Friday, amid Manila's efforts to improve ties with Beijing.

China has deployed anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems on the artificial islets it has built in the disputed Spratly Islands, the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI) at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies said in findings reported by Reuters this week.

Speaking to reporters in Singapore during an official visit by President Rodrigo Duterte, Yasay said the government will not issue any diplomatic protest to China via a "note verbale".

"We will make sure that there will be no further actions that will heighten the tensions between the two countries, particularly in the Scarborough Shoal," Yasay said, referring to another group of disputed islets.

"Let them take whatever action is necessary in



Soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy patrol near a sign in the Spratly Islands, known in China as the Nansha Islands, on 9 February 2016. The sign reads 'Nansha is our national land, sacred and inviolable.' PHOTO: REUTERS

the pursuit of their national interest... and we will leave it at that, for the Philippines, we have our bilateral engagements with China," he said, adding that other countries could deal with any

issues. Whereas the Scarborough Shoal was disputed solely by China and the Philippines, several countries, including China and the Philippines, have rival claims in the Spratly Islands.

Since his election six months ago, President Duterte has sought to strengthen previously strained relations with Beijing, while cooling ties with long-time ally, the United

States.

Yasay's remarks contrast with those of Defence Minister Delfin Lorenzana, who on Thursday described China's latest actions in the Spratly Islands as a "big

concern" for the international community.

Every year, about \$5 trillion worth of maritime trade passes through the sea, which is believed to hold deposits of oil and gas.

Aside from China and the Philippines other countries with maritime claims in the sea include Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet Nam. "We cannot stop China... there is nothing that we can do about that now," Yasay said, adding improving relations with Beijing had paid off because Filipino fishermen can now fish around Scarborough Shoal.

In Manila, coast guard officials from the Philippines and China concluded two-day of talks to draw up an action plan to cooperate in fishing, environmental protection and humanitarian assistance in the South China Sea.

Coast guard spokesman, Commander Armand Balilo, said the two sides also discussed joint law enforcement operations as well as adopting a set of protocols to avoid accidents.—Reuters

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## Lawyers for South Korea's Park say impeachment has no legal basis

SEOUL — Lawyers for embattled South Korean President Park Geun-hye struck a defiant note on Friday, saying a parliamentary vote to impeach her had no legal basis and should be overturned by the Constitutional Court.

Park was indicted in a 9 December vote by a wider-than-expected 234-56 margin, setting the stage for her to become the country's first democratically elected leader to be ejected from office.

"We see no grounds for impeachment and it should be struck down," Lee Joong-hwan, a former prosecutor who is part of the team representing Park, told reporters gathered at

the court building where the fate of her presidency will be decided.

Her lawyers also said that it was unlikely that Park would appear before the court when it begins to hear the case.

The court could take up to 180 days to reach a decision.

Park, 64, whose father ruled the country for 18 years after seizing power in a 1961 coup, is accused of colluding with long-time friend Choi Soon-sil, who has been indicted and is in custody, to pressure big businesses to make contributions to non-profit foundations backing presidential initiatives.

Park, who is serving a

single five-year term that is due to end in February 2018, has denied wrongdoing but apologised for carelessness in her ties with Choi.

She has refused widespread calls to resign immediately, despite huge weekly protests and parliament's overwhelming vote for impeachment, fuelling concern the political crisis could drag on for months.

But her lawyer said her legal team was looking to move quickly.

"We want a quick process and will not request to delay it," Lee said.

Although stripped of her presidential powers, which are being wielded by the prime minister,

Park retains her title and her official residence. She has presidential immunity while in office, but risks facing prosecution upon her departure.

Earlier on Friday, an official in the presidential Blue House said parliamentary investigators would not get access to her official residence, citing national security.

"They can't come inside," a Blue House official told reporters, declining to be identified.

"We haven't changed our stance on that. We are in talks regarding where to meet, and what to do, if parliament's special committee wants to hold an inspection."—Reuters

## China says no country can be exception to 'one China' principle

BEIJING — The "one China" principle is the basis for developing ties with China and no country can be an exception to this rule, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his French counterpart.

US President-elect Donald Trump has upset China by speaking with the president of self-ruled Tai-

wan, which China claims as its own, and casting doubt on Washington's nearly four-decade policy of recognising that Taiwan is part of "one China".

Speaking with French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, Wang said the Taiwan issue concerns China's sovereignty and territorial

integrity, China's Foreign Ministry said late on Thursday.

"The one-China principle is the prerequisite and basis for other countries to develop their relations with China and that when it comes to this vital issue of right or wrong, no country can be an exception," the

statement cited Wang as saying. Wang said he appreciated Ayrault's clear stance on the "one China" issue.

Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has never renounced the use of force to bring it under its control. China considers Taiwan independence a red line issue.—Reuters

## Thailand charges 19 'red shirt' leaders with violating junta ban

BANGKOK — Thailand's military-appointed attorney-general on Friday charged 19 leaders of the opposition "red shirt" group with violating a junta ban on political gatherings.

The United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, known as the "red shirts", led street rallies in 2009 and 2010 in support of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup, and staged rallies in 2014 when his sister, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was toppled in a coup.

Since taking power in the May 2014 coup the junta has moved to root out Thaksin's influence and has cracked down on activists, journalists and dissidents.

The junta has banned political gatherings of more than five people and summoned hundreds of people for questioning.

Supporters of the red shirt movement say the junta has especially targeted pro-Shinawatra red shirts.

The military denies it is targeting Shinawatra supporters.

The 19 men were originally arrested and charged by police in August for violating a ban on political gatherings after setting up a monitoring center to oversee a constitutional referendum held by the military government.

"Today the attorney-general has ordered all 19 to be charged and the court has accepted the charges. We will ask for bail," Winyat Chatmoontree, a lawyer for the movement, told reporters.

Voters approved a military-backed constitution in the referendum, a result analysts said was driven by a desire to see greater political stability after years of unrest.

Two of the red shirt leaders, Nattawut Saikua and Jatuporn Prompan, have been taken into custody several times since the 2014 coup for protesting against military rule.

Both men have criticized the military constitution saying it would enshrine military power for years to come.

The constitution is a key component of the junta's roadmap to a general election it has promised to hold in late 2017.

Once the constitution is endorsed by King Maha Vajiralongkorn, the junta will need to draft laws which will guide the electoral process.

Thailand has remained divided since Thaksin's ouster in 2006, with Thaksin's supporters and opponents vying for power at the ballot boxes and in the streets, sometimes violently.

—Reuters



Russia's President Vladimir Putin talks with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the start of their summit meeting in Nagato, Yamaguchi prefecture, Japan, on 15 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Russia may ease Japanese visits to disputed islands: Putin

TOKYO — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia may relax rules for Japanese citizens to visit the islands in the Pacific that are subject of a territorial dispute between Moscow and Tokyo.

Speaking at a news conference in Tokyo after meeting

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Putin also said that a solution needs to be found to the territorial dispute, and he invited Abe to visit Russia.

The two leaders in their talks discussed the situation on the Korean peninsula, Putin told reporters.—Reuters

## China holds first live-fire drills with aircraft carrier, warships

BEIJING — China's military has carried out its first ever live-fire drills using an aircraft carrier and fighters in the northeastern Bohai Sea close to Korea, state media said.

China's growing military presence in the disputed South China Sea has fueled concern, with the United States criticising its militarisation of maritime outposts and holding regular air and naval patrols to ensure freedom of navigation.

No other country has claims in China's busy waterway of the Bohai Sea, but the drills come amid new tension over self-ruled Taiwan, following US President-elect Donald Trump's recent telephone call with the island's president that upset Beijing.

Ten vessels and 10 aircraft engaged in air-to-air, air-to-sea and sea-to-air combat drills that featured guided missiles, state broadcaster Chinese Central Television reported late on Thursday.

"This is the first time an aircraft carrier squadron has performed drills with live ammunition and real troops," it said.

China's Soviet-built Liaoning aircraft carrier and a formation of warships carried out aerial interception, anti-aircraft and anti-missile drills, in which Shenyang J-15 fighter jets carrying live missiles also participated, CCTV said.

It broadcast images of fight-



A live-fire drill using an aircraft carrier is seen carried out in the Bohai sea, China, on 14 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

er jets taking off from the carrier, firing missiles and destroying a target at sea.

The Liaoning has participated in previous military exercises, including some in the South China Sea, but the country is still years off from perfecting carrier operations similar to those the United States has practiced for decades.

On Wednesday, a US think tank said China had been installing anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems on artificial islands in

the South China Sea, prompting China to defend its right to install military hardware there.

China's exercises aim to test the equipment and troop training levels, an unidentified navy official told the official China News Service.

Last December the Defence Ministry confirmed China was building a second aircraft carrier to go with the existing vessel, but its launch date is unclear.

China keeps its aircraft carrier programme a state se-

cret, and CCTV blurred images showing the cockpit instrument panel of one aircraft involved in the Bohai Sea drills.

Beijing could build multiple aircraft carriers over the next 15 years, the Pentagon said in a report last year.

China's successful operation of the Liaoning is the first step in what state media and some military experts believe will be the deployment of domestically built carriers by 2020.—Reuters

## South Korea culls record number of birds amid worst avian flu outbreak

SEOUL — South Korea has culled a record 16 million chickens and other birds since the worst bird flu outbreak to hit the country was first reported in mid-November, the country's Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Kim Jae Soo said in a statement on Friday.

To prevent further spread of the disease, the status of warning against the highly pathogenic H5N6 virus has been upgraded by one notch to the highest alert level as of Friday, the statement said.

In winter time, efforts to combat avian influenza are more difficult as migratory birds fly into the nation, raising serious concerns that the virus could be spread between poultry farms, it said.

The first outbreak was reported on 17 November at a chicken farm in Haenam, South Jeolla Province and in Eumseong, North Chungcheong Province.

The H5N6 strain of bird flu had not been detected in South Korea until the latest outbreak.

South Korea's quarantine officials said migratory birds were the source of the disease, as there have been no reports of infections through the movement of people or livestock. Human-to-human transmission of the H5N6 strain is extremely rare, with only a handful of cases reported in China. South Korea culled 14 million birds in 2014 to contain a bird flu outbreak.—Kyodo News

# Opinion

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with your name and title.

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

## Conscientious and responsible media

Editorial from  
Kyemon (The  
Mirror Daily)

**N**EWSPAPERS issued across the world can be categorized into two kinds. One is the prestigious broad sheet paper the educated circle and upper-class societies love reading, and the other is the kind of tabloids full of short stories, yellow journalism and stories about famous persons—good and compromising ones—intended to attract more and more subscribers. The latter is called the Daily of Mass Circulation as well.

Most countries including Myanmar choose to exercise the system of using Tabloid papers among print media world of complexity, for producing much benefit. Concise and effective usage of words, euphemistic language and attractive presentation of stories

written in understandable prose styles are favorable characteristics of Tabloid Papers.

Yet, it is necessary not to abuse these favors in wrong ways. If and when false news and information happened to have been expressed prioritizing for one's personal interest only, without abiding by journalism ethics and dignity, it will probably find a case of law suit or something, or public detestation and criticism will go to them.

Very recently, UK-based Daily Mail Tabloid's Online Page made the spread of a false news item. By using photos and a video file recorded in an incident which happened in Cambodia, it fabricated misleading information so that it seemed to have actually taken

place in Myanmar — exhibiting a child tortured with a stun gun by a laughing soldier. Similarly, Singapore-based "The Independent" Daily spread video file of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's interview with Myanmar nationals during her Singapore trip, with wrong captions written by subversive elements.

As regards reporting of the fabricated news, Myanmar government will take action against them legally and in accord with procedures of journalism, it was released. And, it was found that "The Guardian" daily and some media posted false video file and photos on Rakhine State on social website pages.

Concerning the said post, US-based Washington Post Daily conscientiously as-

serted that Daily Mail has been too rushed for readers to agree with it for long. It had ever questioned the news accuracy, happening to set foot on complicated arena to solve its creation of nearly half of global news and facts of falsehood by describing the wrong article.

Now, prestigious and conscientious news media began to dig up the truth on the video files and photos posted by some undignified media, revealing that they have been invented by mixing incidents and disastrous events of other countries.

We hereby call for our righteous media to continue to find out false writings made intentionally, at such a time when Myanmar is being alleged that it is violating human rights.

## Bank and Banking Services

U Khin Maung  
(A retired diplomat)

**F**IRST and foremost, I would like to present to you the definitions of "a bank" and "banking or banking services". In this article, a bank is, in essence, a business organization, which receives money for safe-keeping and pays out to its accountholders, or customers. "Banking" means "a business organization, usually a limited company, which trades mainly in money, receiving and holding deposits and paying sums out of them by order of the customer, lending money at interest, discounting bills of exchange, moving money from one place to another, acting as customer's agent in buying and selling securities, serving as trustee or executor and performing various services for customers, for example, travelling and insurance, investment, advising on tax and investment.

Up till now, in our Union, most of the government departments pay the salaries of the public servants in cash. So also, most of the companies pay their staff's salaries and bonuses in cash. On the nationwide scale, one the 20 percent of Myanmar population have now opened bank accounts, namely, current, savings, deposit and joint accounts. But if we take

a look at our neighbor, Thailand, we will find that, especially in the banking services, this country is now on a par with or at the same level with many other countries in the world. In other words, the banking services of this country is meeting international standards. Why? It was learnt that when Asia was faced with economic recession crisis in 1999 or in another sense, when Asia's

way for new mobile services. It simply put, the central bank is taking steps to implement the effective and convenient banking services for the public. The aims and objectives of the mobile services are to provide the people in the rural area with convenient banking services, as those people have no bank accounts. This "Wave Money" project is a joint venture. "Telenor" own 51 per-

**...money-transfers are now permitted under the Central Bank's regulations, without the use of a bank account. Accordingly, now in our union, money transfers are permitted from people to people, people to government, people to business, and business to business.**

economy took a hit in 1999, Thailand studied the weak points of its banking system and services and started to make necessary reforms and amendments to improve its own system and services.

In the light of the global trend especially, the globalized economy trend, our country is also taking serious steps to reform and make amendments to its banking system and services. And I have also read a news report that the central bank of the Union of Myanmar is paving the

cent, First Myanmar Investment Holding owns 44 percent and Yoma Bank 5 percent. The total amount of investment is about United States dollars 17 millions. This "Wave Money" project is our country's first mobile financial service. "The Wave Money" project has already opened 4,000 shops in 16 townships. Under this "Wave Money" system "money-transfer" can be made without the use of a bank account.

In connection with this Wave Money system, the Central

Bank has issued regulations on mobile financial services since 30th March of this year 2016. In April, the Central Bank has also allowed customers to open mobile accounts and deposits and transfer money between them.

In the Union of Myanmar, the "Wave Money" system is currently the only licensed mobile financial service. Under this system and service, money-transfers are now permitted under the Central Bank's regulations, without the use of a bank account. Accordingly, now in our union, money transfers are permitted from people to people, people to government, people to business, and business to business. Many thanks to our Central Bank.

If my memory serves me well, in our younger days, there were very few banks in our Union. And those very few banks, for instance, one or two in number, were opened for financial services only at the district headquarters. In those days, financial services were provided by the treasuries in the districts and by the sub-treasuries in the townships. In this technology age, we have already quite a good number of foreign banks opened in our Union. And our own national banks are also providing modern banking services, for example, electronic banking service, "au-

tomated teller machine" service, Easi mobile agent banking service, credit card payment system etc. Just for information, may I now present to you some facts about the cashpoint or the automated teller machine. A.T.M is American English. In making use of A.T.M, the most logical orders must be observed as follows:

1. Insert your card (cash card)
2. Key in your PIN number. (Personal Identity Number)
3. Press the withdraw cash button.
4. Choose the amount of money you want.
5. Take your card.
6. Take your cash.

And some explanation about "the credit card". It is a form of consumer credit, being issued by a bank or other finance organization which allows the customer to get credit at most shops, restaurants, garages, hotels etc. He shows the card and the bill, which is then paid by the company or the bank issuing the card.

Wonderful and very much thankful to the modern banking services.

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# EU agrees on approach to Brexit talks, PM May left out in cold

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders agreed their plan for Brexit negotiations on Thursday, pledging to move swiftly and stick together to ensure Britain does not cherry pick a sweet deal that might inspire others to unstitch the bloc.

Prime Minister Theresa May left before the other 27 leaders met briefly to formalize their plan for how to run Brexit talks.

Before heading home, diplomats said May had assured her European partners that she would launch the two-year process by the end of March despite how London judges rule in a constitutional court case that some say might jeopardize her timetable.

“It’s right that the other leaders prepare for those negotiations as we have been preparing,” May told reporters. The 27 issued a statement saying they were “determined to see the Union succeed”, and were ready to negotiate quickly to “tackle the uncertainties” raised by the prospect of Brexit.

But “any agreement will have to be based on a balance of rights and obligations”, they insisted, and reject British attempts to remain in the EU’s single market if



Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May arrives at a European Union leaders summit in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

it does not accept free immigration from the continent — one of four key freedoms of the Union which British voters rejected in a June referendum. After months in which exasperated continentals have mocked divisions within May’s government over what kind of deal Britain should seek, her exhortations to the others to get on with their preparations sounded a shade ironic. But in fact Brussels

did see a wobble in its facade of unity as the European Parliament grumbled that EU leaders were freezing it out of negotiations.

After warnings from senior lawmakers that the legislature risked withholding its consent to any final divorce deal if it was not included throughout the talks, national leaders offered an olive branch, saying they could attend preparatory meetings.—Reuters

## Swiss parliament skirts clash with EU over immigration curbs



National Councilors vote on curbing the immigration, in the parliament, in Bern, Switzerland on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ZURICH — Switzerland approved a law on Friday aimed at curbing immigration by giving local people first crack at open jobs, skirting voters’ demand for outright quotas that it feared could disrupt close ties with the European Union.

After parliament passed the new immigration law, the focus will now shift to how the EU responds. Brussels so far has shown scant flexibility on the free movement of people — the principle underpinning Swiss access to the single market — so as not to encourage Britain as it negotiates its EU divorce.

The lack of upper limits on immigration to a country of 8.3 million, whose population is al-

ready a quarter foreign, prompted the right-wing Swiss People’s Party to assert that politicians had defied the people’s will in a 2014 referendum.

The SVP, the largest party in parliament, has accused other parties of kowtowing to Brussels and shirking their duty to stand up for Swiss sovereignty. Its members held up signs protesting the final vote reading “constitutional breach” and “mass immigration continues”.

But a clear majority in parliament did not want to risk a row with the EU, Switzerland’s main trading partner, which could retaliate by abrogating other bilateral accords easing trade in sectors that account for 7 per cent of

Swiss economic output.

Nearly 1.4 million EU citizens live in Switzerland and another 365,000 commute in from neighbouring countries.

The Swiss think that gives them leverage with Germany, France and Italy, whose leaders may not want to have to explain to voters — especially those in border regions with strong populist party support — why they can no longer work in high-wage Swiss jobs. Passage of the law clears the way for Switzerland to extend free movement of people to the latest EU member Croatia. That in turn will restore Swiss access to the EU’s Horizon 2020 programme, which funds research projects.—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Twelve-year old boy tried to blow up bomb at German Christmas market — Focus

BERLIN — A 12-year old German-Iraqi boy suspected of having links to extremist group Islamic State (IS) tried to blow up a bomb at a Christmas market in the western town of Ludwigshafen, German magazine *Focus* reported on Friday, citing security and judicial sources.

The boy, born in the same town in 2004, was “strongly radicalised” and apparently instructed by an unknown IS member, *Focus* reported. The suspect put down a backpack containing a self-made nail bomb at the Christmas market on 26 November, but the device did not go off because the detonator failed, it said.

A market visitor called the police after finding the backpack and specialists defused the device, the report said.—Reuters

#### Putin gave clear response to US hacking allegations: TASS cites Kremlin

TOKYO — The Kremlin said on Friday that President Vladimir Putin had given President Barack Obama “a really clear response” to US allegations that Moscow had interfered in the US presidential election by hacking Democratic Party organisations.

Russia’s TASS news agency cited Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov as telling reporters in Tokyo that Putin had explained Russia’s stance on the issue to Obama on the sidelines of the G20 summit in September. “There was a tete-a-tete conversation and different themes were discussed,” Ushakov was cited as saying. “This theme was touched upon. A really clear reply was given by our side which perhaps did not fit with what Obama was trying to explain to us.”—Reuters

#### Bird flu infection detected at Hokkaido poultry farm

HOKKAIDO — Some chickens that died at a poultry farm in Shimizu, Hokkaido, were confirmed to have been infected with avian influenza, the Hokkaido government said on Friday.

After about 30 chickens died at the farm, five tested positive, as well as two living chickens, in a preliminary test. The latest outbreak of bird flu in poultry follows the recent discovery of a highly virulent avian flu virus at farms in the prefectures of Aomori, northern Japan, and Niigata, central Japan.

If a detailed analysis confirms the virus in the latest outbreak is also a highly pathogenic strain, the Hokkaido government will immediately begin culling chickens in the area.

The poultry farm there keeps 210,000 chickens. Seven other poultry farms are located within a 10-kilometre radius, with a total of another 192,000 chickens.—Kyodo News

#### Thousands of Filipinos gather to cheer Duterte in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Thousands of Filipinos gathered in Singapore on Friday to catch a glimpse of their president, Rodrigo Duterte, in a big show of support for a leader whose bloody war on drugs has horrified global rights groups but won support at home.

About 135,000 people from the Philippines live in Singapore, according to a breakdown of Philippine statistics for 2015.

About 70,000 of them are women working as domestic helpers, rights groups estimate, and many of them turned up on Friday — some without the permission of their bosses — to cheer their president on a visit to the city state. “Most people love Duterte,” said 43-year-old maid Arnela, who declined to give her full name because her employers did not know she went out. “I didn’t ask them because they wouldn’t have let me. I’m very lucky because my employers are on holiday,” said Arnela, who is supporting her four children back home on Mindanao island, Duterte’s home region.

Hours before Duterte was due to appear at an exhibition centre near Singapore’s Changi airport, cover bands, a church choir and a martial arts group took to the stage to entertain the crowd.—Reuters

#### Vucic: We will pass all IMF reviews, Srbijagas only objection

BELGRADE — The only objection Serbia has received from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is one about Srbijagas, PM Aleksandar Vucic said on Thursday, adding that he was confident Serbia would pass all IMF reviews.

We have tackled all other objections, and we will pass all reviews, which is what the citizens expect and what is very important for them, Vucic said at The Economist’s The World in 2017 conference, held in the Serbian parliament.—Tanjug

# Yemen edging nearer famine as war, 'shredded economy' take toll — UN official

GENEVA — Yemen's humanitarian catastrophe is set to worsen as the war has ruined the economy and is stopping food supplies getting through, driving the country to the brink of famine, the top UN aid official in the country told Reuters.

"Throughout the whole of this country kids are dying," said Jamie McGoldrick, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen.

Nearly two years of war between a Saudi-led Arab coalition and the Iran-allied Houthi movement has left more than half of Yemen's 28 million people "food insecure", with 7 million of them enduring hunger, according to the United Nations.

In the latest setback, Yemen's biggest traders have stopped new wheat imports due to a crisis at the central bank, documents seen by Reuters show.

Already, eight out of 10 children are stunted by malnutrition and every 10 minutes a child dies due to preventable diseases, UN agency figures show. To scrape by, several families often rely on one salary-earner, and child marriage is increasing, with girls married off at the age of 15 on average, and often younger.

The UN estimates that 18.8 million people need some form of humanitarian aid but it struggles to deliver supplies, partly because of the war and partly due to a lack of funding. The disruption of wheat shipments will exacerbate the problem.

"We know that early next



Food is cooked inside a tent at a camp for people displaced by the war near Sanaa, Yemen, on 27 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

year we will face significant problems," said McGoldrick, who described the economy as "shredded".

Almost half of Yemen's 22 governorates are already officially rated as being in an emergency food situation, he said. That is four on a five-point scale, where five is famine.

"I know there are some worrying developments and the deterioration we've seen in the economy and the health services and the ability to supply food

would only give us an estimate that things are going to get much worse," McGoldrick said.

The UN has been conducting a new food assessment in preparation for a new humanitarian appeal in 2017, when it will ask donors for life-saving help for 8 million people. But a famine may still not be officially declared.

"Technically these things are easily measured but in reality using the F-word is something that very few people will use because

it's so emotive. I would say it's not likely to happen, my personal view."

"Famine" means more than two people dying per day for every 10,000 in the population, or about 5,500 deaths per day across a country of Yemen's size, according to a Reuters calculation.

The current "emergency" across much of Yemen still means 1-2 deaths per 10,000, suggesting thousands may die of hunger every day.—Reuters

## Pipeline from two Libyan oil fields 'reopens' but output hampered

TRIPOLI — A group of oil guards in Libya said on Thursday they had reopened a long blockaded pipeline leading from the major oil fields of Sharara and El Feel, but an oil worker said a separate group had prevented a production restart at El Feel.

The apparent agreement by a faction of the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) in Rayana to open the pipeline after shutting it for more than two years has raised hopes of a major output boost from Sharara and El Feel, which together can produce more than 400,000 barrels per day (bpd).

But the strength and scope of deals to resume production from the fields is not clear, and officials and analysts say any increase to output is likely to be gradual and fragile because of technical problems and Libya's ongoing political turmoil.

The National Oil Corporation (NOC) has not confirmed any resumption of production at the fields.

Libya is one of two members of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that is not bound by the bloc's pledge to cut oil production by about 1.2 billion bpd during the first half of 2017.

Its oil production has doubled to about 600,000 bpd since September, when the eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA) took control of several blockaded ports and allowed the NOC to reopen them. But it remains far below the 1.6 million bpd Libya produced before its 2011 uprising.

While a jump in Libyan output is seen as one of the risks to the OPEC deal, continued political rivalries and conflict are likely to complicate efforts to bring output back towards past levels.

The NOC has said it hopes to raise production to 900,000 bpd in the near future, and to 1.1 million bpd next year.

It has been involved in negotiations with tribal leaders and armed factions for months to reopen a valve at Rayana, a town on the pipeline's route to the northern coast.

Mohamed Al-Gurj, a spokesman for the PFG faction in Rayana, said a valve had been reopened on Wednesday, after coordination between a PFG unit headed by Mohamed Basheer, an LNA commander in the nearby town of Zintan, and the NOC. The PFG and military officials had announced a deal on Wednesday.—Reuters

## Aleppo evacuation suspended amid dispute over villages

ALEPPO, (Syria) /BEIRUT — The evacuation of the last opposition-held areas of the Syrian city of Aleppo was suspended on Friday after pro-government militias demanded that wounded people should also be brought out of two Shi'ite villages being besieged by rebel fighters.

The second day of the operation to take fighters and civilians out of Aleppo's rebel enclave ground to a halt amid recriminations from all sides after a morning that had seen the pace of the operation pick up.

Aleppo had been divided between government and rebel areas

in the nearly six-year civil war, but a lightning advance by the Syrian army and its allies that began in mid-November deprived the insurgents of most of their territory in a matter of weeks.

Russia said the Syrian army had established control over all districts of eastern Aleppo al-

though government troops were suppressing isolated areas where rebel fighters continued to resist, the defence ministry in Moscow added.

Rebel sources accused pro-government Shi'ite militias of opening fire on buses carrying evacuees from east Aleppo. Road blocks went up and a bus convoy was forced to turn back.

Rebels in eastern Aleppo went on high alert after pro-government forces prevented civilians from leaving and deployed heavy weaponry on the road out of the area, a Syrian rebel commander in the city said. A Syrian official source said the evacuation was halted because rebels had sought to take out people they had abducted with them, and they had also tried to take weapons hidden in bags. This was denied by Aleppo-based rebel groups. But a media outlet run by the pro-government Hezbollah group said protesters had blocked the road from the city, demanding that wounded people from the villages of Foua and Kefraya in nearby Idlib Province should also be evacuated.—Reuters



Forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad sit on a tank as a convoy of buses and other vehicles bringing people out of eastern Aleppo turns back in the direction of the besieged rebel enclave, Syria, on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

| YANGON TO BANGKOK |       |       |         |
|-------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Flight no.        | Dep   | Arv   | Days    |
| TG-304            | 09:50 | 11:45 | Daily   |
| TG-2302           | 15:00 | 16:55 | 1,5,6,7 |
| TG-302            | 15:00 | 16:55 | Daily   |
| TG-306            | 19:50 | 21:45 | Daily   |
| PG-706            | 6:00  | 8:15  | Daily   |
| PG-702            | 10:30 | 12:25 | Daily   |
| PG-708            | 15:30 | 17:25 | Daily   |
| PG-704            | 18:20 | 20:15 | Daily   |
| 8M-335            | 7:30  | 9:15  | Daily   |
| 8M-331            | 16:30 | 18:15 | Daily   |
| UB-017            | 15:45 | 19:15 | 2,4,6,7 |
| UB-017            | 17:45 | 19:15 | 1,3,5   |
| UB-019            | 8:00  | 9:30  | 3,5,7   |
| UB-019            | 8:55  | 10:25 | 1,6     |

| BANGKOK TO YANGON |       |       |         |
|-------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Flight no.        | Dep   | Arv   | Days    |
| TG-303            | 8:00  | 8:45  | Daily   |
| TG-2351           | 10:10 | 11:00 | 1,5,6,7 |
| TG-301            | 13:15 | 14:00 | Daily   |
| TG-305            | 18:05 | 18:50 | Daily   |
| PG-701            | 8:45  | 9:40  | Daily   |
| PG-707            | 13:45 | 14:40 | Daily   |
| PG-703            | 16:45 | 17:35 | Daily   |
| PG-705            | 20:30 | 21:45 | Daily   |
| 8M-336            | 10:15 | 11:00 | Daily   |
| 8M-332            | 19:20 | 20:05 | Daily   |
| UB-020            | 10:35 | 11:10 | 3,5     |
| UB-018            | 21:05 | 21:35 | Daily   |
| UB-020            | 11:30 | 12:05 | 1,6,7   |

| YGN TO ICN |       |      |       |
|------------|-------|------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv  | Days  |
| KE-472     | 23:30 | 7:50 | Daily |

| ICN TO YGN |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| KE-471     | 18:30 | 22:30 | Daily |

| YGN TO DMK |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| FD-252     | 8:30  | 10:15 | Daily |
| FD-256     | 12:55 | 14:20 | Daily |
| FD-254     | 17:35 | 19:25 | Daily |
| FD-258     | 21:40 | 23:30 | Daily |
| DD-4231    | 08:00 | 9:45  | Daily |
| DD-4235    | 12:00 | 13:45 | Daily |
| DD-4239    | 21:00 | 22:45 | Daily |
| SL-201     | 11:00 | 13:35 | Daily |
| SL-207     | 19:45 | 21:45 | Daily |

| DMK TO YGN |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| FD-251     | 7:15  | 8:00  | Daily |
| FD-255     | 11:35 | 12:25 | Daily |
| FD-253     | 16:20 | 17:05 | Daily |
| FD-257     | 20:15 | 21:10 | Daily |
| DD-4234    | 10:30 | 11:15 | Daily |
| DD-4230    | 6:30  | 7:15  | Daily |
| DD-4238    | 19:25 | 20:15 | Daily |
| SL-200     | 08:45 | 10:00 | Daily |
| SL-206     | 17:10 | 18:35 | Daily |

| YGN TO KUL |       |       |         |
|------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days    |
| AK-505     | 8:30  | 12:45 | Daily   |
| AK-503     | 19:10 | 23:30 | Daily   |
| 8M-501     | 16:00 | 20:15 | 2       |
| 8M-501     | 11:45 | 15:45 | 1       |
| MH-741     | 11:15 | 15:40 | Daily   |
| MH-743     | 16:00 | 20:15 | 1,4,6,7 |

| KUL TO YGN |       |       |         |
|------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days    |
| AK-504     | 6:55  | 8:00  | Daily   |
| AK-502     | 17:20 | 18:30 | Daily   |
| 8M-502     | 16:45 | 17:45 | 1       |
| 8M-502     | 21:10 | 22:10 | 2       |
| MH-742     | 13:55 | 15:05 | 1,4,6,7 |
| MH-740     | 09:10 | 10:15 | Daily   |

| YGN TO CAN |       |       |         |
|------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days    |
| 8M-012     | 07:00 | 11:30 | 7       |
| 8M-711     | 8:40  | 13:15 | 2,4,5,7 |
| CZ-3056    | 11:35 | 15:50 | 3,6     |
| CZ-3056    | 17:40 | 22:20 | 1,5     |

| CAN TO YGN |       |       |         |
|------------|-------|-------|---------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days    |
| 8M-012     | 12:30 | 15:45 | 7       |
| 8M-712     | 14:15 | 15:50 | 2,4,5,7 |
| CZ-3055    | 8:40  | 10:35 | 3,6     |
| CZ-3055    | 14:40 | 16:40 | 1,5     |

| YGN TO TPE |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| CI-7916    | 10:50 | 16:10 | Daily |

| TPE TO YGN |      |      |       |
|------------|------|------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep  | Arv  | Days  |
| CI-7915    | 7:00 | 9:50 | Daily |

| YGN TO SIN |       |       |             |
|------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days        |
| 8M-231     | 8:20  | 12:40 | Daily       |
| SQ-997     | 10:25 | 15:10 | Daily       |
| MI-515     | 14:20 | 18:50 | 1,3,5       |
| MI-519     | 17:35 | 22:10 | Daily       |
| MI-522     | 16:20 | 20:50 | 4,6         |
| MI-533     | 13:35 | 20:50 | 2           |
| 3K-584     | 19:40 | 00:10 | Daily       |
| 3K-582     | 11:35 | 16:05 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 |
| TR-2823    | 9:45  | 2:15  | 1,2,4,5,6,7 |
| UB-001     | 7:30  | 11:45 | Daily       |

| SIN TO YGN |       |       |             |
|------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days        |
| 8M-232     | 13:40 | 15:15 | Daily       |
| SQ-998     | 07:55 | 09:20 | Daily       |
| MI-522     | 11:30 | 15:30 | 4,6         |
| MI-518     | 15:15 | 16:40 | Daily       |
| MI-516     | 12:00 | 13:25 | 1,3,5       |
| MI-533     | 11:30 | 12:45 | 2           |
| 3K-583     | 17:30 | 19:00 | Daily       |
| 3K-581     | 09:10 | 10:40 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 |
| TR-2822    | 7:20  | 8:45  | 1,2,4,5,6,7 |
| UB-002     | 13:00 | 14:30 | Daily       |

| YGN TO HAN |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| VN-956     | 19:10 | 21:35 | Daily |

| HAN TO YGN |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| VN-957     | 16:40 | 18:10 | Daily |

| YGN TO NRT |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| NH-814     | 22:10 | 06:45 | Daily |

| NRT TO YGN |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| NH-813     | 11:00 | 16:30 | Daily |

| YGN TO DOH |      |       |       |
|------------|------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep  | Arv   | Days  |
| QR-919     | 8:05 | 11:30 | 1,4,6 |

| DOH TO YGN |       |      |       |
|------------|-------|------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv  | Days  |
| QR-918     | 20:10 | 5:20 | 3,5,6 |

| YGN TO CNX |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| PG-724     | 13:40 | 15:35 | Daily |

| CNX TO YGN |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| PG-723     | 12:00 | 12:55 | Daily |

| YGN TO DAC |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| BG-061     | 16:45 | 18:30 | 1,3,6 |

| DAC TO YGN |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| BG-060     | 13:30 | 16:00 | 1,3,6 |

| YGN TO DMK |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| FD-245     | 12:55 | 15:15 | Daily |

| DMK TO MDL |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| FD-244     | 11:10 | 12:25 | Daily |

| MDL TO SIN |       |       |      |
|------------|-------|-------|------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days |
| MI-533     | 15:45 | 20:50 | 2    |
| MI-522     | 14:15 | 20:15 | 4,6  |

| SIN TO MDL |       |       |      |
|------------|-------|-------|------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days |
| MI-522     | 11:30 | 13:20 | 4,6  |
| MI-533     | 11:30 | 14:50 | 2    |

| MDL TO BKK |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| PG-710     | 14:10 | 16:35 | Daily |

| BKK TO MDL |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| PG-709     | 12:00 | 13:20 | Daily |

| MDL TO KMG |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| MU-2030    | 14:25 | 17:15 | Daily |

| KMG TO MDL |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| MU-2029    | 13:20 | 13:15 | Daily |

| NYT TO BKK |       |       |             |
|------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days        |
| PG-722     | 19:50 | 22:50 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 |

| BKK TO NYT |       |       |             |
|------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days        |
| PG-721     | 17:20 | 19:20 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 |



## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

| MDL TO SIN |       |       |      |
|------------|-------|-------|------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days |
| MI-533     | 15:45 | 20:50 | 2    |
| MI-522     | 14:15 | 20:15 | 4,6  |

| SIN TO MDL |       |       |      |
|------------|-------|-------|------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days |
| MI-522     | 11:30 | 13:20 | 4,6  |
| MI-533     | 11:30 | 14:50 | 2    |

| MDL TO BKK |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| PG-710     | 14:10 | 16:35 | Daily |

| BKK TO MDL |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| PG-709     | 12:00 | 13:20 | Daily |

| MDL TO KMG |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| MU-2030    | 14:25 | 17:15 | Daily |

| KMG TO MDL |       |       |       |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days  |
| MU-2029    | 13:20 | 13:15 | Daily |

| NYT TO BKK |       |       |             |
|------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days        |
| PG-722     | 19:50 | 22:50 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 |

| BKK TO NYT |       |       |             |
|------------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Flight no. | Dep   | Arv   | Days        |
| PG-721     | 17:20 | 19:20 | 1,3,4,5,6,7 |

### AIRLINE CODES

- 8M = Myanmar Airways International
- BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines
- MH = Malaysia Airlines
- MU = China Eastern Airlines
- NH = All Nippon Airways
- SQ = Singapore Airways
- PG = Bangkok Airways
- UB = Myanmar National Airlines
- VN = Vietnam Airline
- 3K = Jet Star
- AI = Air India
- CI = China Airlines
- DD = Nok Airline
- KA = Dragonair
- MI = Silk Air
- TG = Thai Airways
- AK = Air Asia
- CA = Air China
- CZ = China Southern
- FD = Air Asia
- KE = Korea Airlines
- QR = Qatar Airways
- TR = Tiger Airline

| DAY |             |
|-----|-------------|
| 4   | = Thursday  |
| 1   | = Monday    |
| 2   | = Tuesday   |
| 3   | = Wednesday |
| 5   | = Friday    |
| 6   | = Saturday  |
| 7   | = Sunday    |

## Dwarf planet Ceres flush with ice, NASA studies show

SAN FRANCISCO — The dwarf planet Ceres, an enigmatic rocky body inhabiting the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter, is rich with ice just beneath its dark surface, scientists said on Thursday in research that may shed light on the early history of the solar system.

The discovery, reported in a pair of studies published in the journals *Science* and *Nature Astronomy*, could bolster fledgling commercial endeavors to mine asteroids for water and other resources for robotic and eventual human expeditions beyond the moon.

NASA's Dawn spacecraft has been orbiting Ceres, the largest of thousands of rocky bodies located in the main asteroid belt, since March 2015 following 14-month study of Vesta, the second-largest object in the asteroid belt.

The studies show that Ceres is about 10 per cent water, now frozen into ice, according to physicist Thomas Prettyman of the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, Arizona, one of the researchers.



NASA's Dawn spacecraft image of the limb of dwarf planet Ceres shows a section of the northern hemisphere in this image on 17 October 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Examining the make-up of solar system objects like Ceres provides insight into how the solar system formed. Compared to dry Vesta, Ceres is more like Enceladus and Europa, icy moons of the giant gas planets Saturn and Jupiter respectively, than Earth and the other terrestrial planets Mercury, Venus and Mars, Prettyman

added. Scientists are debating if Ceres hides a briny liquid ocean, a prospect that may put the dwarf planet on the growing list of worlds beyond the solar system that may be suitable for life, said Dawn deputy lead scientist Carol Raymond of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

"By finding bodies that were water-rich in the distant past, we can discover clues as to where life may have existed in the early solar system," Raymond said in a statement.

The finding strengthens the case for the presence of near-surface water ice on other bodies in the main asteroid belt, Prettyman said.—Reuters

## Launch of mini-satellites gives forecasters eye into hurricanes

WASHINGTON — Eight small satellites, designed to improve hurricane forecasts by detecting the wind speeds within storms, blasted off on Thursday aboard an air-launched Pegasus rocket, a NASA TV broadcast showed.

From a vantage point 317 miles (510 km) above Earth, the satellites will use radio signals from the Global Positioning System network to measure wind speeds as storms churn over the ocean.

Current weather satellites cannot penetrate heavy rain to measure the winds inside a hurricane's core.

This leaves forecasters relying on instruments aboard specialized aircraft, known as Hurricane Hunters, to detect wind speed, which is key for determining the intensity of a storm.



Britain's Greg Clark Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy speaks at a signing ceremony in London to finalise the deal to build Hinkley Point, the first new UK nuclear power station in a generation, on 29 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# South Korea says minister, British counterpart discussed nuclear power cooperation

SEOUL — South Korea's energy minister Joo Hyung-hwan discussed cooperation on British nuclear energy projects in a meeting in London on Thursday with Britain's business minister Greg Clark, South Korea's energy ministry said in a statement.

The statement from Seoul didn't disclose details of discussions on nuclear energy, but said the two countries will hold a follow-up meeting in the first half of next year.

A British government

statement issued said the two countries underlined a commitment at the meeting to keep working together on science, innovation and technology, without mentioning nuclear power.

Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy and the world's fifth-biggest user of nuclear power, is keen to export its nuclear reactor technology, developed through state-run utility Korea Electric Power Corp (KEPCO).

Earlier this year, Britain

gave the green light to the \$24 billion Hinkley Point C project, its first new nuclear power plant in decades.

Along with that project, NuGen, a joint venture between Toshiba and French utility company Engie, plans to build three reactors at the Moorside site on the coast of Cumbria, in north-west England.

According to Seoul's statement on Friday, Korea's energy minister also had a meeting with NuGen chief Tom Samson during

his British visit. The minister said Korean participation in NuGen projects would contribute to their success.

Earlier this year a person familiar with the situation told Reuters KEPCO had engaged in talks with Toshiba and Engie about buying a stake NuGen. A NuGen spokesman declined to comment on whether talks were taking place with KEPCO, which also declined to comment.—Reuters

# Brazil prosecutors hit ex-president Lula with more corruption charges

SAO PAULO — Prosecutors on Thursday charged former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, his wife and a former finance minister with more corruption charges in the investigation of graft at state-run oil company Petrobras.

It is up to federal judge Sergio Moro to decide if the new charges will result in another trial for Lula, who is already accused in Moro's court in southern Brazil with separate corruption charges. A ruling on those charges is not expected before late January or early February.

Lula, an extremely popular two-term president who left office in January 2011, faces another trial on graft charges in a Brasilia court, but a start date has not been set.

Lula's lawyers have repeatedly said that he is

innocent of all accusations. In an emailed statement Thursday night, lawyer Cristiano Martins called the latest charges "a work of fiction."

In bringing the new charges, prosecutors said in a statement that Lula oversaw a scheme in which Latin America's biggest construction firm, Odebrecht, paid 75 million reais (\$22.18 million) in bribes to win eight Petrobras contracts.

Prosecutors said Lula orchestrated the political appointment of Petrobras executives who would carry out the kickback scheme, with the money being funneled back into the campaign coffers of Lula's Workers Party and its allies, including Brazil's current ruling party, the Democratic Movement Party.—Reuters

# Maduro says new bills ready, but Venezuelans still face long bank queues

CARACAS — President Nicolas Maduro said on Thursday new higher-denomination bills were ready, but they were still nowhere to be seen on the streets where Venezuelans with envelopes, backpacks or even suitcases stood in long queues to deposit 100-bolivar bills before they become worthless. Maduro surprised the inflation-wrought country on Sunday by announcing that he was yanking the 100-bolivar bill, Venezuela's largest, to crack down on Colombian mafias he says are hoarding bolivars to fuel contraband and sabotage his leftist administration.

New bills were due to be phased into Venezuela's ailing economy on Thursday. But in a surreal twist, cash machines continued to give out 100-bolivar notes, frustrating Venezuelans who had scrambled to spend or deposit the bills — worth only 4 US cents on the black



People wait next to fences to try to cross the Simon Bolivar international bridge into Colombia, in San Antonio del Tachira, Venezuela. PHOTO: REUTERS

market amid a steep currency depreciation.

Maduro, a former bus driver whose popularity has plummeted in hand with the economic crisis, praised Venezuelans for their understanding during a televised

speech on Thursday night and said the new bills were already being distributed and would be fully in circulation by January.

"This is a big effort we're doing to tackle so many evils and tricks. ...

We're burning the hands of the mafia," said Maduro, flashing the new notes, which include a coral-coloured 20,000-bolivar bill with the image of 19th century liberation hero Simon Bolivar.—Reuters

**JOB VACANCY**

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် အင်္ဂလိပ် သတင်းစာတွင် အချိန်ပြည့် တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်ရန် အောက်ပါ ရာထူးများ လစ်လပ်လျှောက်ရှိပါသည်။

(၁) Chief Accountant (၁) ဦး  
 B.Com, CPA or ACCA, Chief Accountant လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံ (၅)နှစ်ရှိရမည်။  
 English (4 Skills) အသင့်အတင့်ရှိရမည်။  
 Internet & Email, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word ကွမ်းကျွင်းရမည်။  
 ကုမ္ပဏီအခွန်လုပ်ငန်းဆိုင်ရာ ကိစ္စရပ်များတွင် နားလည်ရမည်။  
 ဆက်ဆံရေး ပြေငြိမ်ကောင်းမွန်ရမည်။

(၂) ကြော်ငြာအရောင်းကျွမ်းကျင်စနစ်ထမ်း ကျား (၁) ဦး ၊ မ (၂) ဦး  
 တက္ကသိုလ်တစ်ခုခုမှဘွဲ့ရ အသက် (၂၀) မှ (၃၅) နှစ် အတွင်း  
 Internet & Email, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word ကွမ်းကျွင်းရမည်။  
 ကြော်ငြာလုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံရှိရမည်။ အင်္ဂလိပ်စကားပြော အခြေခံ ရှိရမည်။  
 (ယာဉ်မောင်းကျွမ်းကျင်၍ လိုင်စင်ရှိသူ ဦးစားပေးမည်။)

စိတ်ပါဝင်စားသူများ အနေဖြင့် မိမိတို့၏ ကိုယ်ရေး အချက်အလက်များကို ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဖော်ပြပါ လိပ်စာသို့ လူကိုယ်တိုင် (သို့မဟုတ်) Email ဖြင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း ၂၀၁၇ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ (၁၀)ရက်နေ့ နောက်ဆုံးထား ပေးပို့လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။  
 Tel : 01-8604530, Hotline: 09974424848  
 Email : marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
 အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။

# Mexico braces for fresh flood of Central American asylum seekers

MEXICO CITY — Mexico expects a sharp increase in people seeking asylum from Central America next year, fleeing gang warfare and poverty in their home countries, a senior official said on Thursday.

There has been a steady surge of Central Americans applying for asylum in Mexico since 2015. Cinthia Perez, a director of Mexico's refugee agency COMAR, said in an interview that she is receiving about 9 per cent more applications each month.

There were 3,424 asylum applications in 2015,

and she predicts ending 2016 with around 8,000. That figure could well rise to 22,501 by the end of 2017 if the trend of 9 per cent more applications each month continues.

"Everything seems to indicate that the number of applicants will keep rising," Perez said, adding that violence and a widespread regional drought that had forced the rural poor into cities were the main causes driving asylum applications.

She said 72 per cent of applications have been accepted in 2016, up from just under 40 per cent

in 2013. Perez said there was evidence that more of those people granted asylum were choosing to stay in Mexico, but she acknowledged that some might use their refugee status to travel unimpeded up to the United States border. During fiscal year 2016, the United States detained nearly 410,000 people along the southwest border with Mexico, up about a quarter from the previous year. The vast majority hail from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.—Reuters

# Toyota unlocks its engine technology, could sell to rivals

TOKYO — Long guarded about what was beneath the hood of its pioneering Prius cars, Toyota Motor Corp plans to open up its powertrain technology to rivals, hoping this will boost sales and speed up the industry's shift to lower-emission vehicles.

Announcing last week it would expand its gasoline hybrid technology development, the world's largest automaker said it would consider selling complete powertrain modules — engines, transmissions and other drive components — to its competitors.

The prospect of giving rivals access to “one-size-fits-all” powertrains comes as cars are increasingly dependent on computerised components, making it easier to design similar parts across model ranges. The industry has moved on from competing largely on mechanical engineering.

That trend will likely accelerate as automakers face pressure from regulators to further cut car emissions and develop more long-range electric vehicles.

As cars become more



Cutaway view of a Toyota Prius Hybrid being displayed at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, on 12 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

like glorified computers, automakers are standardising many mechanical parts and competing more on style and packaging - giving drivers a bigger range of features from automated parking to cockpit concierges.

For Toyota, this is a

big departure from having a tightly-knit network of suppliers keeping much of their jointly developed technology exclusive so as to have an engineering competitive edge on rivals.

“Toyota suppliers produce a lot of technology

which can only be used by Toyota,” Toshiyuki Mizushima, president of Toyota's powertrain company, told reporters. “We want to change that to a system where we develop technology with our suppliers at an earlier stage ... so they can

make that technology available to non-Toyota customers.”

Mizushima, who joined Toyota a year ago from group company Aisin Seiki Co, noted, for example, that past versions of Toyota's hybrid system didn't fit oth-

er automakers' cars, limiting suppliers' options to sell to non-Toyota customers.

Powertrains combine parts often made separately by several independent parts makers, but Toyota's are unique in that they are made by its group suppliers, allowing engineers at the automaker and its suppliers to collaborate in development.

“Until now, we couldn't sell the same inverter used in Toyota's previous hybrid system to other customers because it wouldn't fit the motor, or the voltage was different,” said Yoshifumi Kato, executive director of engineering R&D at Denso Corp, Toyota's biggest supplier.

“We can avoid this issue if suppliers can sell the entire system.”

The move should help auto parts companies such as Denso and Aisin spread their customer base and compete better against global rivals including Robert Bosch [ROBG.UL] and Continental. Currently, Toyota accounts for around half the annual sales at Denso and Aisin.—Reuters



Huma Abedin, longtime aide to Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, attends a Clinton campaign rally in Charlotte, North Carolina, US, on 5 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Clinton aide Abedin seeks to review Clinton emails search warrant

NEW YORK — Huma Abedin, the longtime aide to Hillary Clinton, asked a US judge on Wednesday to allow her to review a search warrant the FBI used to gain access to emails related to Clinton's private server shortly before the 8 November presidential election.

In a letter filed in Manhattan federal court, Abedin said she was never provided a copy of the warrant, nor was her estranged husband, former Democratic US Representative Anthony Weiner, whose computer contained the emails in question.

The letter was filed as a federal judge considers whether to unseal the appli-

cation for the search warrant, which was obtained after FBI Director James Comey informed Congress of newly discovered emails on 28 October.

Comey's letter drew new attention to a damaging issue for Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee, and roiled the campaign 11 days before the election won by Republican Donald Trump.

US District Judge Kevin Castel had invited affected parties to weigh in on the potential release of the search warrant application, which is being sought by Los Angeles-based lawyer Randol Schoenberg.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DENSA TIGER VOY. NO ( 489 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DENSA TIGER VOY. NO ( 489 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV LOWLAND HOPE VOY. NO ( 1612 )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LOWLAND HOPE VOY. NO ( 1612 ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2016 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T./A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185



English singer Sting performs during the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize Concert at Telenor Arena in Oslo, Norway, on 11 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sting, Styler shine spotlight on environment at Rainforest Fund Benefit

NEW YORK — Singer-songwriter Sting and his wife Trudie Styler hosted the biennial Rainforest Fund Benefit concert in New York on Wednesday, where Bruce Springsteen and Idina Menzel performed for environmental causes.

The event celebrated a recent victory for Native Americans and environmentalists in which the federal government ruled against a pipeline project near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota.

Native American groups,

activists, celebrities and US armed forces had protested against the \$3.8 billion oil project, saying said construction would damage sacred lands and any leaks could pollute the water supply.

“We haven’t won many arguments, those of us who have been in the environmental movement and human rights movement for many years,” Tyler said. “I think Standing Rock really was the first gain ...and we have to make sure that we can now build on it.”—Reuters

## Actor Ryan Reynolds makes Hollywood star ceremony a family affair

LOS ANGELES — “Deadpool” star Ryan Reynolds made the unveiling of his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Thursday a family affair.

The Canadian-born actor turned out with his mother Tammy, his brothers, nephews and nieces as well as his wife, actress Blake Lively, and their two children.

“It’s a special moment that comes along only once in a lifetime, if you’re lucky. I would have been sad to have missed it without them,” Reynolds said after the ceremony in Los Angeles.

2016 has been a good year for the 40-year-old Reynolds.

His superhero film, ‘Deadpool’, which had a reported budget of \$58 million, became an unexpected hit, making more than \$780 million worldwide.

He was named Best Actor in a Comedy for his role in the film, and Entertainer of the Year at the recent Critics’ Choice Movie Awards.

Asked about a potential sequel to Deadpool, Reynolds said he could not say much.

“There’s nothing to tell you because I’m not allowed to say anything. I’ll be blow-darted. The head of the studio is over there so she’ll take me out,” he quipped. —Reuters

## ‘Passengers’ Pratt, Lawrence hit it off in new sci-fi film

LOS ANGELES — With Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt featuring in almost every scene of new sci-fi romance “Passengers”, director Morten Tyldum was apprehensive about the chemistry between two American actors who had never worked together before.

“It’s the big fear as a director, when you’re making a relations film story, that the actors are going to hate each other,” Norwegian director Tyldum said at the film premiere in Los Angeles on Wednesday night.

“They never met until after they signed off. So, I met them individually and I just knew that something magical was going to happen when we put these two together — and it did.”

“The Imitation Game” director said he was optimistic that the

duo’s rapport in his film, which opens in theaters on Wednesday, would help it stand up to the box office competition of the new “Star Wars” film, “Rogue One”.

The Jon Spaihts screenplay follows Lawrence and Pratt as they try to unravel the mystery behind why their 120-year journey to another planet stops 90 years early, which risks the lives of thousands on board the spaceship.

“Hunger Games” actress Lawrence said it had been fun working with Pratt, of “Jurassic World” and “The Lego Movie” fame.

“We met and we became really fast friends. It certainly helped my on-set life, but I think it really helped our characters and I think it helped the whole story,” the Oscar-winner said.—Reuters



Cast members Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt pose at the premiere of ‘Passengers’ in Los Angeles, California, US, on 14 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## After 28 year-journey, Scorsese’s faith movie ‘Silence’ arrives

NEW YORK — After 28 years of false starts, director Martin Scorsese has finally brought a passion project about faith and religion to the big screen with “Silence.”

Based on the acclaimed 1966 novel of the same name by late Japanese writer Shusaku Endo, the drama tells the story of two Portuguese Jesuit missionaries, played by Adam Driver and Andrew Garfield, who travel to Japan in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to search for their missing mentor, portrayed by Liam Neeson.

There, in an era when Christians were persecuted and tortured, the missionaries face a choice: they can save themselves and Japanese converts from death by crucifixion, burning and drowning but only if they renounce their religion.

“I think it’s a beautiful film, it’s incredibly thought-provok-

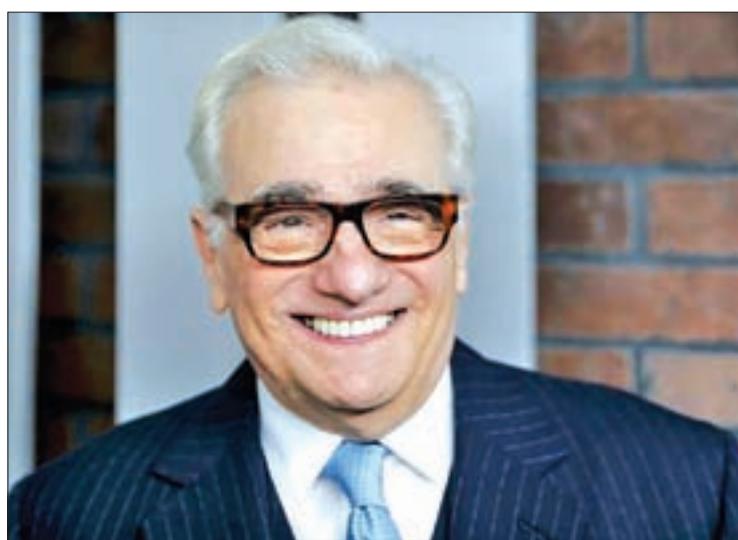
ing. It’s one of those films you don’t just forget about when you leave the cinema,” Neeson told Reuters.

“Whether you’re religious or not it’s very, very questioning,” the actor added.

Scorsese, a staunch Catholic, had been keen to make the film since first reading the book in 1988 after the release of his film “The Last Temptation of Christ.”

The Italian-American director has said he was struck by the questions the book raises over faith, doubt, weakness and God’s role in the face of human suffering. But getting the screenplay right alone took the Oscar-winning director 15 years, and finding funding proved difficult.

The drama, shot in Taiwan and playing for an unusually long 2 hours 45 minutes, will open in US movie theaters on



Film director Martin Scorsese in New York, on 15 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

23 December before expanding nationwide.

Driver and Garfield lost about 20 pounds (9 kg) for their roles, which Driver said helped

put him in the mindset of his weary and frightened young priest.

“You’re playing a persecuted 17<sup>th</sup> century Jesuit priest. So

it’s good to, I think, have a little struggle. Also you’re very tired and hungry, as are the characters,” said Driver.

“Silence” has already been screened at the Vatican, where Scorsese had a meeting with Pope Francis in November.

But despite strong reviews and Scorsese’s high profile in Hollywood as the man behind such films as “Taxi Driver,” “Goodfellas” and “Raging Bull,” his latest movie has gained little traction in the current Hollywood awards season.

“Silence” was snubbed by both the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild this week, receiving no nominations for their 2017 awards. Scorsese will have to wait until 24 January to find out whether the movie is recognised when Oscar nominations are announced.—Reuters

# Springsteen's 'Born to Run' Chevy up for auction

NEW YORK — Bruce Springsteen's 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air convertible, referenced in his iconic song "Born to Run," is up for auction and is expected to fetch several hundred thousand dollars.



Recording artist Bruce Springsteen is shown driving his 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air Convertible in this undated photo, referenced in his iconic song "Born to Run" which is up for auction and is expected to fetch several hundred thousand dollars, provided 15 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Springsteen super fan Michael Crane said on Thursday the auction of the car was the first in the planned sale of his entire Springsteen collection because he wanted to move on from his long love affair with The Boss.

"I've been a fan since I was 7 years old. I got to meet Bruce Springsteen with the car, which was amazing. But I'm ready to move on in my life and I want to pass the torch on to somebody who will enjoy the car and get to drive it," Crane, 46, told Reuters.

Crane, who like Springsteen is also from New Jersey, believes Springsteen was referring to the car in his 1975 hit "Born to Run" in the line, "I looked out across my hood and saw the highway buckle 'neath the wheels of a gold Chevy 6."

The car is being sold on eBay in an auction that ends on Monday. Bidding

on Thursday afternoon was \$200,100 — below the undisclosed reserve price.

Crane bought the yellow soft-top with orange flames on eBay in 2006 and it was exhibited at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland from 2008-2010. It has registration and insurance documents in Springsteen's name and is in running condition.

Springsteen mentioned the car in his 1998 book "Songs."

"In '70's New Jersey, the car was still a powerful image. That summer I bought my first set of wheels for two thousand dollars. It was a '57 Chevy with dual, four-barrel carbs, a Hurst on the floor and orange flames spread across the hood," the rock musician wrote.—Reuters

# Nintendo's Super Mario Run smartphone game makes global debut

TOKYO — Nintendo Co.'s iconic Super Mario Bros. franchise made its smartphone debut Friday in Japan, marking the company's first independent foray into mobile gaming.

"Super Mario Run," a side-scrolling adventure game starring Nintendo's popular Italian mascot, will be available for Apple Inc.'s iPhones and iPads in 151 countries. A version for Android devices will be released at a later date.

Users will be able to download the app and play parts of the game for free, but will be charged about 1,200 yen (about \$10) if they want to unlock all of the features and play the full game, the Kyoto-based company said.

The release follows the huge success this summer of the game maker's "Pokemon Go" mobile game, which was jointly developed with Nintendo's affiliate Pokemon Co. and Niantic Inc., a San Francisco-based game maker spun off from Google Inc. Serkan Toto, game industry consultant and Chief Executive Officer at Kantan Games Inc. in Tokyo, said Pokemon Go's success shocked Nintendo and accelerated the game maker's mobile game plans.

"Nintendo is still very much a console game company but they are saying 'We have to go to mobile,'" Toto said.

"The mobile games market globally is worth



A smartphone displays the start screen of "Super Mario Run," a side-scrolling adventure game featuring Nintendo Co.'s popular Italian mascot, in Osaka on 16 December 2016, the day the company released the mobile gaming app for Apple Inc.'s iPhones and iPads. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

some \$35 billion at the moment. It's too big a market for Nintendo to ignore."

Toto added that the release of "Super Mario Run" marks another first for Nintendo as it is the first time the game maker has brought out a game on a device other than its own.

As the company had announced that the game would be released sequentially around the world starting Thursday morning Pacific Standard Time in the United States, some Japanese gamers were hoping the mobile app would be launched before midnight local time but were left waiting in vain.—Kyodo News

# In Stalin's native Georgia, Soviet dictator still revered by some

GORI, (Georgia) — In Nazi Stefanishvili's family home in Gori, posters, paintings and books fill a tiny room dedicated to the Georgian city's most famous son, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

Although Stalin's rule was marked by mass repression, labour camps and famine, Stefanishvili, 73, a retired economist, says she has admired him since her childhood and over the years has filled a room in her daughter's house with memorabilia.

Among dozens of items on display are paintings, photographs and busts of Stalin, depicted both as a young and older man.

"Every morning I go to the room to say good morning to Stalin ... I take part in every occasion marking the anniversary of his birthday or death," she said. "I have paintings, a lot of books about Stalin, busts,

old newspapers, souvenirs. Most I bought, others were gifts; some were even found in the garbage."

Stalin, who was born in Gori in 1878 and died

in 1953, is largely reviled today in Georgia, which regained its independence during the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

Over the years, his me-

morials have been dismantled, most recently in 2010 when authorities removed a statue of the dictator from Gori's central square.—Reuters



Jiuli Sikmashvili (C), 77, a leader of the United Communist Party of Georgia, poses among other activists before a portrait at the party office in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 30 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

(17-12-2016, Saturday)

**MRTV**

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| <p><b>6:00 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw</li> </ul> <p><b>7:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hyper Sports</li> </ul> <p><b>8:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pan Pyo Khin (Part-10)</li> </ul> <p><b>9:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business News</li> </ul> <p><b>10:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poem for Children</li> </ul> <p><b>10:50 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary</li> </ul> <p><b>11:15 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Vegetable</li> </ul> <p><b>11:35 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Game for Children</li> </ul> <p><b>1:20 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly Entertainment News</li> </ul> <p><b>2:20 am</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HUMAN DIGNITY FILM INSTITUTE ( Go Home + The Bread)</li> </ul> | <p><b>3:15 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TV Drama Series</li> </ul> <p><b>4:35 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHK Programme "Beautiful Landscapes of Japan" (Kaledoscope of Rippling Waves: Lake Biwa, Shiga Biwa)</li> </ul> <p><b>5:15 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football Magazine</li> </ul> <p><b>5:35 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASEAN programme</li> </ul> <p><b>5:45 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentary</li> </ul> <p><b>6:35 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tasty Trip</li> </ul> <p><b>7:15 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TV Drama Series</li> </ul> <p><b>8:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News/International News/ Weather Report</li> </ul> <p><b>9:00 pm</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News/ Weather Report</li> <li>• Gitasagale Phwintbaohn</li> <li>• Pyi Thu Ni Ti</li> </ul> |
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Note/Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

**mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule**

(17-12-2016 07:00 AM ~ 18-12-2016 07:00 AM) MST

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:26 Am Great Shwedagon-The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images-Part-2</p> <p>07:54 Am The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am A May Yay Yin Nat Festival ( Ep-I )</p> <p>08:43 Am Myanmar Invites You</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am Discovering Tribes "MUUN ( Ep-I )"</p> <p>09:50 Am Orchid Lover</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Next Generation: Swam Yee Tun Lwin</p> <p>10:37 Am A Lucky Boy</p> <p>10:53 Am Maha Muni Pagoda</p> | <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p><b>Prime Time</b></p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:26 Pm Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-4)</p> <p>07:39 Pm A Tea Business Pankwan (Part-2)</p> <p>07:49 Pm Farming: Duck Breeder</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility ( Part- 2 )</p> <p>08:55 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (glass)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(For Detailed Schedule – <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a>)</p> |
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Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ranieri not keen on keeping unhappy players at Leicester

LONDON — Manager Claudio Ranieri will not stand in the way of a player who wishes to leave Leicester City during the January transfer window provided the Italian can find a suitable replacement at the right price.

Striker Leonardo Ulloa, winger Jeffrey Schlupp and young midfielder Bartosz Kapustka have all been linked by the British media with moves away from the King Power Stadium in January after failing to nail down a place in the starting line-up.

“I don’t like to maintain players who are unhappy,” Ranieri told British media. “This is my point of view — afterwards, there is the club. If someone goes, and we have to replace this or that player, we can get rid of him easily.

“But it will cost a lot of money to replace him with someone else. That is the balance we have to achieve. I want to help those players but at the end of the month, they take the money. They are

professionals and it’s a business.

“There are rumours and everybody knows very well that if they are happy and want to stay with us and want to fight with us it is okay. If someone is not happy then they should come to me and speak and we will see what is best for the club.”

Champions Leicester, in 14<sup>th</sup> place, have the joint worst away record in the Premier League with Burnley and will hope to pick up their first win on the road against 12<sup>th</sup>-placed Stoke City on Saturday.

“I think my strength is my balance inside myself. I don’t go high when everything is fantastic and down when it’s not right, I know only one medicine — to work and work,” Ranieri said.

“This is the right medicine to try and help my players. My players are working very well in the training session. I’m not worried. We are in battle and I have very good warriors.” —Reuters

## Modric, Zidane critical of FIFA’s new video technology

YOKOHAMA, (Japan) — FIFA’s new video review system is struggling to win supporters after the technology sparked controversy for the second straight match at the Club World Cup on Thursday.

Real Madrid reached the final by beating Club America 2-0 but the review system was again the talking point after Cristiano Ronaldo’s injury-time strike caused consternation.

The goal appeared to be ruled offside by Paraguayan referee Enrique Caceres before, in consultation with the video official, he eventually allowed it to stand.

“It’s a new system and I don’t like it very much. I think it can cause confusion and it wasn’t explained to us in much detail,” said Real midfielder Luka Modric.

“My first impression was it’s not a very good system.”

The previous day, video evidence was used to award a penalty for the first time in a competition run by soccer’s governing body FIFA as Japanese team Kashima Antlers beat Colombia’s Atletico Nacional in the semi-finals.

Kashima benefitted after the video assistant referee (VAR) called the referee’s attention to an infringement by Atletico’s Orlando Berrio.

The decision, and the time it took to reach it, provoked anger from fans. Play continued for another 45 seconds, enough time for Kashima to launch another attack, before the ball went out for a throw-in and the referee asked for a review.

However, the Interna-

tional Football Association Board (IFAB), the sport’s law-making body, emphasised that the technology was still at the testing stage.

“Referees do not have to wait until the ball goes out of play — they can stop the game for a review as soon as the ball is in a ‘neutral’ area i.e. when neither team has a good attacking possibility,” said David Elleray, IFAB’s technical director.

“But we have to remember that this is the first experience some of these referees have had with video assistance.

“Checking replays, communication between the officials and then the review itself can take time when it’s a completely new situation for them,” added the former referee.

“With further train-

ing for those taking part in the live trials around the world...we should see the speed of the review process continue to improve.”

FIFA is using the technology on a trial basis at the Club World Cup.

It involves off-field VARs monitoring the action and calling the referee’s attention to “clear mistakes in match-changing situations” such as goals, penalty decisions, red cards and mistaken identity.

Leagues in 12 countries have confirmed they will participate in a two-year experiment with VARs.

“If you ask me my personal impression it can cause confusion,” said Real coach Zinedine Zidane.

“We don’t have the power to decide. If that’s decided, then we need to get used to it.” —Reuters

## Suarez agrees new contract with Barcelona to 2021

BARCELONA — Prolific striker Luis Suarez has agreed a new contract with Barcelona until 2021, the Spanish champions announced on Thursday.

The Uruguay international will sign the new deal, which will keep him at the club until he is 34 years old and contains a release clause of 200 million euros (\$207 million), on Friday.

Suarez has scored 97 goals in 116 games for Barcelona since signing from Liverpool in 2014 for a reported 81 million euros (\$84 million), and has collected eight major trophies. He netted 40 times in the league last season, making him top scorer in Spain and landing him the European Golden Shoe award for the top marksman in Europe’s top five leagues.

“I feel complete happiness because I am where I want to be,” Suarez said on Thursday.



Barcelona’s Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez attend a training session before the match against Borussia Moenchengladbach. PHOTO: REUTERS

“It’s now official. I never put any obstacles in the way of a renewal. I will never lose my ambition and enthusiasm for winning trophies and scoring goals.”

Suarez’s contract renewal comes two months after strike partner Neymar

penned a new deal with Barcelona, meaning talisman Lionel Messi is the only member of the famed “MSN” attacking trident who has yet to sign a new contract with the club. Suarez said he hoped Messi, whose current deal expires in 2018, would

follow his lead, although he said the Argentine would make his decision on his own terms. “My renewal has nothing to do with Neymar or Messi’s. Leo is a legend and he knows what he has to do and decide,” added Suarez. —Reuters



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