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Permanent residency rules for foreigners to be relaxed

VICE President U Henry Van Thio urged officials to seek ways for easing restrictions on permanent residency for foreigners in accordance with international practices.

The Vice President made the remarks at a meeting of the Management Committee for Permanent Residency of Foreigners in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday that discussed the relaxation of some rules and regulations for perma-

nent residency.

“It is necessary for participants to discuss required amendments for rules and regulations for permanent residency of foreigners in Myanmar in accordance with international standards,” the Vice President said.

In addition, the Vice President added that the committee was reformed on 25th August this year so that it could comprehensively review requirements for

permanent residency of foreigners in accordance with existing laws and international norms.

Rules for permanent residency of foreigners in Myanmar, which is made up of 17 chapters covering 46 provisions, were issued by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population on 18th November, 2014, according to the Vice President.

In accordance with the rules, the Central Committee for

Implementation of Permanent Residency and work committees has been receiving applications for permanent residency since 29th January 2015, with 262 out of 350 applicants granted permanent residency so far. Five applicants have been rejected, 15 applicants will be interviewed and applications of 68 others would be processed soon, the Vice President said.

Afterwards, the Union Min-

ister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe reported to the committee on preparations for amendments of the rules and regulations.

Myanmar has introduced the permanent residency system to create opportunities for foreign investors and experts who need to stay for a long term in Myanmar and for former citizens and their dependents.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Journalists impressed with extensive media access in Rakhine

A GROUP of independent journalists expressed their satisfaction about the access to information in the conflict areas in northern Rakhine State as they concluded their visit to the area yesterday.

As their last leg, the group visited the border gate in the morning and officials explained the flow of goods at the gate before violent attacks on 9 October that caused a temporary halt in border trade. Queries raised by the journalists were adequately answered by officials throughout their stay, said one journalist.

“We heard diverse opinions during the trip. There are allegations and also denials. There are also controversial allegations especially over excessive use of force in hunting violent attackers. So, the government should probe into that issue,” said U Soe Myint, Chief Editor of the Mizzima News Agency.

The major challenges for all communities in the conflict areas after the violent attacks are the difficulties in pursuing a livelihood and inadequate access to health care services, he added.

The chief editor also urged the government to review policies adopted in successive eras as it can be seen that the 9 October attacks are based on situations that have



A muslim from Alethankyaw Village in Rakhine State answers questions by journalists. PHOTO: MNA

occurred over many years.

During the trip, which was arranged by the Ministry of Information, the reporters and photo-journalists visited villages where Buddhists, Muslims and Hindus co-exist peacefully.

“We could not invite journalists from all media because this is

an operations area and there are constraints of convoy. However, we made arrangements for journalists to get freedom of access to information,” said U Ye Naing, General Manager of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, who led the trip.

U Han Htway Aung, also

known as Jimmy, the Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, has also urged the government to look into the abuse allegations as soon as possible.

“We heard voices just from one side. So, the government should probe into the allegations.

There are many allegations (alleging human rights abuses in northern Rakhine) from around the world because the government has failed to clarify it. In fact, the sovereignty of the country is harmed,” he said.

Other journalists confirmed the complete access to information during the trip.

“We arrived at the area with no restriction on any individual. We were given the freedom to interview anyone we wanted, anywhere we went. The people answered freely without fear. In terms of media freedom, we were completely free to cover the news. Upon arrival, we had total freedom of expression,” U Aung San, also known as Sithu Aung Myint, Chief Editor of Central News Bureau.

Another journalist in the group said he was confident that they had experienced a true, accurate view of what occurred on 9 October and the months afterward.

“Despite the fact that people were saying it in different ways, we have now seen the true situations with our own eyes. It was found that people’s sayings are totally different from the situations on the ground,” Shwe Inn Thar Khin Maung Win, a freelance photographer.

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Demarcation of areas among parties leads to conflicts

Ye Khaung Nyunt

Demarcation of territories among all parties involved in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement is important for the peace process, said Colonel Wunna Aung, Secretary (2) of the JMC-U at the plenary meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee yesterday.

The second day meeting of the first plenary meeting of the Joint Monitoring Committee of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting reviewed the one year's work, strengths and weaknesses of the Joint Monitoring Committee, the Joint Monitoring Committee at the union level and the Joint Monitoring Committee at the state levels to find ways and means to overcome the challenges in the

peace process and future plans for the new year.

In conclusion, Chairman of the JMC-U Lt-Gen Yar Pyay urged the JMC-S to help implement the activities of the JMC-U and it is necessary to implement demarcating and demining works in respective areas.

Vice Chairman (1) Saw Isaac Poe and Secretary (1) of the JMC-U for ethnic armed groups and Vice Chairman of the JMC-U for Civil Society Organizations U Maung Maung Nyein delivered concluding remarks.

The plenary meeting was attended by representatives of the Tatmadaw, ethnic armed groups and civil society organizations.

Dr Shwe Khar, Secretary (1) of the JMC-U and Secretary (2) of the JMC-U Col Wunna Aung responded to questions raised by the media.

Col Wunna Aung said that it is necessary to facilitate office

works between the different levels of the JMC and demining.

Concerning the incident with the RCSS, Dr Shwe Khar said that the incidents were not important as it was just an incident between the RCSS and the Tatmadaw, both sides received the tip of drug trafficking in the area. He pointed out that the problem is caused by the lack of demarcation between the two entities and communications at the lower level.

As for the demarcation between the armed groups, Colonel Wunna Aung said that the JMC-U has already adopted a policy for that matter and the JMC-Ss play an important role in the negotiations for demarcation among them.

In addition, he pointed out that there would be no problems if personnel at the lower levels abide by the code of conduct of the Nationwide Peace Fire Agreement.



The first plenary meeting of JMC in progress. PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

Eleven Media CEO denied bail as prison officials fail to provide medical documents

THE BAIL application of Dr Than Htut Aung, Eleven Media CEO, was rejected by the court as prison medical officials failed to submit medical documents, according to Tamway Township Court Judge Daw Kaythi Haling.

"The accused applied for bail without submitting any evidence and we had to reject it. Although he appeared at the court

in a wheelchair or stretcher, prison medical officers did not turn up at the court to give their evidence.

So we asked them to submit medical documents related to the accused, but they failed to provide the court with them. As a result, we had to reject the application for bail by the accused," said Daw Kaythi Haling

of Tarmway Township Court.

In addition, the letter sent to the court by prison officials did not include any medical documents that showed the accused had received any treatment at prison hospital.

The trial was adjourned until 30 December and U Moe Hein, the plaintiff, will be questioned at trial. —*Ko Moe*

45 temporary sport federations to be reformed after SEA games

THE 45 temporary sport federations will be reformed only after the SEA games, which will be held in August, 2017 in Malaysia, it is learnt from Myanmar Sport Federation.

Currently, 45 sport federations including sepakakraw, swimming and hockey were formed with temporary executive committee mem-

bers by the Myanmar Sport Federation and Executive Committee Selection Supervisor Team.

"The Myanmar Sport Federation nominated the executive committee members and sent the nominees to the Ministry of the health and sports. Then, the minister chose the chairman of the sport federation," said U Bunny Tin

Aung, a member of the Executive Committee Selection Supervisory Team. "Currently, we organised 45 temporary sport federations. After the SEA games, we will reform as permanent federations," said U Myo Hlaing, director-general of the Sport and Physical Education Department.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin signed the book of condolence on 21 December at the Russian Federation Embassy in response to the assassination of H.E. Mr. Andrey Gennadyevich Karlov, the Russian ambassador to Turkey, by a terrorist in Ankara, Turkey, on Monday. PHOTO: MNA



U Soe Lin Han, Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signed the book of condolence opened at the Yangon-based German Embassy on Thursday in commemoration of the murder of innocent shoppers at a Christmas market on 18 December 2016 in Berlin. PHOTO: MNA

ICRC assists IDPs

A health delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross provided 55 blankets and 41 mosquito nets soaked with mosquito repellent medication worth Ks96,000

to 86 displaced people taking shelter at Yaymaungtan, the monastery of the village, in Nawngkhio township on Wednesday morning.—*Myanmar News Agency*



ICRC giving blankets to a displaced woman. PHOTO: MNA

Amphetamines seized in Maungtaw Township



PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

UPON receiving information about the presence of illegal substances in a commercial store, security forces searched for drugs in the shop owned by Zarhitosaung in the village of Kyaukpyinseik (East) in Maungtaw township, discovering 9,500 tablets of WY-brand amphetamines worth about Ks190 Lakhs. Zarhitosaung was arrested and will be charged in accord with the law.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw attends Diamond Jubilee of Department of Myanmar Language at Yangon University

THE Myanmar Language Department of Yangon University kicked off its 75th anniversary celebration with the opening address by President U Htin Kyaw.

President U Htin Kyaw said he appreciated the efforts of the department for the past 75 years for promoting the Myanmar language, calling for preserving and simultaneously developing the country's own language and literature.

"The whole nation is required to preserve and simultaneously develop our own language and literature. I myself wish for the Myanmar language and literature to develop and for outstanding students to appear who will upgrade the status of Myanmar language and literature in the country," said the President.

Present at the opening ceremony were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education, U Maung Maung Soe, Mayor of Yangon City, departmental heads, chairman of the National Education Policy Commission, faculty of scholars from the fields of Arts & Science in Myanmar and national curriculum committee, vice chairmen and members, Myanmar scholars of the board of Myanmar Language Commission, rectors from universities, responsible officials and invited guests.

The President added, "Out-



President U Htin Kyaw visits the booth at the 75th anniversary celebration of Myanmar Language Department. PHOTO: MNA

standing and elite persons who were well-versed in both Myanmar and World literatures such as U Pe Maung Tin, U E Moun, U Wun (Min Thu Wun), U Thein Han (Zaw Gyi) initiated the campaign for Myanmar Language and Literature Development, the Myanmar Faculty became a well-established department, with the responsibility of developing the language taken by consecutive professors. It is an honour for me to have an acquaintance with Myanmar professors during the period of 75 years of the Myanmar language department led by my father.

The founding of the Department of Myanmar Language at the Yangon University could be said to have been a historic epoch in the history of education in Myanmar. Prior to the establishment of the University College in 1920, Yangon University did not have a separate department of Myanmar Language.

The teaching of the Myanmar language at the university was under the department of Oriental Studies. Yet, due to strenuous efforts of the first-ever principal of the University College, U Pe Maung Tin, and remarkable students such as Sayar U E Moun,

Sayar U Wun, Sayar U Thein Han, Sayar Theikpan Maung Wa and others, a separate department of Myanmar Language was established in 1941. The successful establishment of the Myanmar Language Department under colonial rule proved that the whole nation loved and admired their mother language and Myanmar literature.

On account of U Pe Maung Tin's effort, U E Moun became the first-ever head of Faculty of Myanmar Language in Yangon University, followed by Sayargyi U Wun (Min Thu Wun) who made many efforts in developing Myanmar literature and teaching

of Myanmar language. Afterward, Professor U Maung Maung Gyi, U Tin Aye, U Myint Kyi, Daw Than Swe and others continued to lead the Myanmar Faculty. Yangon University's Myanmar Faculty, founded in 1941, reached its diamond jubilee of 75 years in 2016.

"We saw successive Myanmar professors and teaching staff actively taking part in developing Myanmar language and literature as much as they could," said the President.

On the occasion of the diamond jubilee ceremony, an offering of "Soon—a day-meal" to 75 Members of the Sangha, ceremony of paper reading by literary scholars, exhibition of diamond jubilee show-room of Myanmar Faculty, Book Fair on Myanmar literary works, Special Friendship Dinner Party and entertainment programme presented by School Veterans and students of new generation will be included.

Language and literature is a country's most valuable cultural heritage. In addition, Prof Dr Khin Aye, the retired dean and Dr Po Kaung, rector of Yangon University respectively made speeches. Then Dr Saw Htay Myint and Yangon University Myanmar Faculty donated monetary funds.

The celebration will last until 24th December. At the end of the ceremony, the President inspected the book fair and Myanmar Jubilee Exhibition in the recreation centre of the Yangon University.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Journalists impressed with extensive media access in Rakhine

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"There were no restrictions on us. We could interview anybody we wanted. We were surprised to see them answer without fear. And it is very good for us to have access with the chief police officer of Kyikanpyin station," said U Myat Thura, Correspondent for Kyodo News.

"The places we went to are generally the places the media men find it difficult to go to. Now we

had access to the places where the armed attacks took place. We have seen the actual situations and met with people living in the nearby areas. We have had access so that we can assess the rumours which have spread both at home and abroad. Whatever it is, I want to say that the trip was a very good one for media," U Nyan Lin Aung, senior reporter for the Myanmar Times.

During the last day of their trip, the group also visited the 50-

bed hospital in Maungtaw, where Surgeon Dr Soe Aung Than explained the efforts of the hospital to give treatment to all, regardless of race or religion. The surgeon also responded to queries by the journalists.

Later, the media team visited Alethankyaw Village and questioned local residents on the peaceful coexistence between the Muslim and Buddhist communities.

Later in the afternoon, the

journalists went to Koetankauk Police Station, which was attacked on the morning of 9 October, and asked questions about the attacks before touring the actual sites of the attacks.

In the evening, Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Htein Lin and Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Tha clarified facts for the media gathering on the violent attacks on 9 October, including

the consequences, subsequent arrests and assaults, actions taken, questioning and release of those who were suspected to have involvement in the attacks, measures taken for regional stability, education, health and international and governmental assistance for the region. The journalists raised questions on areas of their concerns before leaving for Yangon yesterday afternoon.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Journalists interview Surgeon Dr Soe Aung Than of Maungtaw Hospital. PHOTO: MNA



Journalists visit Kotankauk border outpost in Maungtaw Township. PHOTO: MNA

LOCAL Business

Rice exports enter new market destination

MYANMAR's rice exports entered the new market of Côte d'Ivoire with an export volume of 5,000 tonnes of broken rice in early December, according to the Commerce Ministry.

A total of 5,681 tonnes of white rice, low quality rice and parboiled rice worth US\$2.036 million were exported to Asia and European Union countries from 4th to 10th December through normal trade, with export volumes of 75 tonnes to China, 14 tonnes to Japan, 2,750 tonnes to Afghanistan, 1,000 tonnes to China, 300 tonnes to Russia and 2,442 tonnes to EU countries respectively. This export volume was up by 4,270 tonnes when compared to the previous week.

In the same period, 11,000 tonnes of broken rice worth US\$2.992million were exported to foreign countries; with 5,500 tonnes to the EU, 500 tonnes to Canada and 5,000 tonnes to Côte d'Ivoire. The export volume increased by 9,150 tonnes compared to last week, attaining the new market of Côte d'Ivoire, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The volume of rice exports through the Myanmar-China border trade camps -- Muse, Chin Shwe Haw and Lweje -- from 3rd to 9th December were 25,282 tonnes, with an export value of US\$8.426million. The figure increased in comparison with that of last week, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Areas for investment zone submitted to Union Government

ZONING areas for an investment zone will be submitted to Union Government, followed by approvals from regional and state governments, according to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Investment zones are granted a three-to-seven year tax holiday depending on the geographic location and the sector of the investment. The locations will be announced next months for zones 1,2 and 3. "Matters concerning the setting of zone areas were discussed at the MIC meeting on 17th December and will continue to be submitted to the union government. We will exert concerted efforts to be able to release an announcement of investment zone location," said U Aung Naing Oo, the secretary of MIC.

According to the existing law, there is a flat income tax holiday of 5 years, but there will be different tax exemption in years 3 to 7, according to the new investment law, it is learnt. China topped the list of countries with the most investment in Myanmar, followed by Singapore in second place and Thailand in third place. The telecommunications sector receives the most investment.

There were 78 foreign enterprises permitted to invest US\$2,146.934million and 37 Myanmar citizen investment projects with an investment value of US\$518.506million as of 19th December in this fiscal year 2016-2017, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Dropping a hotline in Mandalay

TO facilitate responses to general questions and enquiries regarding Mandalay Region government offices, a Mandalay Contact Centre (Hotline 1882) was opened on 21st December on the first floor of Thiri Mingala Market, Aung Myay Tharzan Township, Mandalay, according to Blue Ocean Operating Management.

Blue Ocean Operating Management and Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) jointly opened the Mandalay Contact Centre. The contact centre will provide 24-hour-services.

The centre aims to effectively respond to public enquiries

quickly in order to establish effective connections between the regional government and the public. This will make it easier for authorities to conduct the public's social, economic and health development, said U Tun Tun Naing, the chair of Blue Ocean Operating Management.

The Hotline 1882 service will also help develop the communications and economic sectors, providing real time information for businesses. Additionally, opening of the hotline centre will create more job opportunities for the local residents, it is learnt.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Visitors having a photo taken at Yangon Stock Exchange in Yangon, on 11 Nov, 2016. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

MCB stock trading trails two other listed companies

MYANMAR Citizens Bank (MCB) hit zero stock trading at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) again, drawing little interest from investors when compared to the other two listed companies: First Myanmar Investment (FMI) and Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH).

When MCB hit zero again on 22nd December, FMI traded 2,160 shares at Ks15,000 and MTSH traded 12,860 shares at Ks4,600. A total of 15,020 shares

worth Ks92,073,000 were traded and the figure is up compared to that on 21st December despite zero trading volume of MCB and Myanmar Stock Price Index (MYANPIX) is 617.13, according to the statistics of YSX.

The share price of FMI slipped to Ks15,000 from Ks15,500 and MTSH's share price slumped by Ks100 in comparison with that of 21st December.

On 21st December, the stock

trading of the three listed companies at YSX hit Ks85,930,100, with a total trading volume of 11,947 shares.

Out of the three listed companies, FMI and MTSH garner more interest. The shareholders are selling their shares without purchasing the new ones, said a shareholder.

First Private Bank will reportedly commence its stock trading in YSX at the end of December.—*Ko Htet*

Prefabricated houses imported from China to be sold

PREFABRICATED houses will be imported from China to sell for those who do not have the time to wait for construction of a house and who cannot afford the high construction cost, said U Kyaw Htoo Aung, director of Treasure Triangle.

"The prefabricated houses

are currently used in the UAE, Qatar, the Philippines and the United States. We have entered into an agreement with the Chinese company to distribute as a local representative, he continued.

The portable houses have a steel structure with fireproof IEPS

panels and are 19 feet in length, 8 feet, 2 inches wide and 8 feet, six inches high. The houses will sell for Ks5million, it is learnt.

These prefabricated houses can be installed and removed in a short period of time and can be utilised as a home, site office, coffee shop or mini mart.—*200*

Pacific-AA Motor Ltd to introduce 2016 Chevrolet Orlando

PACIFIC-AA Motor Ltd will unveil the 2016 Chevrolet Orlando at Myanmar Plaza from 23rd to 25th December, it is learnt from the Commerce Ministry.

This new Chevrolet model will sell for around Ks53.8million. The 2016 Chevrolet Orlando is a Multi-purpose vehicle

(MPV) and can be driven as crossover utility vehicle (CUV).

It includes a 6-speed automatic transmission and the Tiptronic feature, which can function as an automatic and as a manual. Additionally, this car has high specifications and features such as rain sensitive windscreen wipers and a state-

of-the-art cruise control system. The distinctively designed Orlando is powered by a 4-cylinder, 1.8L DOHC ECOTEC DCVVT engine designed for optimum fuel-efficiency and rated at 141 hp. Chevrolet's new vehicle can seat up to seven, more than enough space for a family.—*Ko Khant*

South Korean court holds first hearing on Park's impeachment case

SEOUL — South Korea's Constitutional Court on Thursday began its deliberations on a parliamentary impeachment vote against President Park Geun-hye, who could become the first elected South Korean leader to be thrown out of office.

Park was indicted in a 9 December parliamentary vote by a wider-than-expected margin after being accused of colluding with a friend to pressure big businesses to make contributions to non-profit foundations backing presidential initiatives.

Park, whose father ruled the country for 18 years after seizing power in a 1961 coup, has denied wrongdoing but apologised for carelessness in her ties with the friend, Choi Soon-sil, who is facing her own trial.

Neither Park nor Choi appeared in court on Thursday when judges decided to admit prosecutors' inves-



(L-R) Lee Jin-Sung, Lee Jung-Mi and Kang Il-Won, judges of South Korea's Constitutional Court, sit on during a hearing into whether to confirm the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye, at the Constitutional Court in Seoul, on 22 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tigation documents, in an early setback for Park's defence team, which had tried to block them.

Although stripped of her presidential powers, which are being wielded by the prime minister, Park retains her title and her official

residence.

She is serving a single five-year term which is set to end in February 2018, and has presidential immunity but risks facing prosecution after leaving office.

Park's popularity has sunk to near record lows

since the influence-peddling scandal blew up, but many South Koreans already had doubts about her leadership, partly because of a 2014 ferry disaster in which 300 people, most of them school children, were killed.

The Court raised that

accident on Thursday, asking that Park account for her activities during a seven-hour period when the disaster was unfolding, and when her critics believe she was negligent.

"We request the claimer report where she was in the Blue House, during the seven hours that has become an issue, exactly what work she was engaged in," one of the court's nine judges, Lee Jinsung, said, referring to the presidential compound in the capital, Seoul.

The court also identified Park's friend, Choi, and two former Blue House officials, An Chong-bum and Jeong Ho-seong, as witnesses in the hearing.

Park's lawyers said earlier the vote to impeach her had no legal basis and the court should throw the case out. The court said it would hold the next preparatory hearing on 27 December.

—Reuters

Zika infections more rampant in Viet Nam's HCM City

HO CHI MINH CITY — Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City has so far spotted 145 Zika patients in 23 out of its 24 districts, including 19 pregnant women, the municipal Preventive Medicine Center said on Thursday.

Among four new cases of infections, one is a local pregnant woman. Relevant agencies in the city are urging residents to kill mosquitoes and their larvae, use mosquito nets when sleeping, and minimize travel to affected areas. To date, Viet Nam has detected 155 Zika cases, including 145 from Ho Chi Minh City.—Xinhua

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Japan's Abe aims to send message of US alliance strength at Pearl Harbour

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe wants to use next week's visit to Pearl Harbour to send a message that the alliance between former foes Japan and the United States is firm and vital in an uncertain region.

Abe's 27 December visit with President Barack Obama comes 75 years after the attack that thrust the United States into World War II — and less than four weeks before Donald Trump becomes president.

When Obama in May made a historic visit to Hiroshima, target of the world's first atomic bombing, candidate Trump tweeted, "Does President Obama ever discuss the sneak attack on Pearl Harbour while he's in Japan? Thousands of American lives lost."

Sophia University professor Koichi Nakano said "not just Abe, but the whole foreign policy community in Japan, is desperate to send a message not just to the world, but to President-elect Trump, that the US-Japan alliance is strong and can only get stronger."

Before the 8 November election, Trump triggered concern with comments — since denied — on Japan possibly acquiring nuclear arms, demands to pay more to host US forces or risk their withdrawal, and opposition to the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact.

Abe last month be-



Wheeler Army Airfield, also known as Wheeler Field and formerly as Wheeler Air Force Base, is seen under attack by the Imperial Japanese Navy in Pearl Harbour in Honolulu, Hawaii, in this 7 December 1941 file photo released by Kyodo. PHOTO: REUTERS

came the first world leader to meet Trump after the election. Following their hastily-arranged meeting in New York, Abe called him a "trustworthy leader."

The weaker yen triggered by the billionaire property magnate's election has given Japan's economy a fillip by making exports cheaper. And Softbank Group founder Masayoshi Son has visited Trump to pledge a \$50 billion investment to create US jobs.

Still, many Americans and Japanese worry future ties will fray. A December Gallup-Yomiuri newspaper poll showed 41 per cent of Japanese think relations will worsen. Forty per cent in the United States agreed, both up sharply from last year.

The two nations, how-

ever, have largely put the war behind them and the alliance has tightened under Abe.

"Our position is that the war is long over and Japan and the United States are now the strongest of allies," the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States said in a statement.

In contrast, the wartime legacy still plagues Japan's relations with China and South Korea.

"If Abe is looking for a symbolic gesture, he must go to Nanjing and to Korea to see 'comfort women'," said Andrew Horvat, a visiting professor at Josai International University. He was referring to Japanese troops' 1937 massacre of civilians in Nanjing and to women forced to work in Japanese

wartime military brothels.

Abe will not apologise for the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbour on 7 December, 1941 that killed more than 2,000 military personnel, a government spokesman has said, a step that would irk his conservative base. Nor did Obama apologise for the US atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that killed hundreds of thousands of civilians.

The Pearl Harbour visit will "express the value of reconciliation between Japan and the United States", Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said this month. Abe will be the first Japanese incumbent premier at Pearl Harbour since a brief 1951 stopover by Shigeru Yoshida.—Reuters

China begins daily civil charter flights to South China Sea outpost



Soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy patrol at Woody Island, in the Parcel Archipelago, which is known in China as the Xisha Islands, on 29 January 2016. The words on the rock read, "Xisha Old Dragon". PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China has begun daily civilian charter flights to Woody Island in the disputed South China Sea after approved the airport there for civil operations, state news agency *Xinhua* said on Thursday.

China claims almost all of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of maritime trade passes each year. The Philippines, Brunei, Viet Nam, Malaysia and Taiwan have overlapping claims.

The first flight took off on Wednesday from Haikou, the provincial capital of China's southern island province of Hainan, and will run every day with tickets costing 1,200 yuan (\$172.77) one way, *Xinhua* said. Woody Island, in the Paracels which are also claimed by Viet Nam and Taiwan, is the seat of what China calls Sansha city that is its administrative centre for the South China Sea. The airport, which is a joint military-civilian facility, was approved for civilian operations last Friday, *Xinhua* said.

"This will effectively improve the working and living conditions of civil servants and soldiers based in Sansha city," the report added.

The flights will leave Haikou airport at 8:45 am and return from Woody Island at 1 pm, *Xinhua* said. China has been building other airfields in the South China Sea as part of a controversial land reclamation programme and in July civilian aircraft successfully carried out calibration tests on two new airports in the Spratly Islands, on Mischief Reef and Subi Reef.

China took full control of the Paracels in 1974 after a naval showdown with Viet Nam.

Though China calls it a city, Sansha's permanent population is no more than a few thousand, and many of the disputed islets and reefs in the sea are uninhabited.

In February, Taiwan and US officials said China had deployed an advanced surface-to-air missile system on Woody Island. —Reuters

Philippine president says he will stop of all online gambling

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced on Thursday he would halt all online gambling in his country.

Duterte made the comment while announcing a 2017 budget that focused heavily on populist measures. He gave no timeframe

for such a ban or details on its scope.

The firebrand former mayor has been a worry for the country's booming online gambling industry and in August scrapped one firm's 13-year monopoly of gambling in licensed online cafes.

The Philippine gambling industry is one of Asia's most free-wheeling, attracting many online foreign companies over the last decade to set up servers aimed at overseas punters, and has lured investments of billions of dollars in casino resorts.—Reuters

HK bans poultry products from bird flu — hit Japan prefecture

HONG KONG — The Hong Kong food safety authority said on Thursday that it has banned the import of poultry meat and products from a prefecture in southwestern Japan following an outbreak of bird flu.

Following a notification from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) about an outbreak of highly pathogenic H5N6 avian influenza in Miyazaki Prefecture of Japan, it has banned the import of poultry meat and products, including poultry eggs, from the prefecture, said the Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of Hong Kong's

Food and Environmental Hygiene Department.

The ban, with immediate effect, aims to protect public health in Hong Kong, the CFS said.

A farm in Miyazaki reported earlier this week that some 100 chickens had been found dead, five of which and two live ones were found positive for bird flu in a preliminary test.

Miyazaki prefecture kept about 27.4 million broiler chickens as of February, the largest number in Japan's 47 prefectures, according to Japanese

government data.

A CFS spokesman said that in the first 10 months of this year, Hong Kong imported about 6,000 tons of frozen poultry meat and 40.6 million poultry eggs from Japan.

"The CFS has contacted the Japanese authorities over the issue and will closely monitor information issued by the OIE on avian influenza outbreaks in the country. Appropriate actions will be taken in response to the development of the situation," the spokesman said.—Xinhua

Philippines commissions second of 10 new patrol ships from Japan

MANILA — The Philippines commissioned on Thursday the second of 10 multirole ships provided by Japan, formally including it among the fleet of the country's coast guard.

A commissioning ceremony was held at the Philippine Coast Guard's headquarters in Manila for the 44-meter long vessel, christened the Malabrigo — named after a prominent lighthouse in the country's southern Luzon prov-

ince of Batangas. "The new patrol vessel will help us implement our functions in the Philippine seas. These include search and rescue, environmental protection and law enforcement," Philippine Coast Guard spokesman, Cmdr. Armando Balilo, told *Kyodo News* in a recent interview. The ship's technological features include fire monitors, night vision camera, radio direction finder, a work boat and a bullet-proof navigational

bridge. The first of the 10 ships from Japan, the Tubtataha, was commissioned on 12 October.

Manufactured by Japan Marine United Corp., the ships were obtained by the Philippines through an official development assistance loan of 7.37 billion pesos (\$147 million) from Japan.

At least one of the remaining ships is expected to arrive in the Philippines in each quarter of next year.—Kyodo News

Australian police say blast at Christian group's HQ not politically motivated

SYDNEY — Australian police said on Thursday an explosion caused when a van drove into the headquarters of a conservative Christian lobby group in the national capital, Canberra, was not politically or religiously motivated.

The 35-year-old Australian driver of the van, which was carrying gas-filled cylinders, walked into a nearby hospital suffering severe burns and was in critical condition, Australian Capital Territory Police Commander Mark Walters said.

"... As a result of our conversations with the male driver of the vehicle, we have established that the actions of this individual are not politically, religiously or ideologically motivated," Walters told reporters.

Walters would not elabo-

rate further.

The driver of the truck ignited gas-filled canisters before smashing into the building that acts as headquarters for the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL), which has been an outspoken critic of abortion and same-sex marriage.

ACL managing director Lyle Shelton posted a photograph on Twitter showing the burned-out van in front of the group's headquarters. He said no staff were injured.

"I don't know the motivation of last night's attack, but the context of what I see here is in the context of multiple death threats and threats of violence that my staff have endured over the course of this year," Shelton told reporters.

—Reuters



The damaged entrance to the offices of the Australian Christian Lobby Group in Canberra, Australia, on 22 December 2016 after it was rammed by a van reportedly carrying gas bottles. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kremlin says almost all dialogue with US is frozen: RIA

MOSCOW/WASHINGTON — The Kremlin said on Wednesday almost all communications channels between Russia and the United States have been frozen but the US State Department disputed the statement.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia did not expect the incoming US administration to quickly reject enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and that almost all communication with the United States had ceased, according to Russia's RIA news agency.

There are fears among allies that US President-elect Donald Trump could withdraw funding for NATO at a time of heightened tensions with Moscow. Russia has said it would take countermeasures in response to any expansion of the 28-member military alliance.

"Almost every level of dialogue with the United States is frozen," RIA quoted Peskov as saying. "We don't communicate with one another, or (if we do) we do so minimally."

Peskov's reported comments came as tensions between Moscow and Washington are growing, a month before US President Barack Obama hands over power to Trump, who has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin.

State Department spokesman John Kirby quickly rejected Peskov's statement.

"It's difficult to know exactly what is meant by this comment, but diplomatic engagement with Russia continues across a wide range of issues," Kirby said in an emailed statement. "That we have significant differences with Moscow on some of these issues is well known, but there hasn't been a break in dialogue."

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke by phone on Tuesday regarding the situation in Syria, Kirby said.

Russia, Turkey and Iran agreed in recent talks find a solution to the Syrian crisis. While the United States had been excluded from those talks, com-

munications with Moscow on ending the war continued, Kirby told his daily briefing later on Wednesday.

"We weren't in the meeting in Moscow, but it's not as if we haven't had communication with them before and then right after that meeting," Kirby told reporters, adding that the United States was in touch with Moscow on concerns over Ukraine's conflict.

Pressed on what Peskov could have meant, Kirby added: "I think you should ask Mr. Peskov what he means by his comments. From our perspective there is no break in the dialogue." Separately, the Pentagon said in a statement it had held a video conference with counterparts from the Russian defence ministry to ensure the two sides' air operations do not come into conflict with each other in Syria. Such discussions with Russia are held regularly as US warplanes conduct daily air strikes against Islamic State in Syria. —Reuters

Germany police hunt Tunisian asylum-seeker over Christmas market attack

BERLIN/DUESSELDORF — German police are looking for an asylum-seeker from Tunisia after finding an identity document under the driver's seat of a truck that plowed into a Berlin Christmas market and killed 12 people, officials and security sources said on Wednesday.

The federal prosecutor's office offered a reward of up to 100,000 euros (\$104,000) for information leading to the capture of the suspect, whom it identified as 24-year-old Anis Amri.

"Beware: He could be violent and armed!" the prosecutor's office said in a statement, in which it described Amri as 1.78 meters (5'8") tall, with black hair

and brown eyes.

German police commandos raided two apartments in the Berlin district of Kreuzberg late on Wednesday but did not find Amri, *Die Welt* newspaper reported, citing investigators.

Amri's father and security sources told Tunisia's Radio Mosaïque that he had left Tunisia seven years ago as an illegal immigrant and had spent time in prison in Italy.

In Duesseldorf, Ralf Jaeger, interior minister of the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), said the Tunisian appeared to have arrived in Germany in July 2015 and his asylum application had been rejected.

He seemed to have used different names and had been identified by security agencies as being in contact with an Islamist network. He had mainly lived in Berlin since February, but was recently in NRW, Jaeger added.

After being turned down for asylum, the man should have been deported but could not be returned to Tunisia because his documents were missing, he said.

"Tunisia at first denied that this person was its citizen," said Jaeger, adding that German authorities started the process of getting new identity papers in August 2016. "The papers weren't issued for a long time. They arrived today." —Reuters



Berliners and refugees gather to sing 'We Are The World' in front of the Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche (Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church) in Berlin, Germany, on 21 December 2016, after a truck ploughed through a crowd at the Christmas market on Monday night. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Flights dropping human waste from air to be fined in India

NEW DELHI — India's top environment court has reportedly ruled that airlines will be fined 50,000 Indian rupees (800 US dollars) if their planes drop poop into the air during flight.

The National Green Tribunal has also directed India's civil aviation regulator to conduct surprise checks to ensure that airlines don't flout its ruling, in the wake of a plea by a retired Indian Army official who accused planes of dumping human waste over residential areas in the national capital.

"The DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) shall also issue directions that aircraft on landing shall be subjected to surprise inspection to see that human waste tanks are not empty," the court was quoted by the media as saying. "If any aircraft is found to be violating such circular or (their) tanks are found to be empty on landing, they shall be subjected to environment compensation of 50,000 rupees per default," it added. —Xinhua

Vucic: Serbia to get MiG-29s, tanks, armoured vehicles from Russia

MOSCOW — As a token of support, Russia will give Serbia six MiG-29 planes as a gift, and the three stages of upgrading them will cost us 180-230 mln euros, PM Aleksandar Vucic said after a meeting with Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoygu on Wednesday, *Sputnik* reported.

If you calculate the costs of buying such planes, you will see they would cost us around 600 mln euros, he said.

This will dramatically improve the Serbian Armed Forces' capabilities — to an extent that they will be like a different army from now on, he said. We also got 30 T72S tanks, 30 BRDM-2 combat reconnaissance/patrol vehicles and 14.5 mm cannons as a gift, Vucic said. We enhanced our very good friendly relations and we will make joint three- and five-year cooperation plans, he said. —Tanjung

Malaysia Airlines flight from London returns to Heathrow after technical issue

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysia Airlines flight from London to Kuala Lumpur returned to Heathrow just hours after departure after it experienced a technical defect on one of its doors.

In a travel advisory on its website, the airline said the MH1 flight that took off from Heathrow on Wednesday night "experienced a technical defect on one of its Airbus A380 doors while in flight over Germany."

The noise and vibration from the door was of no immediate risk, it said, adding that the captain decided to return to Heathrow in the interest of passenger safety. The aircraft, an Airbus A380-800, will be evaluated by engineering staff and Airbus technical staff, Malaysia Airlines said. According to a tweet by Flightradar monitoring web site, MH1 returned to Heathrow four hours after departure. —Reuters

Singapore's customs seizes 900g heroine found in Malaysian motorist's underwear

SINGAPORE — Singapore's Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) has seized 900 grams of heroin from a Malaysian motorcyclist at Tuas Checkpoint, said ICA in a press release on Thursday.

Two packets of heroin, weighing approximately 900 grams and worth more than 63,000 Singapore dollars (43,529 US dollars), were found in the 23-year-old man's underwear.

The Malaysian man was placed under arrest and could face the death penalty if convicted. Singapore's Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) provides for the death penalty if the amount of diamorphine or pure heroin imported is 15 grams or more. —Xinhua

AU recruits police officers to enhance security in Somalia

MOGADISHU — The Africa Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has started recruitment of 200 police officers who are expected to enhance security in Somalia.

AMISOM said on Thursday that the exercise which is being conducted jointly with Somali Police in Kismayo will recruit young men and women who will undergo three-month police training before deployment to various parts of the federal state to boost security and maintain law and order. AMISOM Police team leader, Superintendent Opara Augustus said the exercise is meant to shore up the capacity of the police force in the state to effectively enforce law and order. —Xinhua

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 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.

Let us work in unity for the betterment of our nation and people!

Editorial from the Mirror Daily (Kyemon) dated 22/ December 2016

SINCE time immemorial, latent characteristics of the inner self—greed, anger and ignorance have existed in every individual. Mischievous deeds are instigated by the said greed, anger and ignorance. Accordingly, fire-like deeds are burning all the time around us.

Due to the ignition of defilements said above, tortures and slaughters occur in human society. It is a disgusting thing to see such deeds among brethren groups, that cause a great loss and suffering in our circles.

It is not a strange thing that the egocentric nature of human

beings begets ill wills, but if and when disintegration of unity happen to us who belong to the same brotherhood living on the same land, outsiders or rather those wanting to bring us to the brink of ruin, will surely be happy.

We have all known that there was a time in the past when our Union had nearly disintegrated, on account of our failure to live in unity and friendship with one another. Yet, there is no hint of the lessening of craving, anger and ignorance seen in us. I want to say that it is attributed to the lack of willingness to cherish

and develop the Union.

We should never ever forget the gratitude we owe to our patriotic heroes born on our land, Myanmar, who sacrificed their lives to regain the independence which was lost. Throughout Myanmar history, there were many patriotic heroes and good leaders in different parts of the country. They were national leaders and figures that emerged on the Myanmar political stage to fight colonialists and bring about the development in the country, not for their popularity and personal benefits.

Under the leadership of

our national leaders, the entire national populace fought in unity hand in hand with one another to regain the independence we had lost. Likewise, we are all responsible to safeguard our independence and sovereignty for all eternity.

Demands of the historical situations produce national leaders who are willing and ready to sacrifice their lives for the benefit of the country and its people. Hence, we are required to perform our responsibilities in unison in the interest of all national races, under the leadership of our respected leaders.

Sexual offences In Myanmar, Singapore and India

U Mya Thein. B. A., B.L.

According to Myanmar Penal Code,
Rape:

Section 375. A man is said to commit "rape" who, except in the cases hereinafter excepted, has sexual intercourse with a woman under circumstances falling under any of the five following descriptions:

Firstly.- Against her will.

Secondly.-Without her consent.

Thirdly.-With her consent, where her consent has been obtained by putting her in fear of death or of hurt.

Fourthly.- With or without her consent, when a man knows that he is not her husband, and her consent is given because she believes that he is another man to whom she is or believes herself to be lawfully married.

Fifthly.- With or without her consent, when she is under sixteen years of age.

Explanation.- Penetration is sufficient to constitute the sexual intercourse necessary to the offence of rape.

Exception.-Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under fifteen years of age, is not rape.

Section 376. Whoever commits rape shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of twenty years, or imprisonment for a term of ten years, and shall also be liable to fine, unless the woman raped is his own wife and is under fourteen years of age, in which case he shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

Un-natural Offence:

Section 377. Whoever voluntarily has carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman or animal shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of twenty years or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation.- penetration is sufficient to constitute the carnal intercourse necessary to the offence described in this section.

According to Singapore Penal Code,
Rape:

Section. 375

(1) Any man who penetrates the vagina of a woman with his penis -

(a) without her consent; or

(b) with or without her consent, when she is under 14 years of age, shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Subject to sub section (3), a man who

is guilty of an offence under this section shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend 20 years, and shall also be liable to fine or caning.

(3) Whoever -

(a) in order to commit or to facilitate the commission of an offence under subsection (1) -

(i) voluntarily causes hurt to the woman or to any other person; or

(ii) put her in fear of death or hurt to herself or any other person; or

(b) commits an offence under subsection (1) with a woman under 14 years of age without her consent,

shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than 8 years and not more than 20 years and shall also be punished with caning with not less than 12 strokes.

(4) No man shall be guilty of an offence under subsection (1) against his wife, who is not under 13 years of age, except where at the time of the offence -

(a) his wife was living apart from him -

(i) under an interim judgment of divorce not made final or a decree nisi for divorce not made absolute;

(ii) under an interim judgment of nullity not made final or a decree nisi for nullity not made absolute;

(iii) under a judgment or decree of judicial separation; or

(iv) under a written separation agreement;

(b) his wife was living apart from him and proceedings have been commenced for divorce, nullity or judicial separation, and such proceedings have not been terminated or concluded;

(c) there was in force a court injunction to the effect of restraining him from having sexual intercourse with his wife;

(d) there was in force a protection order under section 65 or an expedited order under section 66 of the Women's Charter (Cap. 353) made against him for the benefit of his wife; or

(e) his wife was living apart from him and proceedings have been commenced for the protection order or expedited order referred to in paragraph (d), and such proceedings have not been terminated or concluded.

(5) Notwithstanding subsection (4), no man shall be guilty of an offence under subsection (1)(b) for an act of penetration against his wife with her consent.

Sexual assault by penetration

Section 376.

(1) Any man (A) who -

(a) penetrates, with A's penis, the anus or mouth of another person (B); or

(b) causes another man (B) to penetrate, with B's penis, the anus or mouth of A, shall be guilty of an offence if B did not consent to the penetration.

(2) Any person (A) who -

(a) sexually penetrates, with a part of A's body (other than A's penis) or anything else, the vagina or anus, as the case may be, of another person (B);

(b) causes a man (B) to penetrate, with B's penis, the vagina, anus or mouth, as the case may be, of another person (C); or

(c) causes another person (B), to sexually penetrate, with a part of B's body (other than B's penis) or anything else, the vagina or anus, as the case may be, of any person including A or B,

shall be guilty of an offence if B did not consent to the penetration.

(3) Subject to subsection (4), a person who is guilty of an offence under this section shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 20 years, and shall also be liable to fine or to caning.

(4) Whoever -

(a) in order to commit or to facilitate the commission of an offence under subsection (1) or (2) -

(i) voluntarily causes hurt to any person; or

(ii) puts any person in fear of death or hurt to himself or any other person; or

(b) commits an offence under subsection (1) or (2) against a person (B) who is under 14 years of age, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of not less than 8 years and not more than 20 years and shall also be punished with caning with not less than 12 strokes.

Sexual penetration of minor under 16.

Section 376A. (1) Any person (A) who -

(a) penetrates, with A's penis, the vagina, anus or mouth, as the case may be, of a person under 16 years of age (B);

(b) sexually penetrates, with a part of A's body (other than A's penis) or anything else, the vagina or anus, as the case may be, of a person under 16 years of age (B);

(c) causes a man under 16 years of age (B) to penetrate, with B's penis, the vagina, anus or mouth, as the case may be, of another person including A; or

(d) causes a person under 16 years of age (B) to sexually penetrate, with a part of B's body (other than B's penis) or anything else, the vagina or anus, as the case may be, of any person including A or B,

with or without B's consent, shall be guilty of an offence.

To be continued

Rank-and-file member of MNDAA armed group arrested

DURING an area security operation in the town of Laukai in northern Shan State, government troops arrested one soldier from the MNDAA armed group and seized his firearm at about 9:30

am near the roundabout at ward 3 in the town.

The suspect, Kyuarchein, is a rank-and-file member of MNDAA's group/311. He was a barber before he joined the

MNDAA armed group through the connection of a friend in May, 2016, it is learnt. He reentered the town in October, it was learnt. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Firearms, mines and Accessories seized near Mongko

GOVERNMENT troops seized firearms, mines and accessories in the bush near a field east of Mongko in northern Shan State at about 2:30 pm on Monday during an area clearance operation.

The Myanmar News Agency reported yesterday that the seized firearms and accessories included one M-79 grenade launcher, three green backpacks, four rocket-propelled grenades (RGP), three small land mines,

four hand grenades, four folded shovels and a bag loaded with various kinds of drugs.

The Tatmataw troops are continuing to make area clearance operations, the report said. — *GNLM*

Dutch deported upon release

A Dutch called Mr. KlaasHaytema who was given a three-month sentence was released after serving the time in Mandalay correctional facility, and he has now been deported to the Netherlands,

said U Thung Din, immigration officer from Maha Aung Myay township.

The court gave him a three-month imprisonment on 6 October for interfering with

a religious ceremony by unplugging an amplifier blasting a late-night Buddhist sermon near the hotel he was staying at in Mandalay.

"Our Myanmar court deported him for violation of the visa rules and regulations according to the existing law. He visited Myanmar with a visit visa, he added.

Mr. KlaasHaytema was found guilty under section 296 of the Penal Code and imprisoned for three months. He was also fined about \$80 for violating visa regulations requiring cultural respect.

There are 18 foreigners who were deported by the Myanmar court in Mandalay region. Out of 18 people, 13 people are Chinese citizens, according to Regional immigration statistics. — *Myitmakha News Agency*



The Dutch being seen upon release. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Government troops fire warning shoots at fleeing photographer, woman accidentally struck

DURING an area security operation, government troops found a suspect taking drive-by photographs on his motorbike of troops performing their duties east of the village of Teinkauk in Tanai township on Tuesday afternoon.

"The man was asked to stop taking pictures and to hand over photos he had already taken. Instead, the suspect fled on his motor-bike, prompting Tatmataw troops to fire warning shoots. Accidentally struck by a bullet was a woman cooking in a tent

on the roadside working for the cable line construction site. The injured woman was taken to Tanai General Hospital for medical treatment. It is learnt that Tatmataw troops are still trying to capture the drive-by photographer. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Aid from Hindu Emergency Help Providing Association. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE OF THE STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE

Hindu Emergency Help Providing Association aids village elders

U Nay Maung and party from the Hindu Emergency Help Providing Association provided the village elders of Ngakhura village of Maungtaung township on the morning of December 20 with 28 bags of rice, two pea bags and 24 pieces of Sari cloth. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Rescue team trying to evacuate passengers trapped in the car. PHOTO: MYANMAR FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Casualties high in accident on Ygn-Mdy Expressway

A highway bus owned by Mandalamin Transportation lost control of its vehicle between mileposts 91 mile 4 furlong and 5 furlong, and dived into the creek between the two-way bridges yesterday, killing at least seven passengers and injuring many others.

"The bus hit the bridge divider

and fell into the creek. We are still rescuing passengers. The driver has already died," an official from the fire station said at about 9 pm yesterday.

The police, firefighters and the public were trying to rescue passengers who were injured in the accident. — *Zaw Chit Win (Taungoo)*

Police hunt for killer of Sagaing journalist

POLICE continue their search to identify the killer of an Eleven Media reporter in Monywa, Sagaing region, said an official from Sagaing region police force.

"Currently, we are interrogating suspects. I hope that we can arrest the murderer sooner or later," he added.

The journalist, Soe Moe Thu, was a correspondent in Monywa in Sagaing region. He was found dead early Tuesday morning on the side of the highway in the town of Monywa with cuts and bruises on his face and head.

A local journalist said an ar-

rest is imminent.

"The police have already interrogated about 30 people. It is a little bit complicated.

The police assume that someone is manipulating the case from behind the scenes. Two people were also remanded. It means that the police can identify the real culprit soon," said Ko Lay, a Sagaing-based journalist in Monywa from the Gazette Journal. The police found a stick near the scene, but fingerprint on the possible weapon had been destroyed. The police are still investigating the case. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Stimulant tablets seized in Lashio and Patheingyi

AN anti-narcotic suppression squad searched a motorcycle driven by Nyi Nyi together with his wife Ma Khwan on board and found 4,400 stimulant tablets near Ho Pait Oriental toll gate in Lashio on 21 December.

Similarly, an anti-narcotic suppression squad from northern Mandalay searched a house owned by Thet Soe Aung residing at Bayintnaung lane, Zee Oak Ward, Patheingyi Township



Nyi Nyi and his wife Ma Khwan. PHOTO: MPF

and seized 580 stimulant tablets and 7.5 grams of heroin.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — *Myanmar Police Force*

Turkish prosecutors probing why Russian envoy's killer not taken alive

ISTANBUL — Turkish prosecutors are investigating why the off-duty policeman who shot dead Russia's ambassador to Turkey was not captured alive, state media said on Wednesday, as the number of people arrested over the killing rose to 11.

Ambassador Andrei Karlov was gunned down from behind while delivering a speech in an Ankara art gallery on Monday. His killer was identified by Turkish authorities as Mevlut Mert Altintas, 22, who shouted "Don't forget Aleppo" and "Allahu Akbar" — Arabic for "God is greatest" — as he fired the shots.

Russian and Turkey both cast the attack as an attempt to ruin a recent thawing of relations chilled by the civil war in Syria, where they back opposing sides. The war reached a potential turning point last week when

Russian-backed Syrian forces ended rebel resistance in the northern city of Aleppo.

The state-run Anadolu Agency said prosecutors were investigating why Turkish special forces, who stormed the gallery after the killing, did not take Altintas alive. Initial findings suggest he continued to fire at police officers, shouting: "You cannot capture me alive!" Anadolu said. The officers shot Altintas in the legs, but he continued to return fire while crawling on the ground, it said.

President Tayyip Erdogan defended the police actions. "There is some speculation about why he wasn't captured alive. Look what happened in Besiktas when they tried to capture an attacker alive," Erdogan told reporters, referring to twin bombings this month outside the stadium of Istanbul's Be-



Russian Ambassador to Turkey Andrei Karlov lies on the ground after he was shot by Mevlut Mert Altintas at an art gallery in Ankara, Turkey, on 19 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

siktas soccer team.

Forty-four people, mostly policemen, were killed and more than 150 wounded in the dual bombing, the second of which saw

a suicide bomber detonating explosives while surrounded by police.

A Reuters cameraman at the scene of Monday's killing of the Russian envoy

said he heard shooting from inside the art gallery for some minutes after special forces stormed the building.

Anadolu also said the number of people detained

in connection with the killing had risen to 11. Security sources told Reuters on Tuesday that six people — including Altintas's mother, father, sister and flatmate — were in custody.

At Russian President Vladimir Putin's request, a joint Russian-Turkish investigation team has been set up. The Russian contingent is made up of 18 officials, including a prosecutor and two defence attaches, Anadolu said.

More than 100 people from the Ankara police department, mostly from the anti-terrorism unit, are involved, it said. The Kremlin said on Wednesday it was too early to say who stood behind the murder of its ambassador. It has also said the assassination was a blow to Turkey's prestige, comments that are likely to unnerve Ankara.—Reuters

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUBMITTED FOR OPHIR FOR EXPLORATION DRILLING IN BLOCK AD-3, OFFSHORE RAKHINE STATE

Ophir Myanmar (Block AD-3) Limited (Ophir Myanmar) is currently proposing to drill one exploration well (Aung Sakyar) during 2017 in Block AD-3, located in the Rakhine Basin, Myanmar. This will be drilled using a dynamically position **Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit**. The well would be located in water depths of over 2,400 m (7,800 ft.) and at a minimum of 150 km (93 miles) from the nearest coastline. Ophir Myanmar has conducted engagement at the national and local levels in Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Rakhine State. Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Ophir Myanmar was required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and E Guard Environmental Services (E Guard), on behalf of Ophir Myanmar, have completed an EIA Study, which includes associated stakeholder engagement. The EIA was conducted in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

The report can be viewed at:

- Ophir's webpage: www.ophir-energy.com;
- Ophir Myanmar's office in Yangon: #10-04 Sakura Tower, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Yangon; and
- Thandwe District General Administration Department office : No (3) Bo Gyoke Street, Thandwe, Rakhine State
- Manaung Township General Administration Department office : Yone Tet Street, Yan Aung Myin Quarter, Manaung, Rakhine State.

Feedback on the report can be provided in writing to steve.merritt@ophir-energy.com or directly to staff at Ophir Myanmar's office in Yangon by 16 January 2017.

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (16 / 2016)

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

| Sr.No | Tender No | Description | Remark |
|-------|------------------|--|--------|
| (1) | IFB-069(16-17) | OTECO Gate Valves and Spares for Rig Pumps (16) Items | US\$ |
| (2) | IFB-070(16-17) | Assorted Sizes of Steel Casing & Accessories (8) Items | US\$ |
| (3) | IFB-071(16-17) | Assorted Sizes of PDC and Tri-Cone Bits (13) Items | US\$ |
| (4) | IFB-072(16-17) | Spares for BOP Ex ZJ-70L Drilling Rigs (6) Items | US\$ |
| (5) | IFB-073(16-17) | Spares for FA-1600 Triplex Pump Ex Ex EMSCO Rig (9) Items | US\$ |
| (6) | IFB-074(16-17) | Spares for NAT-55 and EMSCO Drilling Rigs (40) Items | US\$ |
| (7) | DMP/L-016(16-17) | Spares for Allision Transmission Ex KB-150 Well Servicing Truck (32) Items | Ks |
| (8) | DMP/L-017(16-17) | Spares for MWM D 226-4 1/Set Engine Ex MTBN-3 River Craft (30) Items | Ks |
| (9) | DMP/L-018(16-17) | Steel Wire Rope (2) Items | Ks |
| (10) | DMP/L-019(16-17) | Mud Testing Equipments (6) Items | Ks |

Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-1-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 19TH December, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411274 / 411206

Afghan police search house of parliament member after attack

KABUL — Afghan police and security officials combed through the wreckage of a member of parliament's house in Kabul on Thursday after an attack by Taliban gunmen in which at least seven people were killed. Broken glass and spent bullet cartridges lay on the bloodstained ground of the heavily fortified house in the district of Khushal Khan belonging to Mir Wali, a member of parliament from the volatile southern province of Helmand.

Police special forces units sealed off the house following the attack on Wednesday night but gunfire and explosions could be heard for several hours.

"It was a really ter-

rifying situation here in the night," said neighbour Matihullah, who like many Afghans goes by one name. "There were explosions and firing. It was really horrible and we couldn't sleep whole the night." The Taliban said 20 people, including senior security officials from Helmand, had been killed in the attack but government officials put the death toll at seven. Two Taliban gunmen had also been killed, they said. The attack underlined the fragile security situation in Kabul which has seen a series of kidnappings, suicide bombings and other insurgent attacks on targets connected to the Western-backed government.—Reuters

UN inquiry says air strike hit Syria aid convoy in September

UNITED NATIONS — A United Nations internal inquiry released on Wednesday found that a deadly attack on an aid convoy in Syria in September came from an air strike, but it could not conclude that the attack was "deliberate" or who was to blame.

At least 10 people died and some 22 were injured in the 19 September attack on a UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent aid convoy at Urem Al-Kubra near the city of Aleppo, which also destroyed 17 trucks, the inquiry found.

"The board found that, while the incident was caused by an air attack, it was not possible to identify the perpetrator or perpetrators," according to a summary of the report by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which was submitted to the 15-member UN Security Council on Wednesday. However, the board noted that only Syrian, Russian and US-led coalition aircraft had the capability to carry out such an attack, not opposition forces. It said it was "highly unlikely" that US-led coalition aircraft were involved in the attack. The inquiry found that "multiple types of munitions deployed from more than one aircraft and aircraft type" struck the aid convoy.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.12.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Israel's Spacecom buys Boeing satellite for \$161 million, to launch in 2019

JERUSALEM — Israeli satellite operator Space Communications said on Wednesday it would launch a new telecommunications satellite in 2019 after losing a prior one in an explosion.

Spacecom said it was buying a satellite from Boeing Satellite Systems International for \$161 million.

The new satellite, Amos-17, is aimed at expanding and strengthening Spacecom's coverage of growing satellite service markets in Africa, the Middle East and Europe, it said.

Amos-17 is designed to operate for more than 15 years.

"It will be a catalyst for Spacecom's growth plans over the next decade," the company said in a statement.

Spacecom last year lost contact with its Amos-5 satellite, which was launched in 2011 and provided coverage to clients in Africa.

It had planned to launch

Amos-6 on 3 September but two days before the scheduled launch an explosion destroyed both the satellite and a Falcon 9 rocket belonging to Elon Musk's SpaceX during preparations for a routine test firing at Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Amos-6 was going to be used by Facebook to expand Internet access in Africa.

Spacecom is in negotiations to be sold to Beijing Xinwei Technology Group, which in August said its planned \$285 million bid was conditional on the successful launch of Amos-6.

Beijing Xinwei said last month the purchase price had been lowered to about \$190 million.

Israel's Eurocom Holdings owns 64 per cent of Spacecom, whose shares were up 3.6 per cent in afternoon trading in Tel Aviv but are down some 70 per cent since Amos-6 was destroyed.—Reuters

Study finds pregnancy initiates mothering instinct through brain changes

BARCELONA — New moms often complain about fuzzy thinking during pregnancy, but a recent study shows that pregnancy may cause lasting changes in women's brains that won't affect their memories but rather help their transition into motherhood.

"On the basis of our results, we may speculate that the female brain undergoes a further maturation or specialisation of the neural network subserving social cognition during pregnancy," said the study published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience* on Monday.

The study took more than five years and involved 25 women in their 30s in Spain who had never been pregnant before.

Using magnetic resonance imaging, scientists scanned the brains of women before and after their first pregnancies and found reductions of gray matter in several brain areas involved in a process called social cognition, the ability to register and consider how other people perceive things.

The brain changes, which lasted for at least two years after the women gave birth, probably help them adapt to motherhood, the study suggested.

In order to find if the women's brain changes affected anything related to mothering, researchers found that relevant brain regions in mothers showed more activity when women looked at photos of their own babies than at photos of other children.

"The changes concern brain areas associated with functions necessary to manage the challenges of motherhood," study co-lead author Erika Barba-Muller said.

"Gray matter volume loss does not necessarily represent a bad thing. It can also represent a beneficial process of maturation or specialisation," said Eline Hoekzema, a researcher who led the study at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Spain.

Pregnancy may help a woman's brain specialise in "a mother's ability to recognise the needs of her infant, to recognise social threats or to promote mother-infant bonding," Hoekzema said.

The changes "may reflect, at least in part, a mechanism of synaptic pruning ... where weak synapses are eliminated giving way to more efficient and specialized neural networks," she added.—Xinhua



People walk in heavy smog during a polluted day in Jinan, Shandong province, China, on 20 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

China launches carbon-tracking satellite into space: Xinhua

SHANGHAI — China launched a satellite to monitor its greenhouse gas emissions early on Thursday, the latest step in efforts to cut its carbon footprint, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The launch follows the United States joining China in formally ratifying the Paris agreement to curb climate-warming emissions. It also comes as large sections of northern China have been shrouded in near-record levels of air pollution for most of the past week, disrupting flights, closing factories and schools, and forcing authorities to issue red alerts.

China launched the satellite via a Long March-2D rocket from

Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the northwestern Gobi Desert, Xinhua said.

The 620 kg (1,370 lbs) satellite TanSat was sent into a sun synchronous orbit about 700 km (435 miles) above the earth and will monitor the concentration, distribution and flow of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, said Yin Zengshan, chief designer of TanSat at the Chinese Academy of Sciences micro-satellite research institute.

The launch comes after an international study showed that world greenhouse gas emissions stayed flat for the third year in a row in 2016, thanks to falls in Chi-

na's policymakers with independent data for three years, the news agency said.

TanSat will take readings of global carbon dioxide every 16 days, accurate to at least 4 parts per million.

The rocket carrying TanSat also carried a high-resolution micro-nano satellite and two spectrum micro-nano satellites for agricultural and forestry monitoring, the agency added.

China is the third country after Japan and the United States to monitor greenhouse gases with its own satellite, the agency said.

—Reuters

Artificial leaf copies nature to manufacture medicine

EINDHOVEN, (Netherlands) — Dutch scientists have developed an artificial leaf that can act as a mini-factory for producing drugs, an advance that could allow medicines to be produced anywhere there is sunlight.

The work taps into the ability of plants to use sunlight to feed themselves through photosynthesis, something industrial chemists have struggled to replicate because sunshine usually generates too little energy to fuel chemical reactions.

The leaf-inspired micro factory mimics nature's efficiency at harvesting solar radiation by using new materials called luminescent solar concentrators with very thin channels through which liquid is pumped, exposing molecules to sunlight.

"Theoretically, you could use this device to make drug compounds with solar energy anywhere you want," said lead researcher Timothy Noel at Eindhoven University of Technology.

By doing away with the need for a power grid, it may be possible one day to make malaria drugs in the jungle or even medicines on Mars in some future space colony, he believes.

The device, made from silicone rubber, can operate even



Dr Timothy Noel, from Eindhoven University of Technology, holds an artificial leaf designed as a mini-factory for producing drugs, an advance that could allow medicines to be produced anywhere there is sunlight in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, on 16 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

when there is diffuse light, which means it will work under cloudy skies. However, there is still a way to go to scale up the process to make it commercially viable.

Noel and his colleagues, who published their research in the science journal *Angewandte Chemie*

on Wednesday, are now trying to improve energy efficiency further and increase output.

Because the artificial leaf relies on micro-channels to bring chemicals into direct contact with sunlight, each unit needs to be small — but they could be easily linked together to increase production.

"You can make a whole tree with many, many different leaves placed in parallel," Noel told Reuters. "These are very cheap things to make, so there is a lot of potential."

He thinks the process could start to become broadly available to chemical engineers within five to 10 years.

It is not the first time that scientists have drawn inspiration from plants when considering novel ways to manufacture pharmaceuticals.

In 2012, the US Food and Drug Administration approved a drug called Elelyso from Pfizer and Protalix Biotherapeutics for Gaucher disease, a rare genetic condition, made with genetically modified carrot cells. Other researchers are also cultivating crops that have been specially bred to produce useful medicines and vaccines in their leaves.—Reuters

Honda, Google in talks to tie up on fully driverless cars



Photo taken in November 2016 shows a Honda Motor Co. self-driving vehicle on a test run in California. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Honda Motor Co. said Thursday that it is entering into formal discussions with Waymo, the autonomous driving unit of Google Inc.'s parent company, to integrate its self-driving technology with Honda cars. Honda is apparently hoping to acquire a competitive edge over its rivals by becoming the first Japanese carmaker to enter into a research tie-up with the world's leading company in automated driving technology.

According to Honda, its subsidiary Honda R&D Co. and Waymo, under Alphabet Inc., are in talks about having teams of engineers from both companies work close-

ly together to learn about the integration of fully self-driving technologies into vehicles. The deal is about research rather than full production of vehicles, it said. If they come to a formal agreement, Honda would provide Waymo with vehicles modified to accommodate Waymo's self-driving sensors, software and computer, and those cars would join Waymo's fleet currently being tested across four US cities, according to the third-largest carmaker in Japan.

The move comes amid growing competition within the auto industry on developing driverless technology and could lead to further partnership among different

businesses. It is the first time Honda has unveiled specific plans on fully autonomous driving, where no steering wheel or brake operations are needed. The two companies are planning to discuss the timeframe for road tests and other details to finalize the deal, the carmaker said.

Honda previously announced its intention to launch self-driving cars capable of operating on highways sometimes around 2020. "In addition to these on-going efforts, this technical collaboration with Waymo could allow Honda R&D to explore a different technological approach," the carmaker said in a statement.—*Kyodo News*

PATENT CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **BPB Limited**, having address at Saint-Gobain House, Binley Business Park, Coventry, CV3 2TT, United Kingdom is the owner of the patents entitled:

“CONSTRUCTION PANEL HAVING IMPROVED FIXING STRENGTH”

under registrations:

Reg. No: IV/8244/2016

in respect of: A plasterboard comprising a gypsum matrix having particles of agglomerated fibres embedded therein in an amount of at least 1 wt% relative to the gypsum, the gypsum matrix further comprising a polymeric additive, the polymeric additive being present in an amount of at least 1wt% relative to the gypsum.

Reg. No: IV/8245/2016

in respect of: A plasterboard comprising a gypsum matrix having a polymeric additive distributed therein in an amount of at least 1wt% relative to the gypsum, the gypsum matrix further having a first group of fibres and a second group of fibres embedded therein, wherein the fibres of the first group of fibres have an average length that is at least three times the average length of the fibres of the second group of fibres.

Reg. No: IV/8246/2016

in respect of: A gypsum product having a first polymeric additive and a second polymeric additive distributed therein, wherein the first polymeric additive is a synthetic polymer and the second polymeric additive is starch. It has been found that the combination of starch and a synthetic polymer may result in one or more of the following advantages in the manufacture and performance of gypsum products: (i) increased strength; (ii) greater ease of manufacturing due to the increased fluidity of stucco slurries containing both additives; and (iii) increased resistance to hygroscopic expansion.

Reg. No: IV/8247/2016

in respect of: A method of producing a gypsum product comprising the steps of preparing a stucco slurry; adding starch-containing flour to the slurry in an amount of at least 2% relative to the dry weight of the stucco; and allowing the stucco slurry to set.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said patents or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **BPB Limited**
BY ITS ATTORNEY
ACTIP PATENT LIMITED
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 23rd December, 2016

Fire engulfs 140 buildings in Niigata Prefecture

NIIGATA, (Japan) — A fire broke out Thursday morning in a city in Niigata Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast, engulfing around 140 buildings by late afternoon and prompting the municipal government to issue an evacuation advisory for residents.

About 580 people in around 270 households near the site in the city of Itoigawa were advised to evacuate as the fire, which

originated in a Chinese restaurant, showed no sign of waning amid strong winds.

The prefectural government set up a disaster response unit and requested the deployment of the Self-Defence Forces. The central government also set up a unit to collect information at the prime minister's office.

According to the city, around 60 residents evac-

uated to a civic hall and pupils from the area close to the fire were remaining at their elementary school. Two people were suffering from smoke inhalation, the prefectural government said.

Strong winds have been blowing since the morning and a gale warning has been issued for the city, according to a local meteorological observatory.—*Kyodo News*

Notice

It is here by given the notice under the instruction and duties assigned by assignors Daw Pyae Sone Aye (a) Pyae Pyae (12/DaGaTa(Naing)059373) and Ma Wai Wai Chaw (8/MaKaNa(Naing)185495).

Our assignors who operate and manage ALIBABA domestic recreation play ground at ward (2), Theingyi Market (C) Building, Shwedagon Pagoda road, (2)Block, Pabedan Township and at No. (138/140) Pansodan Street, (4) Block, Kyauktada Township, made as ALIBABA No. (2) and at No. (117/119) upper Pazundaung Street, Kyeetaw ward, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township is carried out a domestic recreation play ground under the name of “ROBOT”.

Machinery is imported under legal permit and permissions are requested to the respective departments and government authorities to make the business, permissions have got from the respective department and government authorities, domestic recreation play ground is carried out in accordance with the granted terms, and conditions.

Facebook, Public Group and Facebook page, based on the right of free expression to public freely access facebook media of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Mispresentaion of our client's businesses are attacked by facebook user under the name of Soe Tint (police), and it's account (URL-http://www.facebook.com/baybe.baybe.10) at (11:29 PM) on 5.11.2016. Business is being carried out by giving Ks 10000/- counter fiet monies notes, is being prevented by a higher rank officer and inappropriate words and expressions that lead to the conviction of threat, bully, defamation, interference, and unauthorized shall be the violation of section 66(d), communication law.

Therefore the said Soe Tint (police) (URL-http://www.facebook.com/baybe.baybe.10) account user and it's mispresentations and subcomments make the statements of mispresentations are explained to the public figure and my clients. Unless explanations is abided, shall be taken into action according to the laws under this notice.

By instruction

U Myint Soe (LL.B), Daw Aye Aye Mu (LL.B.,D.B.L, D.M.L)
Advocates

Bldg; 9/11, Ground Floor, 36th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.



Buildings are seen against blue sky after the wind dispelled dangerously high levels of air pollution in Beijing, China, on 22 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Blue skies return to Beijing, but dangerous smog still blankets northern China

BEIJING — Blue skies returned to Beijing on Thursday after winds dispelled dangerously high levels of air pollution that had blanketed the Chinese capital for five days prompting a pollution red alert, but large parts of northern China remain under choking smog.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Beijing spiked to more than 400 overnight, but by morning had dropped to about 50.

The Beijing city government said it had lifted the red alert in place since last Friday evening, meaning emergency restrictions on vehicle use and construction would end.

But high readings are still being recorded in other parts of northern China, including parts of the major metropolis of Tianjin which sits next to Beijing, and the province of Hebei that surrounds Beijing.

Shijiazhuang remained

on red alert as grey skies continued to cast a pall over Hebei's capital.

Earlier this week, the AQI in Shijiazhuang sustained above 500 for more than two days, with residents complaining that Hebei's biggest city had disappeared in a sea of smog.

Since the weekend, 24 cities had issued red alerts, and the widespread pollution had disrupted flights, traffic and shipping, and closed factories and schools across northern China. Flights had resumed in Beijing, Shijiazhuang and Tianjin.

A red alert is the highest level of a four-tier, colour-graded warning system. Red alerts are issued when the AQI is forecast to exceed 200 for more than four days in a row, 300 for more than two days or 500 for at least 24 hours.

China began a "war on pollution" in 2014 amid concerns its heavy industrial

past was tarnishing its global reputation and holding back its future development, but it has struggled to reduce pollution.

Pollution alerts are common in northern China, especially during winter when energy demand, much of it met by coal, soars.

The country's northern provinces mostly rely on the burning of hundreds of millions of tonnes of coal each year for heating.

Natural gas and electricity can be substitutes for coal in heating buildings in north China, the official *Xinhua News Agency* reported, citing President Xi Jinping as saying at a government meeting on Wednesday.

Clean energy should be used as much as possible, Xi said, adding that the government will give enterprises a major role in the process to ensure heating is affordable.—Reuters

Nintendo's 'Super Mario Run' smartphone game downloaded 40 million times

OSAKA — Nintendo Co. said on Wednesday its new smartphone game featuring the Super Mario Bros. franchise has been downloaded more than 40 million times since its release last Friday, marking the fastest pace among apps available on Apple Inc.'s App Store.

"Super Mario Run," a side-scrolling adventure game starring Nintendo's popular Italian mascot, took the top spot in the ranking of free apps in 140 countries and regions, including Japan.

"We will strive to have more people feel attracted to a Mario game that can be played with one hand," said Shigeru Miyamoto, a "cre-



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. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ative fellow" at Nintendo who led the development of the game. The app is so far available only for Apple's iOS devices. Users can play parts of the game for free but will have to pay 1,200 yen (about \$10) to unlock all the features, according to the Kyoto-based company.

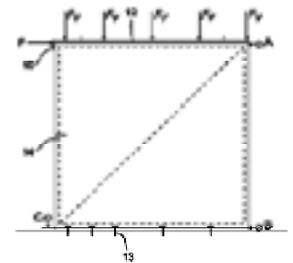
The release of the first smartphone game featuring the iconic video-game character came after the huge success this summer of the game maker's "Pokemon Go" mobile game, which was jointly developed with Nintendo's affiliate Pokemon Co. and Niantic Inc., a San Francisco-based game maker spun off from Google Inc.—Kyodo News

PATENT CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **SAINT-GOBAIN CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS UK LIMITED**, having address at Saint-Gobain House, Binley Business Park, Coventry, CV3 2TT, United Kingdom, is the owner of the patents entitled:

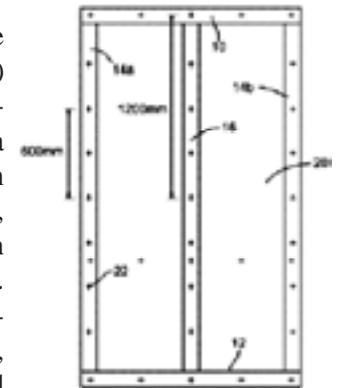
"IMPROVEMENTS IN THE DEFORMATION RESISTANCE OF TIMBER FRAME PARTITIONS" (Reg. No.: IV/8248/2016)

in respect of: A partition for a building structure comprising a support frame and a plasterboard affixed to the support frame. The support frame comprises a plurality of elongate timber members. The plasterboard comprises a gypsum matrix having fibres embedded therein in an amount of at least 1wt% relative to the gypsum, as well as a polymeric additive that is present in an amount of at least 1wt% relative to the gypsum.



"IMPROVED ACOUSTIC PERFORMANCE OF TIMBER FRAME PARTITIONS" (Reg. No.: IV/8249/2016)

in respect of: A partition for a building structure comprising a support frame and a plasterboard (20) affixed to the support frame by means of a plurality of screws (22). The plasterboard comprises a gypsum matrix having fibres embedded therein in an amount of at least 1wt% relative to the gypsum, as well as a polymeric additive that is present in an amount of at least 1wt% relative to the gypsum. The support frame comprises a plurality of elongate timber members (top rail 10, bottom rail 12, two lateral studs 14a,b, and central stud 16) and the average spacing between nearest-neighbour screws is greater than 400mm.

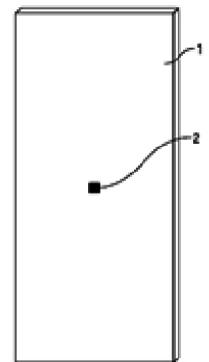


"PARTITION HAVING INCREASED FIXING STRENGTH" (Reg. No.: IV/8250/2016)

in respect of: A partition adapted to support a fixture and having a front surface to which the fixture may be affixed and a back surface that faces away from the fixture. The partition comprises a plasterboard and a reinforcing board, the reinforcing board being located between the plasterboard and the front surface, and the plasterboard comprising at least 1wt% fibre and at least 1wt% polymeric additive.

"BUILDING ELEMENT" (Reg. No.: IV/8251/2016)

in respect of: A building element (for example plasterboard (1)) comprising a wirelessly or magnetically readable identifier (2). Since the identifier is wirelessly or magnetically readable, it is possible to determine the type of the plasterboard (or other building element) after installation, without damaging the plasterboard or any decoration applied to it.



Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said patents or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **SAINT-GOBAIN CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTS UK LIMITED**
BY ITS ATTORNEY
ACTIP PATENT LIMITED
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416
Dated: 23rd December, 2016

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SMAP releases greatest hits album ahead of breakup

TOKYO — SMAP, one of Japan's most popular and longest-lived pop groups, released a greatest hits album Wednesday, 10 days before its planned breakup.

The album, called "SMAP 25 YEARS" consists of the top 50 songs chosen by fans through two weeks of online voting, out of the more than 400 the group released since its debut album in 1991. STAY, a 2006 hit, topped the list.

A total of 800,000 copies

will be sold in the initial release, according to Victor Entertainment Corp.

Earlier this month, a group of die-hard fans submitted to the group's agency Johnny & Associates Inc. 373,515 signatures collected in Japan and abroad to petition the members — Masahiro Nakai, Takuya Kimura, Tsuyoshi Kusanagi, Goro Inagaki and Shingo Katori — to change their mind about breaking up.

The talent agency said in August that SMAP will break up on

31 December. There have been media reports of conflict between band members.

Fans also launched a campaign to show their support through the purchase of CDs of "Sekai ni Hitotsu Dake no Hana," SMAP's best-known song, and as a result pushed the single released in 2003 again to No. 1 on a Japanese hit chart.

All the members will remain with the agency and focus on solo careers starting next year. —Kyodo News



"SMAP 25 YEARS," a greatest hits album by popular Japanese pop group SMAP, is sold at a Tsutaya CD store in Tokyo's Shibuya district on 21 December 2016, 10 days before the group's planned breakup.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Pop star Marx helps subdue 'dangerous' airline passenger

SEOUL — American soft rock singer Richard Marx helped subdue a "chaotic" and "dangerous" passenger who launched a lengthy, violent scuffle on board a Korean Air flight from Viet Nam to South Korea, the singer said on his Twitter account.

Marx, along with fellow passengers and cabin crew, tried to restrain the unruly traveller with rope on the Tuesday flight, he said.

"Passenger next to us attacked passengers and crew. Crew completely ill trained," Marx said.

The singer had been in Vietnam to sing at a Christmas concert at Hanoi's Opera House this week.

Photographs uploaded to



Musician Richard Marx poses backstage at the American Idol XIII 2014 Finale in Los Angeles, California in 2014.

PHOTO: REUTERS

an Instagram account belonging to Marx's wife, Daisy Fuentes, showed a man with thick-rimmed spectacles being held back by flight attendants on one side and Marx on the other.

Some video footage of the incident was also posted on YouTube.

"Stop it, you sons of a bitch!" the passenger said in Korean, spitting at airline staff as they used cable ties and a rope to restrain him.

"Do what you like!"

One photo on Fuentes's Instagram account showed a flight attendant aiming a stun gun at the passenger.

The man was handed over to police after the plane landed at Incheon airport in the South Korean capital, a spokesman for

Korean Air told Reuters.

"The incident happened about an hour and 40 minutes after takeoff," the spokesman said.

"It seems like the passenger had a drink with his meal".

Marx described the incident as a "chaotic and dangerous event", which cabin crew had been "completely ill-equipped to handle".

The spokesman said cabin crew followed regulations and did not fire the stun gun for fear of injuring nearby passengers in the melee. Fans of Marx expressed concern on Twitter for the 53-year-old's safety.

"No big 'hero' move at all," he responded.

"Just did what I would hope anyone would do in same situation".—Reuters

Vienna State Opera to be headed by record company executive



The designated director of Vienna State Opera Bogdan Roscic.

PHOTO: REUTERS

VIENNA — Vienna State Opera will be headed by a former pop radio boss and record company executive, Austria's Culture Ministry said on Wednesday, hoping to attract a younger audience to Austria's flagship music venue.

Bogdan Roscic, 52, will take up the post in 2020, moving from Sony's classical music unit which he has headed since 2009.

Before then he worked at Decca Music Group and an Austrian pop music station, but has never been director of an opera house before.

He will replace Frenchman Dominic Meyer whose tenure, which started in 2010, has been marked by clashes with star conductors Franz Welser-Moest and Bertrand de Billy.

With one of the largest repertoires of any opera house, the Vienna State Opera caters to an audience of whom about a third are tourists.

Many of them like to see three different operas in three days, a pressure some say has hurt innovation.—Reuters

Family drama 'Fences' gets its big screen moment

LOS ANGELES — Denzel Washington is excited.

Not so much because he is an Oscar front-runner for his role in "Fences," but because bringing the award-winning stage play about blue collar African-Americans to the big screen has been a long-held dream.

"It's brilliant. It's like, why would they make 'Hamlet' a movie? Why would they make 'Death of a Salesman' a movie? Because it is some of the greatest writing in the 20th century," the actor told Reuters.

Pulitzer-Prize-winning "Fences," which opens in US movie theaters on 25 December, is the first play by the late, influential black playwright August Wilson to be turned into a film.

Washington and Viola Davis reprise their 2010 Tony-winning roles as egotistical garbage worker Troy Maxson and his long-suffering wife Rose in the intense family drama about lost hope, betrayal and race prejudice in 1950s America.

"There's an excitement because we knew that this is permanent now. This is forever. So everybody's coming with their game," Washington said of adapting "Fences" to film, which he also directed and produced. Washington is also involved in filming all 10 of Wilson's stage plays for TV channel HBO.

With strong reviews, "Fences" has put Washington and Davis front and center of a Hollywood awards season looking to redeem itself after the #OscarsSoWhite furor of the past two years.

Washington, 61, is seen as a leading contender for his third Oscar, while Davis, 51, is regarded by awards pundits as a shoo-in in the supporting actress race.

"Every day was an acting Olympics," said Davis of the film shoot. "There was no scene where you just walked in and put down a pot."

Wilson, who died in 2005, set many of his plays in the pre-civil rights era, charting the experience of African-American working



Actor Denzel Washington (R) greets gymnast Gabby Douglas at the premiere of 'FENCES' in Manhattan, New York City, US, on 19 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

men and women and their struggle for dignity and love. "He honoured people that literally had been seen as invisible throughout history and he uplifts them as exactly who they are," Davis said.

Stephen McKinley Henderson, who plays Troy's best friend Jim Bono, said "Fences" is timeless. "Great writers write about

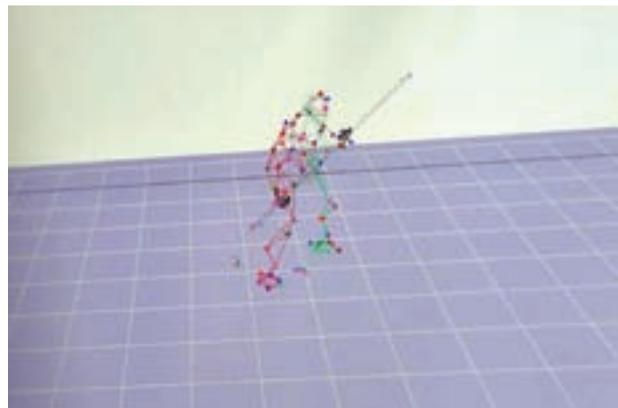
the capacity of being human. ... The politics is just the background of our lives. The really important things are the people who are closest to us, not the people who are in some seat of power a long way away. So (the play) is always going to speak to you, whatever period you are in," he said.—Reuters

Asleep in Jesus
Pee Pee Vera (a) Naw Khin Htway
Age 90 years

Residing at No. 951, Saya San Ba Road, Yodayahkone, Pathein; daughter of (U Ba Thaing+Daw Martha); daughter-in-law of (U Shwe Ba+Daw Martha Nyo Dun); sister of (Saw Patrick)+ Naw Grita and Naw Sara; beloved wife of (U Saw Bruce Ba Thar); beloved mother of Naw Martha Shwe Ba+Saw Aung Ko, Naw Katharina Shwe Ba, (Naw Jan Shwe Ba), Saw James Shwe Ba+Naw Astric Elenor, Saw Luke Shwe Ba+Naw Khu Wah, Naw Dorcas Shwe Ba, Saw John Shwe Ba+Naw Junie Khine, Naw Elly Shwe Ba+Manh Manate Tun, Saw Silas Shwe Ba+Naw Eh Hse Wah; beloved grandma of (15) fell asleep in Jesus peacefully at 2 pm on 21-12-2016. Funeral service will be held at the hall of Ko Thar Phyu Seminary in Pathein on 23-12-2016 and thence the remains will be sent to Bo Kanaung Christian cemetery for entombment.

Bereaved family

Hong Kong uses 3D archive to preserve kung fu heritage



A recorded 3D kung fu staff form is seen on a computer screen, as part of the Hong Kong Martial Arts Living Archive at City University in Hong Kong, China, on 6 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HONG KONG — Kung fu master Wong Yiu-Kau stands in a Hong Kong studio and waits as his black suit is covered head to toe in reflective markers to capture his every motion.

The lights dim and Wong launches a flurry of hand strikes, blocks and leg moves as two directors watch his movements displayed on computer screens.

The 56-year-old kung fu master is part of the world's first three-dimensional martial arts archive, a project that hopes to digitally preserve a tradition that experts fear is at risk of being lost forever.

"When I was a student, I was taught the moves and given a manual to just read. Now there is this where it's recorded and preserved with precision," said Wong, a master of the Southern Dragon style of kung fu. There are hundreds of differing fight styles classed as kung fu, which soared in popularity globally following a series of films featuring US-born and Hong Kong-raised actor Bruce Lee, who died in 1973.

But as kung fu's pop-

ularity waned in recent years, practitioners worried about passing the martial arts form to future generations.

The 3D project, known as the Hong Kong Martial Arts Living Archive, aims to capture and preserve more than 400 different kung fu styles. About 50 have been recorded so far.

"Hong Kong is a very important city in the Chinese martial arts world," said Hing Chao, executive director of the Hong Kong Guoshu Association, a martial arts group working on the project with Hong Kong's City University.

"It has protected the resources and so far managed to preserve the different types of martial arts, but today, there are fewer people passing this tradition on," Chao said.

Project organisers say the 3D archive will not only preserve a discipline central to Hong Kong's heritage, it also offers newcomers a more easily accessible visual learning experience. "We can have a richer content of kung fu styles," said Lau Chi Fung, the project's technical director.—Reuters

Live births in Japan in 2016 fall below 1m for 1st time

TOKYO — The annual number of babies born in Japan slipped below 1 million in 2016 for the first time since records began, with the estimated figure for the year coming in at 981,000, according to government figures released on Thursday.

The number dropped an estimated 25,000 from the previous year, according to the survey by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. The annual figure had previously remained above 1 million every year since records began in 1899.

The ministry said the main factor behind the figure is a decline in the population of women in their 20s and 30s, and the trend will continue unless the age composition of Japan's graying population changes.

The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has set a goal of raising the total fertility rate to 1.8 by around 2025 by assisting childrearing and improving employment prospects for younger generations, but the new outlook underscores the difficulty of curbing the



Children play with toys at Futaba Baby Home in Tokyo, Japan, on 21 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

trend of fewer births.

"We will continue to put efforts into support for childrearing," welfare minister Yasuhisa Shiozaki said Thursday, calling the trend "a tough situation."

The number of deaths eclipsed that of live births for the first time in 2005, leading to a natural population decline. After seeing a recovery the following year, Japan's population has marked net decreases each year since 2007.

That net decrease is

forecasted to grow to a record 315,000 in 2016, with the estimated number of deaths increasing by around 6,000 from the year prior to 129,600.

On average, one baby was born every 32 seconds in Japan in 2016, while one person died every 24 seconds, according to the figures.

The number of marriages registered in 2016 fell by 14,000 to 621,000, the lowest in the post-war era, while divorces de-

clined by 9,000 to 217,000.

Japan's total fertility rate, which shows the average number of children a woman will bear in her lifetime, has been recovering gradually since hitting an all-time low of 1.26 in 2005, although it declined in 2014. It rose to a 21-year high of 1.45 in 2015.

The annual number of live births peaked at nearly 2.7 million in 1949 amid a postwar baby boom, according to the ministry.—Kyodo News

Smartphone use increasing prevalence of poor eyesight in children: government

TOKYO — The number of students at elementary, junior and senior high schools in Japan with poor eyesight rose to a record high in fiscal 2016 as a result of children spending an increased amount of time in front of screens, the government said Thursday.

The health survey also showed a slight increase in the percentage of obese students in many grades, but a long-term decline in overweight children continued, while the percentage of stu-

dents with cavities in their teeth fell to a record low.

The education ministry believes changing lifestyle habits are against the backdrop of the overarching trends. The percentage of students with eyesight rated 1.0 on the Japanese measurement system, considered healthy, stood at 31.46 per cent in elementary schools, 54.63 per cent in junior high schools and 65.98 per cent in high schools, the annual survey showed. An official from the Ministry of

Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology said children have become "accustomed to watching things up close with the spread of smartphones, video games and other devices."

The survey showed male high school first-year students and female junior high school first-year students had the worst obesity rates with 10.95 per cent of the males and 8.57 per cent of the females 20 per cent heavier than average. While

changes in living conditions led to a rise in the number of obese students in Fukushima Prefecture after the 2011 disaster, the latest survey showed children there had maintained the pre-disaster levels seen in fiscal 2015.

A ministry official in charge of the survey said efforts by municipalities and non-profit organisations to promote exercise may have contributed to the positive results in disaster-hit areas.—Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(23-12-2016 07:00 AM ~ 24-12-2016 07:00 AM) MST

| | | |
|-------|----|--------------------------------------|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:27 | Am | Trend of Kachin Dress |
| 07:53 | Am | Myanmar Puppet |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Win Pe |
| 08:39 | Am | Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony |
| 08:54 | Am | Tea |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas |
| 10:03 | Am | News |

| | | |
|-------|----|------------------------------|
| 10:26 | Am | The Green Corner: Xmas Tree |
| 10:37 | Am | Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma |
| 10:52 | Am | Sagaing: Guitars |

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

Prime Time

| | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:26 | Pm | A Trip to The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine |
| 07:46 | Pm | Gardener: King Orange Plantation |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:25 | Pm | Discovering Tribes "Rvwang" (Part-2) |
| 08:54 | Pm | The Storytellers |

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

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

Bayern sweep aside 10-man Leipzig in top-of-the-table clash

BERLIN — Bayern Munich put upstarts RB Leipzig firmly in their place by sweeping to an emphatic 3-0 home win, with all the goals coming in the first half, in a disappointingly one-sided top-of-the-table Bundesliga clash on Wednesday.

Bayern, German champions a record 26 times, and Leipzig, playing in the top flight for the first time, went into the match level on points at the top and amid huge expectations.

Yet an anti-climactic game was effectively over as a contest in just half an hour as Thiago Alcantara and Xabi Alonso put Bayern ahead and the visitors had Emil Forsberg shown a straight red card.

A Robert Lewandowski penalty on the stroke of halftime made it 3-0 before, mercifully for Leipzig, Bayern took their foot off the pedal.

Bayern's win meant they reached the winter break with 39 points from 16 games, three ahead of their opponents who lost for only the second time this season. Hertha Berlin's 2-0 win over Darmstadt took them third with 30 points.

"I'm very satisfied. We were very aggressive and quickly got the game under control," said Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti.

His Leipzig counterpart Ralph Hasenhuetl recognised



RB Leipzig goal keeper Peter Gulacsi receives a goal by Thiago of Bayern Munich during German Bundesliga at Allianz-Arena, Munich, Germany, on 21 December 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bayern's superiority. "That was a lesson for us and a top performance from Bayern. Our system only works when everyone is in synchrony and that wasn't the case today.

"I'm still proud of what the team has achieved until now. You don't get a point deducted for losing 3-0."

Leipzig did not initially appear overawed and made a lively

start, but Bayern got the crucial first goal after 17 minutes.

Philipp Lahm sent in a low cross from the right, Lewandowski fired against the post and Thiago managed to force the ball over the line with his thigh.

Eight minutes later, Naby Keita was dispossessed by Arturo Vidal in midfield and the ball was quickly worked to Alonso who scored with an angled shot.

It got worse for Leipzig when Forsberg halted a Lahm breakaway with a studs-up challenge from behind. The referee initially got a yellow card out, but changed his decision to red amid Bayern protests and after consulting with his linesman.

Another Leipzig error led to the third goal when Douglas Costa was clumsily sent flying by goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi and

Lewandowski converted the penalty.

Bayern eased up after half-time although they still continued to dominate and carve out chances almost at will.

Lewandowski saw a dinked effort land on the roof of the net, Douglas Costa had a piledriver of a free kick saved by Gulacsi and Franck Ribery hit the underside of the crossbar.

Marvin Plattenhardt put Hertha ahead with a superb free kick early in the second half against basement club Darmstadt and then supplied the cross for Salomon Kalou to head the second.

Hoffenheim remained the only unbeaten side in the Bundesliga although they will be kicking themselves after conceding a late equaliser at home to Werder Bremen in a 1-1 draw which left them fifth with 28 points.

Sandro Wagner turned in Kerem Demirbay's low cross in the 26th minute to put Hoffenheim ahead but Serge Gnabry rescued a point with three minutes left for Bremen, who are one place and three points above the relegation playoff spot in 15th.

Two goals from Florian Niederlechner gave promoted Freiburg a 2-1 win at Ingolstadt, which kept them eighth, and Cologne drew 1-1 at home to Bayer Leverkusen in the Rhine derby.—Reuters

Two-goal Icardi gives Inter third successive win

MILAN — A long-range strike from Ever Banega and two goals from fellow Argentine Mauro Icardi, all in the space of 11 minutes, gave Inter Milan a 3-0 win over Lazio and their third successive Serie A win on Wednesday.

It was also a third clean sheet in a row for Inter who appear to be on the mend after a dreadful start to the season.

Inter climbed to seventh with 30 points from 16 games and are now only five adrift of sec-

ond-placed AS Roma and three behind neighbours AC Milan.

They have won four times and drawn once in six league games under coach Stefano Pioli, appointed to replace Frank de Boer after the Dutchman was sacked after only 85 days in charge.

Fourth-placed Lazio had the best of the first-half as Ciro Immobile was twice denied by Samir Handanovic and Sergej Milinkovic-Savic headed over

from close range.

Inter, however, took control nine minutes after halftime when Banega dispossessed an opponent and unleashed a 20-metre shot which swerved past Federico Marchetti. Icardi met Danilo D'Ambrosio's cross with a glancing header for the second two minutes later and took his league tally to 14 for the season when he scored with a low drive from Banega's pull-back in the 65th minute.—Reuters

PSG rebound with 5-0 win against Lorient

PARIS — Paris St Germain demolished visiting Lorient 5-0 in their last match of the year on Wednesday to rebound in style from a three-game winless streak in Ligue 1.

Thomas Meunier and Thiago Silva scored either side of a Zargo Toure own goal, while Edinson Cavani and Lucas rounded off the scoring as third-placed PSG moved on to 39 points from 19 games, five behind leaders Nice, who were held to a goalless draw at Girondins de Bordeaux.

Nice finished with nine men after Mario Balotelli and Younes Belhanda were sent off in stop-

page time.

Monaco are second on 42 points after goals by Radamel Falcao and Tiemoue Bakayoko earned them a 2-1 home victory against Caen.

At the Parc des Princes, PSG were rewarded for their early dominance when Meunier put them ahead in the 25th minute with a fine lob from just inside the box.

The home side doubled the lead a minute before the interval when Cavani's effort was deflected into his own net by Toure.

Silva put the result beyond doubt in the 51st, heading home

from Lucas's corner, while Cavani rubbed salt into Lorient's wounds by converting a penalty shortly after the hour for his 18th league goal of the season. Lucas added a fifth with a lob 20 minutes from fulltime.

Monaco put last weekend's home defeat to Olympique Lyonnais behind them with victory over Caen.

They took the lead three minutes into the second half when Falcao converted a penalty after being brought down in the box and Bakayoko doubled the tally 14 minutes from fulltime with a 25-metre effort.—Reuters

Mourinho 'too young' to be tempted by Chinese riches

LONDON — Wealthy Chinese clubs are unlikely to lure Jose Mourinho away from England as the Manchester United manager says he is enjoying the challenge of competing in the Premier League.

Chinese clubs have been shelling out huge sums of money on foreign players and managers, with Chelsea's Oscar reportedly set to become the latest Brazilian to head to the Chinese Super League on a 52 million pounds (\$64.28 million) transfer.

"China money is attractive for everyone, but I love my football at the highest level more," Mourinho told Sky Sports. "Too young, 53, too young, too many years of football to go to a place like China.

"I want to stay in the most difficult place to win, so I'm in the right place."

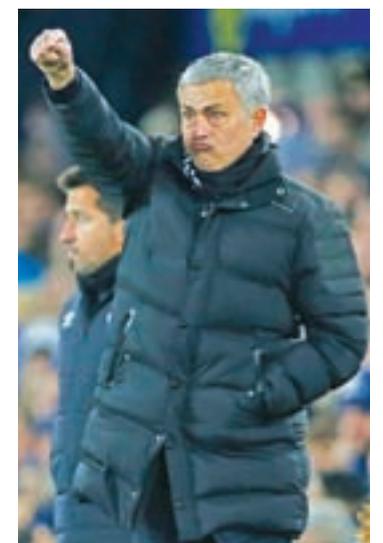
Mourinho said he wanted to stay on at United beyond his three-year contract, though he added that the board had not offered him an extended deal yet.

"They are being super supportive with me, and always gave me the feeling that three years is not the time I am going to stay

here, I always had the feeling that I am going to stay for more time," he said.

"I'm loving my job at Manchester United, and they know that if one day they bring the contract, I will sign it. I don't even need my advisers, I'll sign because I am loving it."

United, who are sixth in the league, 13 points behind leaders Chelsea, host Sunderland on Monday.—Reuters



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS