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Terrace cultivation and garden would benefit Thikih Village in Htantalan Township in Chin State after reclamation of land is readied for crops. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects development, road works in Chin State

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspected the progress of infrastructure projects, including those for regional development and road transport, in Chin State yesterday.

First, the Vice President

inspected the construction of a building for Midwifery Training School in Haka, Chin State.

Accompanying the Vice President were Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai and Director-General Dr. Thar Htun

Kyaw, who briefed him about the progress of the project to him. Next, the Vice President visited the site for a cyclone shelter. Deputy ministers U Kyaw Lin and U Soe Aung explained the construction process to U Henry

Van Thio. The cyclone shelter also functions as a multipurpose hall and measures 170 feet by 150 feet. The Vice President inspected the expansion sites for Haka College and Haka Technological University and spoke about how

to apply for the annual national budget. The Vice President and his entourage then travelled to Htantalan Township and were welcomed with traditional dances performances by local residents.

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'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'

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Gov't aid for trapped civilians in Kachin State



The official from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement presents aid to a mother. **PHOTO: MNA**



Kachin State authorities see off civilians waiting at the railway station to return home. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Kachin State authorities help civilians at the railway station as they return home. **PHOTO: MNA**

PEOPLE who were rescued early this week from conflict zones in Kachin State were sent back home, with assistance from the ministry of social welfare, relief and resettlement.

Some 3,300 people who were trapped after fleeing armed conflicts in Kachin State were rescued and brought to safety early this week by governmental departments, the Tatmadaw and non-governmental organisations.

Nine people from Wake-

ma, Khin Oo and Toungoo townships returned on 31 January and seven from Depeyin, Natmauk and MraukU went back home on 2 February, while 31 people from Paletwa, Ayartaw, Mogok, Depayin, Hopin, TadaU, Myaypon, Phruso and Wontho townships returned on 3 February. Some 43 people from Myitkyina, Mandalay, Shwebo, Mogok and Paletwa returned home on 4 February by train.

Officials from the disaster management department and Kachin State Administration Department provided cash assistance, food and utensils to the people who returned home by the Myitkyina-Mandalay Express train.

The ministry of social welfare, relief and resettlement will provide further assistance to the people, in cooperation with the respective ministries and regions and states governments. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Anti-Corruption Commission prosecutes Tamu District Deputy Commissioner

THE anti-corruption commission has filed a case against former Tamu District Commissioner U Thein Zaw Oo for his involvement in malpractices, such as misusing taxes and selling plots illegally in the Sagaing Region.

The Anti-Corruption Commission received a complaint against U Thein Zaw Oo, currently Kayin State's Papun District Deputy Administrator.

In response to the complaint, the Anti-Corruption Commission investigated the

case and found that U Thein Zaw Oo had misused Ks33.349 million, received in taxes for mineral extraction, and sold 20 plots in the Sandaku Ward to 10 people, including U Kyaw San Win (a) Aung Bu.

The former Tamu District Deputy Commissioner is being prosecuted under section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law, 2013, at the Tamu police station and will be brought to the Sagaing Region High Court, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Relocated building for National Library (Yangon) to receive major renovation

GOVERNMENT approved to relocate the National Library (Yangon) to the building situated at No.604/608, Merchant Street, Pabedan Township.

A coordination meeting, relating major renovation of the building was held yesterday at the hall of this building.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko delivered the opening speech. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Myanmar Library Association and Yangon Heritage Trust submitted a report to relocate the National Library (Yangon) to the President Office and got approval by the President Office to relocate the library. Then, the Union Minister and party instructed to renovate the building. Therefore, the relocated library will serve new system and modern technologies.

The big renovation process of the relocated library has start-

ed in August 2017 by the Ministry of Construction, aiming to be opened by the end of 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. Union Minister expressed his heartfelt thanks to the respective officials serving the renovations. Then, Director-General of Department of Historical Research and National Library U Aung Myint inspected the working process of the

Library and Director-General of the Ministry of Construction, U Thein Zaw explained the conditions of the construction.

After that, attendees stated and discussed the respective sectors of the working process.

The meeting was concluded by the Union Minister and then he inspected the working process. —Myanmar News Agency ■



The historic building belonging to Burma Oil Corporation (BOC) during the colonial era is chosen for the new location for the National Library. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

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Vice president U Henry Van Thio inspects development, road works in Chin State

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The Vice President then inspected the Haka-Sarsi-Chauk highway, which is under construction, and along with his entourage talked to local residents of Htantalan Village.

They then inspected the Bwenu Bridge, which is being constructed near the India-Myanmar border. U Henry Van Thio also inspected the reclamation of more than 10 acres for highland

cultivation, some 73 acres for a garden in Thikih Village and another 60 acres in Zarbwekwin Village in Htantalan Township.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has a plan to reclaim more than 550 acres in the township and so far, more than 370 acres have been reclaimed. They were then entertained with traditional dance performances by local residents. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the site chosen for construction of Bwenu Bridge at the border of India and Myanmar. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Myanmar Entrepreneurs Carnival-MEC 2018 held in Mandalay



Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung delivers the address at the Myanmar Entrepreneurs Carnival MEC-2018. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar Entrepreneurs Carnival MEC-2018 was held at MIIT in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay yesterday morning. The carnival was held in order to encourage young entrepreneurs who will start their own business and to help create business networks for them.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung attended the opening ceremony. The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Soe Than and the Minister of Electricity, Energy and Construction U Zarni Aung and the Honorary Patron of MRCCI U Aung Win Khaing opened the ceremony. The regional chief minister, chairperson of MYREA U Moe Kyaw

Kyaw, chairperson of MYEA (Yangon) U Tun Tun Naing and chairperson of MRCCI U Kyaw Min shaped the title of Myanmar Entrepreneurs Carnival.

"I am very pleased with the future of my country that the carnival is intended to encourage the young entrepreneurs and to create job opportunities for them" said Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region. The carnival was included pitching program, panel discussions, Small and Medium Enterprise zone and education program. Myanmar Entrepreneurs Carnival-2018 is held with the aim of creating access to markets, access to finance and access to networks for young start-up entrepreneurs. —Myanmar Digital News ■

New ward added in 16-bed cottage hospital

A new ward was extended in the 16-bed cottage hospital in the Kin village, Kani Township in Sagaing Region, and the ceremony marking the transfer of the building was held today.

The cottage hospital, which was opened in January 2015, should provide health care service for local people from 32 villages in Kani and Min Kin Townships more than ever.

Donors contributed with funds in the ceremony, and regional chief minister Dr Myint Naing and officials awarded to them certificates of recognition for their contributions. —Than Htay Aung (Kani) ■

Rakhine State ministers inspect readiness for repatriation

RAKHINE State ministers and departmental officials inspected the readiness of Nga Khu Ya and Taung Pyo Let Wae reception centres, and offered words of encouragement to the staff there.

Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation U Aung Kyaw Zan; Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Mining U Kyaw Lwin; and a delegation first met the staff working at

Nga Khu Ya camp, who were looking after the arrangements for providing food, water and electricity to the repatriates.

They also inspected the construction of a 15-tonne rice mill and a 12-tonne rice drying machine being built by Phoe Kan Khaung Construction Co., Ltd in Kyein Chaung Village in Maungdaw District.

Next, the party went to the Taung Pyo Let Wae camp

and inspected the temporary building where commanding officers of Myanmar and Bangladesh will hold a flag meeting and discuss the readiness of the repatriation process. They also inspected the two countries' friendship bridge.

Lastly, the party met the staff working there and enquired about the availability of food, water and electricity. —Aung Ye Thwin/ Ko Min ■



Rakhine State ministers U Aung Kyaw Zan and U Kyaw Lwin meet with officials at Nga Khu Ya camp during their tour of inspection. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN**

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Japan-based cruise ship sails to Myanmar

UNDER the supervision of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and AKM Tour Co Ltd, Japan-based cruise liner Pacific Venus Cruise arrived at Yangon's Thilawa Port Terminal on Saturday.

The ship carried 332 passengers and 193 crew members. While they are docked in Myanmar, the foreign visitors will visit significant destinations around Yangon and Bagan-Nyaung-U in Mandalay between 3 and 5 February. The cruise liner will leave Yangon for Penang, Malaysia, on 5 February.

Security services have been provided to the international visitors by the tourist police.

Tourists continue to visit the country via sea, air and cross-borders. Foreigners also enjoy travelling to Myanmar's rivers, such as Ayeyawady and Chindwin, on



Official from Pacific Venus Cruise and Myanmar tourist Police are seen at the port. **PHOTO: PHYO KO LYNN (NYAUNGWAING)**

national cruise ships.

The ministry's official statistics show that international tourist arrivals into the country via air, sea and cross-border gates exceeded 1.22 million

between April and November 2017, of which some 1.17 entered Myanmar by air, recording an 8 per cent increase, compared with the last fiscal year (FY).

According to the ministry,

international tourist arrivals through all points of entry have increased by 20 per cent this FY, as against the same period last year.—Phyo Ko Lynn (Nyaungwaing)

Fishermen find unidentified bird in Hainggyikyun Township

VILLAGERS from Kyardan Ward-2 in the Kangyaing village tract found an unidentified large bird in Hainggyikyun Township, Ayeyawady Region, on Saturday afternoon.

The bird was first spotted by two fishermen who were out fishing at sea. They found the large bird flying between Leik Island, also known as Thameehla Island, and Mawtinson promontory. It reportedly fell down, as it was not

able to fly because of its wet wings.

The unidentified bird was rescued by the fishermen and is being kept within the compound of U Win Naung, a residence in Kyardan Ward-2.

Ko Zaw Zaw, one of the two fishermen, said: "We will release the rescued bird back into the wild after it recovers fully from physical fatigue."—Kyaw Thu Hein (Hainggyikyun)



The unidentified bird rescued by fishermen is seen. **PHOTO: KYAW THU HEIN (HAINGGYIKYUIN)**



People are seen at the site destroyed by kitchen fire. **PHOTO: NAING LIN KYAW (DALA)**

Kitchen fire destroys neighbouring homes

A kitchen fire broke out early Sunday morning on Yazathingyan Street, Kyansittha Ward, Dala Township, Yangon, severely damaging six houses, according to the township police.

The blaze caused losses worth at least Ks2.9 million, but no persons or animals were hurt in the incident. The fire occurred at around 12.30am in a home owned by Daw Khin Htay Nwe. The occupant was not home during the incident.

However, the fire engulfed

neighbouring homes, displacing their occupants, who are staying in temporary shelters.

The township Fire Services Department pressed into service five fire engines and more than 100 firefighters, who controlled the level-1 fire within 30 minutes.

The source of the fire is still being investigated. Charges have been filed against the home owner for violating Section 285 of the Penal Code, which defines fire-related negligence and recklessness.—Naing Lin Kyaw (Dala)



Farmers with woven wicker baskets on their back, harvesting rice in their field. **PHOTO: NAY LIN**

Agricultural exports up by \$178 million

THE export of agricultural products in the current fiscal year (FY) increased by US\$178 million, compared with the same period last FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The export of agricultural products last FY reached \$2.281 billion, but the export of the same products this FY, from last April through this January, increased to \$2.459 billion, the vast majority being exported by the private sector.

Of the seven export categories, the trade value of only the forestry sector decreased. The overall exports were estimated at \$11.425 billion, an increase of \$1.931 billion against last year.

According to official figures, the country exported animal products worth \$31.609 million, marine products worth more than \$553 million and mineral products worth more than \$1.206 billion.

The export value of manu-

factured goods was estimated at \$5.14 billion, of forest products at \$181 million and of miscellaneous at \$1.852 billion.

As part of its plan to promote the country's economy, the government is putting forth sustained efforts to raise the exports in each sector.

Myanmar conducts trade with ASEAN member states, East Asian countries, some European nations and African states, mainly through sea routes.—Swe Nyein ■

Myanmar registers trade deficit of over \$3.7 billion in current FY

DESPITE an increase in the value of external exports this fiscal year, the country's trade deficit reached US\$3.7 billion in the current fiscal year (FY), according to the latest figures of the commerce ministry.

Between last April and this January, the country imported some \$15.126 billion worth of capital goods, consumer products and intermediate goods, whereas its overall exports to overseas traders reached \$11.425 billion.

The current trade value includes more than \$19.971

billion from non-border trade and more than \$6.579 billion from border trade.

The value of external trade between Myanmar and its international trade partners, as of 26 January, exceeded \$26.5 billion, while the country has racked up a trade deficit of more than \$3.7 billion, which is \$111.267 million more than the value of its trade deficit in the same period last year.

This time last year, the country earned some \$9.494 billion from the export sector and \$13.083 billion from the

import sector, which resulted in a trade deficit of more than \$3.589 billion.

The country suffered a trade deficit of more than \$5.5 billion in the last FY.

According to the ministry's statistics, the country had a trade deficit of more than \$91 million in the 2012-2013 FY.

The trade deficit increased to \$2.5 billion in the 2013-2014 FY. It continued to rise to \$4.1 billion in the 2014-2015 FY and \$5.4 billion in the 2015-2016 FY.—Shwe Khine ■

Market competition triggers fall in prices of edible bird's nests

THE prices of edible bird's nests continued to fall in the domestic market, likely attributable to an increase in competition among producers, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

Despite a decrease in prices, the demand for edible bird's nests has increased in the market in recent months. Sellers in the Taninthayi Region said the decline in prices was linked to high production.

Edible bird's nests are produced mainly in Myeik, a town in the Taninthayi Region.

Daw Cho, owner of a souvenir shop in Kanphya Ward in Myeik Town, said: "The prices of edible bird's nests are decreasing significantly in the

market because of mass production. The market is active due to an increase in the number of visitors to the town."

Edible bird's nests are animal products harvested for human consumption and are included in the list of expensive marketable products due to their health benefits.

Depending on their grading, a viss (3.6 pounds) of finished edible bird's nests is sold for Ks3.8 million, while a viss of raw materials was worth Ks3.3 million in the local market in the last few months.

Currently, the finished edible bird's nest is sold for Ks3.5 million per viss, whereas a viss of raw materials is worth Ks2.7 million.—GNLM ■



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| ● City Mart (Aung San Stadium) | ● City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin) |
| ● City Mart (47th street) | ● City Mart (Waizayandar) |
| ● City Mart (Yankin) | ● City Mart (Hledan) |
| ● City Mart (China Town) | ● City Mart (Myanmar Plaza) |
| ● City Mart (Myay Ni Gone) | ● City Mart (Junction 8) |
| ● City Mart (FMI) | ● City Mart (St. John) |
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Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets the press at his office in Tokyo on 2 February, 2018 after holding phone talks with US President Donald Trump.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Abe to ask US, S Korea not to scale down joint military drill

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will ask the United States and South Korea to conduct a planned joint military drill after the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics without scaling it down so as to keep pressuring North Korea to give up its nuclear and missile development, a Japanese government source said on Saturday.

The matter will be discussed when US Vice President Mike

Pence meets with Abe in Tokyo before heading to the opening ceremony of the Olympics, and they are expected to agree on the need to conduct the drill as normal, the source said.

Abe and Pence will convey their shared view to South Korean President Moon Jae In when they hold talks in Pyeongchang, according to the source.

The United States and South Korea have agreed to delay an-

nual joint military exercises until after the 9 to 25 February games and the 9 to 18 March Winter Paralympics in South Korea.

North Korea, which plans to send athletes, cheerleaders and officials to the Olympics, has opposed the drills, describing them as preparations for invasion.

Signs of easing tensions have emerged on the peninsula since North Korean leader Kim Jong Un struck a conciliatory

note on relations with South Korea in his New Year's address amid tensions over Pyongyang's continued development of nuclear and ballistic weapons.

Abe has been calling on the international community to maximize pressure on Pyongyang and reject dialogues unless the reclusive state ends provocations and shows actions toward denuclearization. —Kyodo News ■

Floodwater released by Chinese dam in Cambodia submerges village

PHNOM PENH — Floodwater released by a recently opened Chinese hydroelectric dam in Cambodia has completely submerged a village, the campaign group International Rivers said on Friday.

Hundreds of families from five villages in the northern province of Stung Treng had moved several months ago to designated project resettlement sites, before the floodwater from the dam submerged the area, the group said.

In Srekor village, site of the submerged area, 10 families relocated to a resettlement village, while 63 stayed behind, moving to forested higher ground from where they saw the waters rise steadily since

December to reach the roofs of their homes.

"The thriving community of Srekor has become a silent waterworld," International Rivers said, adding that the village's farms, temple, ancestral graves and fishing grounds had been destroyed.

The 400-megawatt Lower Sesan 2 Dam, a joint venture between China's Hydrolancang International Energy Company and Cambodia's Royal Group, finally began operation in November.

About 75 metres high and 8 km (5 miles) long, the dam has taken years to build. Part of China's hydropower ambitions in the Mekong region it is aimed at generating electricity

for Cambodia.

Representatives of the joint consortium could not be reached on Friday for comment.

Environmental rights groups have repeatedly warned the project would have a costly impact on the Mekong River's fisheries and biodiversity.

Prime Minister Hun Sen has labeled those who have raised concerns about the project "radical", saying that Cambodia needs to keep up with rising energy demand.

International Rivers said floodwater levels had risen up to 7 metres since the dam began operation.

Villagers in Srekor described the destruction wrought by the released floodwater.

"Vegetation such as coconuts, mango, jackfruit and pineapple trees are all gone," villager Sarun Sokhom, 61, told Reuters, adding that approximately 54 homes were submerged.

Another villager, Sut Thoeun, 41, said the water began to rise quickly during the rainy season in December.

Both villagers said that authorities had not provided help to people who had chosen to stay behind.

Stung Treng provincial authority spokesman Men Kong said the floods were expected and that villagers could still approach authorities about resettlement and compensation. —Reuters ■

Property sales in Viet Nam's two major cities up in January

HO CHI MINH CITY — More sales were recorded in Viet Nam's domestic property market in January as compared to figures in December 2017, Viet Nam News Agency reported on Sunday.

According to the Vietnamese Construction Ministry's Housing and Property Market Management Department, the capital city of Hanoi reported 1,650 transactions, an increase of 13.8 per cent than December, and the southern metropolis Ho Chi Minh City recorded 1,900 deals, a rise of 8.6 per cent over December's figure.

According to the department, customers preferred to purchase apartments with one or two bedrooms with a price of about 1 billion Viet Nam dong (44,012 US dollars), but the supply was low.

The department said that by 20 January, the value of the property inventory stood at 25 trillion Viet Nam dong (1.1 billion US dollars), a drop of 19 per cent from the previous month.

The department also issued a report on the development of resort property, the hot spot on the property market. —Xinhua ■

Sri Lanka police arrest two over alleged bond scam

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan police said on Sunday they had arrested two officials from primary dealer Perpetual Treasuries Ltd, which was named in a report as being involved in an alleged government bond scam in 2015.

Police arrested Arjun Aloysius, owner of Perpetual Treasuries which more than half the bonds in a 2015 auction were sold to, and Perpetual

CEO Kasun Palisena. Aloysius is the son-in-law of Arjuna Mahendran, who was central bank governor at the time of the auction in question.

The arrests came a month after President Maithripala Sirisena said a panel had recommended legal action against the finance minister and central bank governor of the time, and the owner and officials of Perpetual Treasuries.

Sirisena said the presidential commission of inquiry had concluded that Perpetual Treasuries had profited through illegal means.

Mahendran, Aloysius, and Perpetual Treasuries have denied any wrongdoing.

Police Spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said they had arrested Aloysius and Palisena on Sunday "as part of ongoing investigations on the bond issue".

"The CID has reported the facts to the magistrate court and made the arrest. The two will be produced before the magistrate." Opposition lawmakers have alleged the bond auction cost the state more than \$1 billion because of rising borrowing costs but Palisena, in a letter to parliamentarians last week, said state institutions had not lost out in the bond sale. —Reuters ■

China accuses US of 'Cold War mentality' with new nuclear policy

BEIJING — China urged the United States to drop its “Cold War mentality” and not misread its military build-up, after Washington published a document on Friday outlining plans to expand its nuclear capabilities to deter others.

“Peace and development are irreversible global trends. The United States, the country that owns the world’s largest nuclear arsenal, should take the initiative to follow the trend instead of going against it,” said China’s Ministry of Defence in a statement on Sunday.

The review of US nuclear policy has already riled Russia, which viewed the document as confrontational, and raised fears that it could increase the risk of miscalculation between the two countries. The US military has put countering China and Russia, dubbed “revisionist powers”, at the centre of a new national defence strategy unveiled earlier this month. By expanding its own low-yield nuclear capability, the US would deter Russia from using nuclear weapons, say American officials.



US and China's flags flutter in front of a portrait of late Chinese Chairman Mao Zedong at the Tiananmen gate ahead of the visit by US President Donald Trump to Beijing, China on 8 November, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

China accused the United States of “presumptuous speculation” about China’s intentions, and said it has always adopted a restrained attitude towards the development of nuclear weapons and kept its nuclear forces to a minimum.

“We hope that the United States will abandon its Cold War mentality, earnestly assume its special disarmament responsibilities, correctly understand China’s strategic intentions and objectively view China’s national defence and military build-up...,” the ministry said in the statement posted on its website.

It called on the US to work together with China and for their armies to become a stabilizing factor in Sino-US relations and in the region. —Reuters ■

Sri Lanka eyeing longer talks with China on free trade agreement

BEIJING — Sri Lanka wants a longer-time period to negotiate a free trade agreement with China as it is concerned about the economic impact of a rushed deal on their small country, the Sri Lankan ambassador said on Sunday.

There has been rising concern in the South Asian nation about Chinese investment, a key part of Beijing’s Belt and Road initiative to create a modern-day Silk Road across Asia.

Hundreds of Sri Lankans clashed with police at the opening last year of a Chinese-invested industrial zone in the south, saying they would not be moved from their land. It was the first time opposition to Chinese investments in Sri Lanka had turned violent.

Speaking on the sidelines of an independence day reception at the Sri Lankan embassy in Beijing, ambassador Karunasena Kodituwakku said a free trade agreement with China could not be rushed. “We’d like to have the process a little longer. China would like to have it faster,” Kodituwakku told Reuters.

“Because Sri Lanka being a small economy, we have to get a consensus from stakeholders,” he added. “Therefore the

delay is due to the time period. But eventually we will sign the agreement.”

Sri Lanka last month signed a free trade agreement with Singapore, but Singapore’s economy is not as complex as China’s, Kodituwakku said. “Chinese imports are very important to Sri Lanka, but opening up the whole thing in a short time may make some problems for local companies. Therefore we have to balance it.”

Sri Lanka has also been trying to get investment for a little utilised airport on its southern tip, in Mattala, built at a cost of \$253 million by China, which also provided \$230 million of funding.

“No doubt it was a white elephant. It is still a white elephant,” Kodituwakku said. India had been in advanced talks with Sri Lanka to operate the airport, but the ambassador said no deal had been reached. “We have to turn it into a viable economic venture. In fact we gave the option to Chinese companies. I know Chinese companies have shown an interest, but according to our studies they were not having a viable economic plan and that’s why they had to give the option to India,” he said. —Reuters ■

German spy chief alleges North Korea uses Berlin embassy for procurement

BERLIN — North Korea has been using its embassy in Berlin to procure parts for its missile programme, the head of Germany’s BfV domestic intelligence agency told a German broadcaster.

No one at the North Korean embassy in Berlin was immediately available to comment on the allegation. In a programme to be aired on NDR television on Monday, BfV head Hans-Georg Maassen said: “We determined that procurement activities have

been carried out from there that are, in our view, done with a view to the missile programme and sometimes also for the nuclear programme.”

He said it was often so-called dual use goods, which can be used for both civil and military purposes.

Comments released by NDR ahead of the broadcast showed Maassen said German authorities prevented such activities when they found them but he added: “We can’t guarantee

that we can detect and prevent this in all cases.”

He said it was necessary to presume that parts for North Korea’s launch programme “were acquired via other markets or underground buyers had acquired them in Germany”.

North Korea has defied years of multilateral and bilateral sanctions with a weapons programme aimed at developing nuclear-tipped missiles capable of hitting the United States. —Reuters ■



PHOTO: REUTERS

Credibility is lost when media is unprofessional

THE credibility of the media is lost when they fail to seek the truth and ensure accuracy in their reporting. Journalism is the only brand of information designed to help citizens in a democracy. However, the world has been pointing fingers at Myanmar following inaccurate reports in the Associated Press (AP) about mass graves in Rakhine State on 1 February.

Journalist Hannah Beech also wrote an article about untrue stories that appeared about the displaced people of Myanmar from the border areas of Bangladesh.

Hannah Beech said she had seen the displaced people quoted in foreign news media telling stories that she knew were not true.

In any country, security forces have the right to defend themselves and protect the sovereignty of the country; and they certainly have the duty to enforce the rule of law in their country. Is the accusation made by AP professional?

"To compete for relief supplies distributed by aid groups, refugees learn to deploy women with infants in their arms. Crying babies get pushed to the front of the line. Such strategies are a natural survival tactic. Who wouldn't do the same to feed a family?" she asked in her article.

AP reported that at least five previously unreported mass graves were uncovered in Myanmar, with body parts burnt with acid, making them unrecognisable.

A day after the AP report on mass graves in Rakhine State, authorities and representatives of the local people investigated the area and interrogated residents on 2 February.

Following the inspection, the team comprising authorities, police, doctors and local villagers, refuted the AP report, and the villagers also said they had not heard of such massacres near their village.

What really happened in the area was that security forces were attacked by a combined group of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorists and some 500 villagers on 28 August, 2017, following attacks by the ARSA terrorists on police outposts.

The terrorists and villagers used machetes and homemade arms in the attack, and the security forces had acted in self-defence until the attackers fled.

A security personnel got injured and 19 bodies of terrorists were found, along with eight machetes and homemade arms, including spears, as well as 12 bullet shells.

According to the inspection team, the bodies of terrorists were buried, and a case was filed at the Nyaungchaung police station under Section 50 (I) of the Anti-Terrorism Law.

In fact, those who died in the conflict were not civilians but armed men who attacked the security forces. In any country, security forces have the right to defend themselves and protect the sovereignty of the country; and they certainly have the duty to enforce the rule of law in their country. Is the accusation made by AP professional? ■

Aung Myint Soe
(Ye Sa Kyo)

SINCE time immemorial, all the ethnic races who are nationals of the Union have lived in the country in unity, through thick and thin.

They have lived in the country with a spirit of brotherhood through empires such as Tagaung, Sri Ksetra, Bagan, Pinya, Sagaing, Innwa, Toun-goo, Nyaung Yang and Kong-baung. Many old kingdoms and capitals like Beikthano, Sri Ksetra, Han Lin, Suvarnabhumi, Ming Maw, Tagaung, Bagan, Innwa and Hantharwady represent the greatness and glory of the nation.

Myanmar is one of the great countries which is situated in the South-east Asia region.

Being a sovereign country, there are 135 ethnic races and they live in their respective regions through weal and woe.

Myanmar is bordered by India and Bangladesh to the west, Thailand and Laos to the east and the People's Republic of China to its north and north-east.

Myanmar encompasses a total area of 261,228 square miles, and from south to north is 1,300 miles long and from east to west, at the widest part, is 600 miles wide respectively.

Pre-historic and ancient Myanmar

Primate fossils found in the Pondaung Region in Sagaing

Division, Upper Myanmar have furnished evidences that at one time primates, from which evolved homo sapiens, walked the land known as Myanmar over 40 million years ago.

It has been postulated that Myanmar had their very origins in this land. From this, Myanmar civilisation arose and flourished through the ages.

Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic cultures

Paleolithic and Neolithic cultures flourished in many parts of Myanmar about 20,000 years ago. The Paleolithic Culture is called the Anyathian Culture in Myanmar, because all the relics were found only in the Anya area.

Anyathian culture may be divided into Early Anyathian and Later Anyathian Culture. The Early Anyathians were similar to the Java and Peking Man and the late Anyathians were close to the Neanderthal.

One remarkable thing about the Anyathian Culture is that there were polished hand tools found in the western Paleolithic. The hand axes were similar to those found in southern China. Fossilised wood and silicified turf were used to make the tools.

Early Anyathians probably lived from the first to the third Pluvial period. The late Anyathians lived during the third Inter-pluvial and Fourth Pluvial Period. The tools were all located in the Central Myanmar and this suggests that they had chosen to live in a rain

shadow area. The Ayeyarwady was reduced to the present bed by cutting the river bank into five successive terraces.

Early City States

"Myanmar begins with Tagaung", goes a Myanmar saying. It is believed that the establishment of the Tagaung Dynasty heralded the beginning of Myanmar history. A settlement was established at Tagaung in about the 6th century BC. Tagaung was also known as Thindwe. When the Tagaung Dynasty was established, there were in Upper Myanmar Pyu people in the east, Kanyan in the west and Thet in the north, and Mon in the Ayeyarwady, Sittaung and Thanlwin river valleys.

Not much has been discovered about the political, economic and social life of the Tagaung period. Pyu funerary urns have been found at Tagaung. The Tagaung Dynasty was probably a Pyu Dynasty. Tagaung stood as an early city-state of Myanmar.

Myanmar Empires

Bagan lies on the left bank of the Ayeyarwady in the dry zone of Central Myanmar. Myanmar civilization achieved a high level of development at Bagan from the 11th century to the end of the 13th century.

Theravada Buddhism flourished in Bagan. The art and architecture of Bagan is unique. The kings and people of Bagan constructed many religious buildings such as pagodas, monasteries, temples, ordination halls and meditation caves in Bagan.

The second Myanmar Empire was founded by King Bayint Naung, who ascended the throne in 1551. His 30-year reign (1551-81) was the most energetic period in Myanmar history. He was a dynamic leader and effective military commander who built Myanmar into the most powerful state in South-east Asia.

The Third Myanmar Empire was founded by King

Union Day can awaken the Union Spirit

"It is evident that the essence of Union Day can awaken the Union Spirit and this auspicious day can foster the establishment of a democratic federal union."

Alaung Phaya. King Alaung Phaya successfully united Upper and Lower Myanmar. He was known as the best leader for guerrilla warfare.

In the 19th century, Myanmar was annexed by the British Imperialists after three Anglo-Myanmar Wars in 1824, 1852 and 1885.

Myanmar during the Colonial Period

Under British occupation, attempts were made to throw off the yoke of colonialism almost everywhere in Myanmar, but these attempts failed due to lack of modern firearms to fight the British. The pacification of the country took five years to complete. However, Myanmar nationalism was brought about by the colonial education laws.

The economic system was also resented because the Myanmar people had lost their place as the businessmen of their country.

A national movement that emerged during the 20th century was to defend Buddhism from the effects of British colonial rule. A group of educated young men founded the Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) in 1906.

Growing out of the YMBA, the GCBA (The General Council of Burmese Association) substituted "Burmese" for "Buddhist" in its English name.

Struggle for Independence

A group of 30 comrades led by Thakin Aung San formed the

Burma Independence Army (BIA) in 1941. The BIA, with the Japanese Army, invaded Myanmar at the end of 1941. Then, the Japanese occupation began in 1942.

In December 1946, Attlee invited a Myanmar delegation, headed by Bogoyoke Aung San, to come to London to negotiate a political settlement.

On January 27, 1947, the Aung San-Attlee Agreement was signed, committing the parties to full independence for Myanmar within a year.

This agreement called for integration of the Frontier Areas with Myanmar proper (Ministerial Burma). A conference was held on 7-12 February 1947 in Panglong, southern Shan State. At the conference, Bogoyoke Aung San and leaders of ethnic races agreed to a framework for the Union of Myanmar. The anniversary of the Panglong Agreement is celebrated as Union Day.

Union Day is highly anticipated by the Myanmar people across the country. As the date approaches, school children will write patriotic poems, essays and speeches on the importance of national unity will be given.

It is evident that the essence of Union Day can awaken the Union Spirit and this auspicious day can foster the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union. ■

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung

Developing Communication Skills in Young Minds

(In Continuation to the Article published on 1st February 2018 on "Need of Developing Employability Skills in Young Minds of Myanmar for their Sustainable Career Growth and making the nation Emerging Knowledge Economy")



Dr G R Sinha
Professor, Myanmar Institute of Information Technology Mandalay
Adjunct Professor, IIIT Bangalore India

FIRST part of the article was published in the reputed daily, The Global New Light of Myanmar on 1st February 2018 on pages 9 and 10. The article highlighted about what are different set of skills that constitute as employability skill for increasing employability skill in young minds so that they can contribute in making Myanmar as brilliant knowledge economy.

The Great Lord Buddha always stressed upon optimal use of resources for the benefit of mankind and society and I believe that young minds of Myanmar have been using various resources in appropriate manner and leaving no stones unturned while being open to be globally competent so that they can contribute in the development of great nation, Myanmar to make it great knowledge economy.

This part attempts to emphasize only on "developing communication skill", which is most important skill required to be globally competent and versatile professional. The "Communication Skill" does not only highlight about Speaking Skill but there are many important components of Communication Skill, such as Writing Skill, Reading Skill, Listening Skill, Presentation Skill and of course Speaking Skill. We will talk about various practical ways that could help young minds in developing Communication Skill in them so that they can demonstrate rather articulate the appropriate amount of knowledge that they want to reach to the audience. Let us see major how-about for developing Communication Skill to be globally competent.

1. Listen, Listen and Listen: Before we speak, communicate, write or express whatever we want; we need to listen first. Listening Skill is very important that has to be developed. We can understand, comprehend and clear our doubts before we respond and speak. Listening to Classroom Lectures; Video Lectures; Technical & non-Technical Talks and Discussion; and many informative lectures that are available in YouTube, Coursera, MIT Library, and news television programme on contemporary issues, and so on.
2. Mind your Body Language: One needs to use appropriate body language because most appropriate body language adds brilliant flavor to the communication skill. We can deliver and present ourselves in motivational and ornamental manner if impressive body language is used while communicating. This can be easily developed seeing and watching influential personalities; role models; good teachers; and good anchors. This simple way could do great in developing excellent communication skill.
3. Be focused and Objective Oriented: While presenting or speaking, we should be focused to our specific objectives that needs proper planning and organization. Students can develop themselves discussing among their peers and seniors about their agenda of lecture or presentations. Think hundred times and contemplate upon what you are going to talk or speak about.
4. Positive Attitude and Good Humor: One is required to be strong positive attitude then you can reflect and deliberate positivity. So, please practice positive attitude and good humor. While speaking, practice of smiling. Positive attitude makes you reachable to more number of people with greater impact.
5. Present yourself and Come out of Inhibitions: We sometimes so not express ourselves in whatever manner we should have, due to inhibitions and apprehensions we think of. Students think that, we cannot do this; we cannot speak; if we start speaking what others would think about. These are few of major inhibitions that stop us in communicating and practicing good communication skill. With immense self-confidence, one should start communicating as if they only know better about the content. But, we have not to be complacent that we only know about.
6. Think Naturally: Several times, students think and contemplate in their native language. This is not bad but if we are interested to speak or communicate in English then we should think only in English. The day you start thinking in global language you would start expressing in that language naturally and nicely.
7. Engage with Audience Participation: If the communication skill is speaking then one should involve the audience so that you can instant feedback that would encourage you and make your lecture interactive.
8. Be Punctual and Systematic: While delivering, presenting, speaking or writing; we should plan the whole content and should try to present in systematic manner. If the content requires few major points, that headings and sub-headings or even abbreviations while speaking; we should use to make good impression on the recipient. Time management is the most one of the important parts of communication skill and therefore we should skill to time and communicate.
9. Learn to Speak among Public: You can begin with speaking between your friends, peers and family.
10. Keep your devices and gadgets which are not required, away from you while communicating. Swami Vivekananda always used to call the youth: "Each Soul is Potentially Divine". That divinity or immense capability is there in all young minds and youth of Myanmar; only thing is to realize that potential and express using brilliant communication skill while delivering about their work or content. I believe that few of above tools would help the young boys and girls and others in developing them as great communicator and motivational presenter. (Please do write for feedback to me at drgrsinha@jeee.org, ganeshsinha@acm.org, gr_sinha@miit.edu.mm). ■

Being a sovereign country, there are 135 ethnic races who live in their respective regions through weal and woe.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) arrives for coalition talks at the Social Democratic Party (SPD) headquarters in Berlin, Germany on 4 February, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Merkel — German coalition talks to be tough, unclear when they'll end

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said her conservatives faced tough negotiations with the Social Democrats (SPD) on Sunday as they seek to form a coalition government and it was unclear when the two blocs would be able to wrap up the talks.

More than four months after a national election, Europe's largest economy remains in political limbo without a new government. The two camps want to agree by the end of Sunday to renew the "grand coalition" that has governed since 2013 but some politicians say talks could run into Monday or Tuesday.

"It's not yet possible to say how long it will last — we did good groundwork yesterday but there are still important issues that need to be resolved," Merkel said before heading into negotiations.

The parties reached agreements on energy and agriculture on Saturday but continued to haggle over healthcare.

Merkel, who is betting on the SPD to secure her fourth term in office, added: "I'm going into talks with goodwill today, but I also expect that we'll face difficult negotiations."

SPD leader Martin Schulz said the opposing sides had come closer on many issues in recent days but remained at odds over rents, his party's demand to abolish fixed-term contracts for workers and its call to replace Germany's dual public-private healthcare system with one insurance system for all. Healthcare and labour market policy are crucial for the SPD, whose 443,000 members — many of whom oppose forming another awkward partnership with Merkel after their party suf-

fered its worst postwar result in September's election — will get the chance to veto any final coalition deal.

"We'll have to negotiate very, very intensively on these issues today and I think agreements are possible but they still haven't been reached," Schulz said.

The conservatives have rejected SPD calls for sweeping reform of health insurance and talks are now expected to focus on improving public healthcare, such as by changing billing rules for doctors, who earn more by treating private patients.

Merkel's bloc does not want to ban fixed-term contracts like the SPD but has offered to prevent the repeated renewal of such contracts as a compromise.

Schulz said he wanted talks to progress swiftly but that the parties should not put themselves under huge time pressure

as this would not be helpful in the final phase of negotiations.

"Ultimately it's necessary to take the time you need to create a stable foundation for a stable government," he said, adding that Sunday's talks could run into the night.

SPD negotiator Manuela Schwesig urged all negotiating parties to all make concessions, saying it was difficult to explain to ordinary Germans why they were still waiting for a new government months after the 24 September national election.

Conscious that the SPD needs to sell the prospect of another grand coalition to grassroots members by ensuring any coalition deal bears the hallmarks of SPD policy, Schwesig said: "We've promised our members that we'll negotiate until the other side squeals and we'll do that." — Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Britain will not 'surrender' in battle for bespoke Brexit deal: Rudd

LONDON — Britain will press for a bespoke deal with the European Union to ensure both frictionless trade and the ability for the country to negotiate trade deals with other countries, Interior Minister Amber Rudd said on Sunday.

"We want to have a bespoke agreement. Now we're not going to surrender before we have that battle," Rudd told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show when asked whether the government wanted to have its cake and eat it in the Brexit negotiations — Reuters ■

Russia says kills more than 30 militants in Syria — TASS

MOSCOW — A Russian strike from an undisclosed high-precision weapon killed more than 30 militants in an area of Syria's Idlib where a Russian plane was previously downed, TASS news agency quoted Russia's Defence Ministry as saying on Saturday.

The Russian Su-25 warplane was brought down in the Idlib province earlier on Saturday, and the pilot was killed during "a fight" after ejecting by parachute, the Defence Ministry has said. —Reuters ■

At least 2 dead, 50 injured in South Carolina train wreck

CHARLOTTE — An Amtrak train traveling in South Carolina collided with a CSX freight train on Sunday, killing two people and injuring at least 50, CNN and other media reported.

The train with 139 passengers and eight crew members was traveling between New York and Miami when it hit the other train and derailed near Columbia, South Carolina, Amtrak officials told local media.

The collision happened about 2.30 AM (0730 GMT), according to local media. —Reuters ■

It's when, not if — Singapore worries, and prepares, for militant attack

SINGAPORE — Armed officers patrol a train station where television screens and giant posters warn of the threat from militants. Nearby, fake gunmen storm a shopping mall in one of many recent terror attack simulations.

But this is not some war-ravaged country. It is one of the safest in the world, Singapore. The wealthy island-state has a near-perfect record of keeping its shores free from terror, but as it prepares to host defence ministers from around Southeast Asia this week, it appears to have good reason to have prioritised stopping the spread of militancy in the region. The cosmopolitan financial hub, which was second only to Tokyo in The Economist Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index in 2017, says it has been the target of militant plots for years, some stemming from its Muslim-majority



Police take part in a simulated gunmen attack demonstration for the public at a housing estate in Singapore on 10 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

neighbours, and that it's a matter of 'when' and not 'if' militants will strike. "Singapore continues to face a serious security threat from both homegrown radicalised individuals and foreign terrorists who continue to see Singapore as a

prized target," Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in response to e-mailed questions from Reuters. Singapore authorities say they have been a target of Islamic extremism since the 1990s, but efforts to deter terrorism

have stepped up markedly in recent years with more frequent attacks on Western countries and after Islamic State (IS) militants briefly took over a town in the southern Philippines last year. Raising further concerns about the threat

to the island, a Singaporean soldier has featured on a number of Islamic State promotional videos, most recently in December where he was filmed executing men alongside other militants. In its inaugural Terrorism Threat Assess-

ment Report released last year, the MHA said Islamic State has demonstrated that Singapore is "very much on its radar" and that the threat to the country remains "the highest in recent years" — claims that are backed up by security experts. "Singapore, being known as safe and secure, makes it such a risk target," said Dan Bould, Asia director of crisis management at professional services firm Aon and a former captain in the British army.

"If there's an attack in the Philippines, it may get half an hour in a 24-hour news cycle. An attack in Singapore with all the multicultural individuals operating here, will be within the narrative for a few days at least."

In early 2017, Aon lifted Singapore in the terrorism and political violence category of its annual risk map from negligible to low risk.—Reuters ■

DECLARATION IN RESPOND AND CLARIFICATION TO DR. HTUN WYNN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF YADANAR SHWE PIN HSINT CO., LTD AND PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the assignment and instruction of Mr. Chong Dae Seong, Executive Director of SEOGWOO E & C Co., Ltd at No. (483), 9th floor, Aye Yeikthar Condo, Aye Yeikthar (2) Street, New University Avenue Road, Saya San Quarter, Bahan Township, Yangon Region, it is hereby declared as follows: -

It is well known to you and the relevant persons that my client has legally registered the company in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and is managing and operating the project works in good name and reputation.

1. In handling and implementing the project works in Myanmar, your company was trusted and caused to assign and implement with complete legal deed of Agreements and in accordance with the procedures of a business.
2. In implementing (4) Project works, the contract Agreement was executed to be carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions contained therein. In causing to carry out the works, it was mentioned in the Contract Agreement that the works to be met with stipulated standards and specifications and to complete the work in a timely manner.

- (a) In respect of ASEAN Eco Brick Factory Project, there are only (6) Types of works and not (8) types. Although the actual your proposed balance amount is only Ks 108,531,615/- it has been found that it was mentioned incorrectly as Ks156,595,788/-.
- (b) Although your proposed balance of Rural Development Training Center Project is Ks 75,538,587/- it was found that your newspaper declaration mentioned incorrectly as Ks 88,283,243/-.
- (c) Marubeni Project is still in the process of negotiation between my client and your company and mentioning as Ks 83,149,159/- is a matter not yet discussed.
- (d) The incorrect mentioning as Ks 34,643,650/- in the newspaper declaration for farmland project (retention 5% for 1 year warranty) is not entitled to be settled since it is still within the warranty time.
- (e) In respect of balance amount contained in your newspaper declaration, mentions as total Ks 362,671,837/- is not exactly correct. You are well-known about the fact that among (4) projects, although the works were completed in (3) projects, your company does not undertake, negotiate and settle the payment made temporary by my client company due to the standards and specifications not coming up to quality standard and not completing in specified time and upon the image of the company and loss and suffer in the works to be carried further.

3. My client likes you to consider again the work records under the Contract Agreement executed between you and my client, since the declaration in Myanma Alinn/ The Mirror dated (6-1-2008) and in the Global New Light of Myanmar dated (13-1-2018) made by your permission, is to conceal the truth and declared intentionally.

With due respect and sorrow, my client has been known about the newspaper declarations and believe that you, yourself have already read and known the response and clarification, considered on the whole of the facts contained in the newspaper, by the acknowledge letter send to your company on (12-1-2018) by my client company.

In the said letter, on opportunity is given to you to coordinate and solve the undesirable matters. It seemed that you might not have noticed. You didn't reply and communicate.

4. My client likes you to reconsider the terms and conditions contained in the Contract Agreement, transaction agreement and account clearances as it has been found roughly that the amount your proposed to the (3) project works above and the amount contained and mentioned in the newspaper, differs as Ks 143,957,985/-.

It is hereby responded, clarified and declared to you and all, that for the reputation of my client company, my client will stand up and solve under the terms and conditions of the Contract Agreement, and in accordance with work process and work agreement, in order for the truth and justification as responded in my client's letter dated (12-1-2018) mentioned above, in respect of undesirable matters of your company.

Under the assignment and instruction,

U Htun Aung Kyaw (LL.B, DBL)
Advocate (Sr.7078/02)

Daw Khine The' Su
LL.M, M.Res, Ph.D (prelim),
Dip in English (SEAMEO CHAT)
Higher Grade Pleader (Sr.44775/14)

No. (33), 1st Floor, Damaseindar Street, Kyar Kwet Thit Quarter, Tamwe Township, Yangon.
Ph: 01-540073, 09-5114708

Russia's Su-25 fighter jet shot down by militants in Syria — defence ministry

MOSCOW — A Su-25 fighter jet of the Russian Aerospace Force was shot down by militants in Syria on Saturday, the pilot ejected but was killed later by terrorists, the Russian Defence Ministry said.

“On 3 February 2018, a Russian fighter jet Su-25 crashed when flying over the Idlib de-escalation zone. The pilot was able to report ejection from an area controlled by Jabhat al-Nusra militants (the terrorist group banned in Russia— TASS),” the defence ministry said. “The pilot was killed while fighting against terrorists.”

“According to preliminary information, the jet



Ejected pilot was killed later by terrorists. PHOTO: TASS

was brought down with a portable anti-aircraft missile system,” it added.

“The Russian centre for reconciliation of warring sides in Syria along-

side the Turkish side, responsible for the Idlib de-escalation zone, are

taking steps to retrieve the Russian pilot’s body,” the ministry said.

Earlier reports said that Syrian government forces were fighting against Jabhat al-Nusra units in the Idlib province.

In accordance with an agreement by Russia, Iran and Turkey — the guarantors of the Syrian ceasefire — de-escalation zones were set up in Syria in May 2017. De-escalation zones include the Idlib Province, some parts of its neighboring areas in the Latakia, Hama and Aleppo Provinces north of the city of Homs, Eastern Ghouta, as well as the Daraa and al-Quneitra Provinces in southern Syria.—Tass ■

DPRK denounces Trump’s State of the Union address as “omen of new disaster”

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Sunday denounced the State of the Union address by US President Donald Trump as “an omen of new disaster,” after Trump described the DPRK as an adversary in the address.

The whole world is seeing “an omen of new disaster” in Trump’s address which asserted “American first” and “unmatched power” based on nuclear arms forcing other countries to submit to the “US chauvinistic interest,” a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was quoted by the official Korean Central News Agency as saying.

The spokesman also accused Trump of “insisting upon ‘maximum pressure’ against DPRK” and “viciously slandering” the country.

“It is purely a nasty perversity aimed to disturb the advance of inter-Korean relations,” he added.

Trump said in his State of the Union address last week that the US government is “waging a campaign of maximum pressure” to prevent the DPRK’s pursuit of nuclear missiles from threatening US homeland. Tension between the two countries has escalated since Trump took in office last year.—Xinhua ■

Laser technology reveals undiscovered Mayan ruins below Guatemalan jungle

MEXICO CITY — Researchers have used laser scans to reveal that more than 60,000 ruin sites lying for centuries under the jungles of northern Guatemala.

Aerial images of a particular unpopulated area were digitally processed using the revolutionary light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology.

“The LiDAR images

make it clear that this entire region was a settlement system whose scale and population density had been grossly underestimated,” National Geographic quoted Ithaca College archaeologist Thomas Garrison as saying.

The new data led to an estimation that a 10 to 15 million population or even more had been living in the area.

Elevated highways, complex irrigation and terracing systems were discovered after over 2,100 square kilometers of Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve had been scanned.

Other surprising findings included the militarization of the Maya “megapolis”, as laser scans showed defensive walls, ramparts, terraces and fortresses throughout the

region.

“LiDAR is revolutionizing archaeology the way the Hubble Space Telescope revolutionized astronomy,” Tulane University archaeologist Francisco Estrada-Belli told National Geographic, “We’ll need 100 years to go through all (the data) and really understand what we’re seeing.”

The survey is part of a three-year project spear-

headed by Guatemala’s Foundation for Maya Cultural and Natural Heritage (PACUNAM).

The plan is to map more than 14,000 square kilometers of the country’s vast northern lowlands.

Hailed as “major breakthrough” in Maya archaeology, the findings were expected “to raise awareness of the value of protecting.”—Xinhua ■

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study complete for drilling program in Block AD 1 Offshore Myanmar

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd (Woodside) proposes to undertake a drilling program in Block AD-1 located offshore Rakhine State, Myanmar.

The drilling in Block AD-1 is for one well and is scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2018. The well will be located approximately 60 miles from the Myanmar coastline. Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Woodside is required to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed drilling.

The EIA study was conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM), on behalf of Woodside, in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

The EIA report for AD-1 has been submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) and the executive summary of the report is available to be viewed at Woodside’s webpage: woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation, Woodside’s office in Yangon and ERM’s offices in Yangon, relevant GAD offices, ECD offices and relevant departments in Yangon and in Rakhine State. For the location details to obtain the executive summary of the report, please contact Woodside or ERM at the email address below.

Any queries, comments or suggestions on the proposed activities can also be provided in writing to feedback@woodside.com.au or woodside.myanmar@erm.com.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study complete for drilling program in Block A 7, Offshore Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd (Woodside) proposes to undertake a drilling program in Block A-7, located offshore Ayeyarwady Region, Myanmar.

The drilling program in Block A-7 is scheduled to commence in 2018 and the wells will be drilled at least 15 miles from the Myanmar coastline.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Woodside is required to undertake an EIA for the proposed drilling program. The EIA study was conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Resource and Environment Myanmar (REM), on behalf of Woodside, in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

The EIA report for A-7 has been submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) and the executive summary of the report is available to be viewed at Woodside’s webpage: woodside.com.au/myanmar-consultation, Woodside’s office in Yangon and ERM’s offices in Yangon, relevant GAD offices, ECD offices and relevant departments in Yangon and in Ayeyarwady Region. For the location details to obtain the executive summary of the report, please contact Woodside or ERM at the email address below.

Any queries, comments or suggestions on the proposed activities can also be provided in writing to feedback@woodside.com.au or woodside.myanmar@erm.com.



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
New Mandalay Resort City Implementation Management Committee
For New Mandalay Resort City Project Implementation



Invitation for Expression of Interest

New Mandalay Resort City (Yadanarpon Cyber City) has been developed in Mandalay Region near to Pyinoolwin City on Mandalay- Lashio Road. The project area is approximately 10,000 acres and the Concept Plan is prepared to develop the project phase by phase. The conceptual development plan consists of industrial, commercial, residential, logistic, recreation and resort area.

The aim of seeking Expression of interest is to empanel the competent real estate developer firms (local or foreign) for construction, marketing and management of the project. Ministry of Construction will be joint partner of the project and interested firms are requested to apply with credentials, information and company profile addressed to Ministry of Construction, Office 40, Naypyitaw.

Details including prescribed format are available at Department of Urban and Housing Development, Office No 40 Naypyitaw. The last date of submission is on **31.3.2018** at 5 pm. The short listed firms will be decided and announced after scrutiny by the board.

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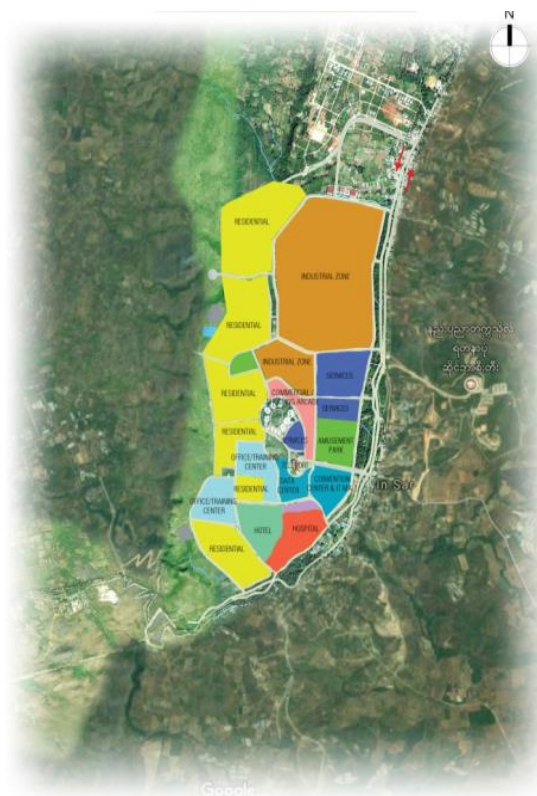
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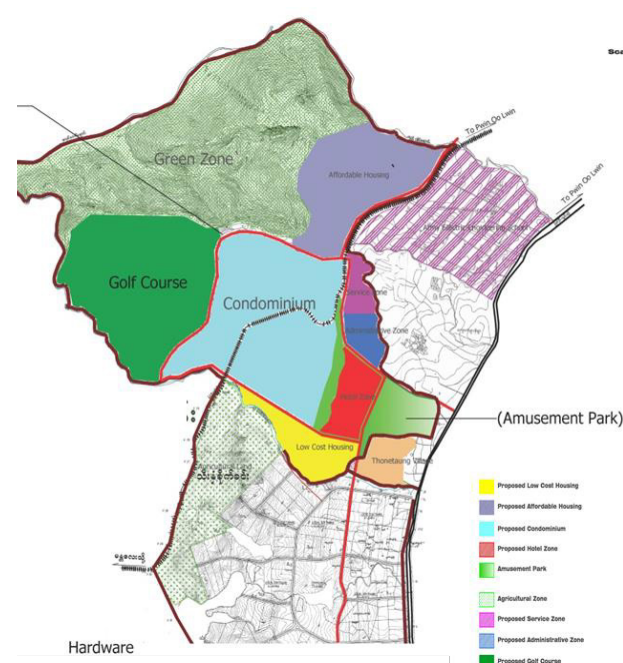
Mandalay Region, PyinOoLwin Township, Proposed New Mandalay Resort City Project



Phase 1



Phase 2



Guillermo del Toro wins Directors Guild top award for 'The Shape of Water'

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood directors named Guillermo del Toro the best film director of 2017 for "The Shape of Water" on Saturday, placing the Mexican filmmaker and the film in a strong position for the movie world's top honours, the Oscars, in March.

The Directors Guild of America (DGA), the leading industry group representing film and television directors, chose Jordan Peele as best first-time feature film director for the offbeat horror film "Get Out", which has four Oscar nominations including best picture and for Peele as best director.

DGA feature film winners have often gone on to claim the best director Oscar and even see their films win best picture.

The Oscar chances for "The Shape of Water" were also boosted last month when the Producers Guild chose it as the year's best film.

It was del Toro's first DGA win and his first nomination.

"The Shape of Water" scored 13 Oscar nominations last month, the most of any 2017 film and just one shy of the all-time record of 14, including best



Director Guillermo del Toro holds his award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Feature Film for "The Shape of Water" at the 70th Annual DGA Awards in Beverly Hills, California, US on 3 February, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

picture and del Toro as director.

Peele was also nominated by the DGA at its 70th annual honours for best feature film director, as was Greta Gerwig,

for "Lady Bird". Gerwig, also an Oscar nominee, would be only the second woman to win the best director Academy Award.

Matthew Heineman was

honored as best documentary director for "City of Ghosts", a British film about rebels banding together to fight ISIS in Syria.

The Oscars will be handed

out in Hollywood on 4 March to producers, directors, actors and actresses in a star-studded television show viewed around the world and among the most-watched TV programmes in the United States.

In addition to film directors, the DGA also handed out television honors, with women directors taking two of the top awards.

Beth McCarthy-Miller won for best TV comedy direction for "Veep", while Reed Morano won for TV drama series for "The Handmaid's Tale".

Directors of "Big Little Lies", "Saturday Night Live" and the 89th annual Academy Awards presentation also won their categories, the latter show going down in infamy when the wrong film was announced for the top award, best picture.

British director Michael Apted, known for the "Up" documentary series which revisits its children every seven years as they progress into middle age and beyond, was honored with a special lifetime achievement award at the gala ceremony hosted by Judd Apatow. —Reuters ■

Lady Gaga, citing pain, cancels 10 European shows on 'Joanne' tour

LOS ANGELES — Severe pain has forced Lady Gaga to cancel 10 shows on the European leg of her "Joanne" concert tour, the singer and her team said on Saturday, several months after she had postponed those performances in Europe due to her ailment. Lady Gaga, whose hit songs include "Bad Romance" and "Born This Way," has previously said she suffers from fibromyalgia, a musculoskeletal pain disorder often accompanied by fatigue and cognitive difficulties.

A statement posted on Lady Gaga's Twitter and Instagram pages did not mention fibromyalgia but said the 31-year-old singer decided to cancel the shows after consulting with her medical team. "Unfortunately, Lady Gaga is suffering from severe pain that has materially impacted her ability to perform live," the statement said. In an accompanying statement on social media, Lady Gaga said she was devastated to cancel the shows, which included stops in London, Zurich, Stockholm,



Lady Gaga arrives at the 60th Annual Grammy Awards in New York, NY, U.S., January 28, 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Paris and Berlin.

"I promise I will be back in your city, but for now, I need to put myself and my well-being first," she said. Lady Gaga became famous in 2008 as a pop artist, with the hook-laden songs "Just Dance" and "Pokerface." She quickly gained a reputation for provocative fashion choices, such

as the dress made of raw beef that she wore at a 2010 awards show. The "Joanne" tour, named after the singer's rock-style album released in 2016, was promoted by Live Nation Entertainment Inc. She began the tour on 1 August in Vancouver, Canada, the first of more than 40 shows across North America.—Reuters ■

Spice Girls reuniting to explore 'new Opportunities'

LOS ANGELES — Popular band Spice Girls have said they are reuniting and planning to work on "new opportunities together".

The members of the band — Victoria Beckham, Emma Bunton, Geri Horner, Mel Brown and Melanie Chisholm — recently met at Horner's Hertfordshire residence, where they were accompanied by former manager Simon Fuller.

Later, in a statement, the group confirmed that they are getting back together.

"We are always overwhelmed at how much interest there is across the whole world for The Spice Girls. The time now feels right to explore some incredible new opportunities together," the group said in the statement, reported Entertainment Weekly.

It was their single "Wannabe" that propelled the band to fame in 1996. They had also reunited for a world tour in 2007.

Their last performance together was at the closing ceremony for the 2012 London Olympics.

"We have enjoyed a wonderful afternoon catching up and reminiscing about the amazing times we have spent together.

"We all agree that there are many exciting possibilities that will once again embrace the original essence of The Spice Girls, while reinforcing our message of female empowerment for future generations," the group said.

Beckham posted the photograph of the girl group on Instagram and posted, "Love my girls. So many kisses. Exciting. —PTI ■



The congregation led by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife attend the ceremony to donate offertories to the Members of the Sangha. **PHOTO: MNA**

Armed forces of Myanmar, Thai donate offertories to one thousand Members of the Sangha

THE families of Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw) and Royal Thai Armed Force offered rice and offertories to one thousand Members of the Sangha at the platform of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Headed by Abhidhaja-harathagura Bhadanta

Maha Kavisara, sayadaws and monks from the monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw Council Region attended the ceremony. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Royal Thai Armed Force Commander in Chief Gen.

Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan and wife Mrs. Jiraporn Srisuwan, Deputy Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Nwe and Tatmadaw officers of two countries donated offertories to the Members of the Sangha. The Royal Thai

Armed Force Commander in Chief Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan and wife also donated cash to the fund of the Uppatasanti Pagoda through the pagoda's board of trustees. The two countries' Tatmadaw officers also offered day meal to the monks. —MNA ■

Japan's antismoking plan with gaping loophole sparks outcry

TOKYO — Japan's recently unveiled antismoking plan has sparked an outcry from lung cancer patients and other activists as it has a gaping loophole — basically allowing customers at restaurants and bars to carry on lighting up.

The plan released last Tuesday by the health ministry backpedaled from its initial goal of introducing a total indoor smoking ban to prevent passive smoking in public spaces ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games due to strong opposition by the tobacco and restaurant industries.

Japan is among the lowest-ranked countries in terms of tobacco control, with no smoke-free law covering indoor public spaces.

The new measure will protect minors and patients at hospitals from secondhand smoking, but in doing so will cover only

four of the eight types of public facilities surveyed by the World Health Organization to measure antismoking steps.

Fifty-five countries including Britain, Canada, Russia and Brazil — recent hosts of Olympics — have already banned indoor smoking at all the eight types of public places including schools, medical institutions, offices, restaurants, bars and public transportation.

A group of lung cancer patients has fiercely protested the latest government plan, saying it is a "reversion" of the global trend to tighten smoking control. In Japan, more than 80 per cent of the population are nonsmokers and an estimated 15,000 people die annually from secondhand smoke, according to the health ministry.

But Tokuaki Shobayashi, a senior official of the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry, said

the government needs to take "a first step" with the modest plan as a tougher bill would be rejected in parliament by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party supported by the tobacco and restaurant industries. Some LDP members have urged the ministry to recognize "the right to smoke."

Shobayashi drafted a bill 17 years ago to urge restaurant managers and other facility operators in Japan to "make efforts" to prevent secondhand smoking. At that time, he was denounced by both the pro-smoking LDP and antismoking bodies calling for stricter regulations.

Following negotiations with the LDP, the health ministry has made compromises and decided under the new plan to permit smoking in restaurants and bars if they set up special rooms for exclusive use by smokers where no food or drink will

be served.

The ministry is currently negotiating with the LDP over the scope of restaurants and bars that are to be exempted from the requirement to establish separate smoking areas.

It initially planned to exempt eateries with a floor space of up to 30 square metres, but is now leaning toward expanding the scope to those with a floor space of up to 150 sq metres. In the exempted facilities, smoking will be allowed inside if they hang a sign indicating it is a "smoking space." Pro-smoking people say customers who shun tobacco would not enter these places.

However, Kazuo Hasegawa, chairman of the Japan Lung Cancer Alliance, said his group's survey has revealed many people reluctantly go to such facilities and suffer from passive smoking. —Kyodo News ■



Sri Lanka embassy celebrates Independence Day

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and wife Daw Khin Than Nwe are welcomed by Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar Mr. Kohona Walawwe Nimal Dharmakeerthi Karunaratne at the reception to mark the 70th Independence Day of Sri Lanka at the Sule Shangrila Hotel in Yangon on 4th February, 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Pein Aung (George) 99 Years

U Pein Aung, son of (U Hsaul)-(Daw Tun Yin), husband of Daw Mya Khaing (Ruby), father of U Tun Hla Aung + Daw San San Myint (Rowena), San Thida + David Harr, (U Pe Thet Nyunt) + Daw Nwe Nwe Htay, grandfather of Adrienne Thanda Davis + Hunter Davis, Lynn Thiri Harr, Amanda Khaing Thazin Nyunt, passed away peacefully at his residence, at 15A Pyidaungsu Lane, Saya San Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Funeral procession will leave the house at 9 :00 am and cremation will be at Yayway Cemetery at 11:00 am.

Bereaved Family

#MeToo movement means changes for Valentine's Day romance

NEW YORK — The #MeToo movement is putting a chill on romance this Valentine's Day, and a deep freeze on what for years has been a route to marriage: the office love affair, according to relationship experts.

The number of Americans admitting to being in an office romance has fallen, and some feminist activists call that change as well as zero tolerance for unacceptable behaviour in the workplace long overdue. The movement is sparking the kind of direct communication essential for love, they say.

"#MeToo will make relationships between men and women more romantic," said women's rights activist Jaclyn Friedman.

"If we all become more thoughtful about the care with which we treat our partners, it can

only help build trust and intimacy," said Friedman, a writer whose books include "Yes Means Yes!"

The #MeToo movement has exposed men accused of sexual assault and harassment in fields including entertainment, politics and business. Dozens of prominent men have quit or been fired from high-profile posts, and police have opened investigations into some accusations of sex assault.

The movement is changing dating dynamics in important ways, said Liz Wolfe, managing editor of Young Voices, which distributes opinion pieces written by people younger than 30.

"One good aspect of the #MeToo movement might be an increased emphasis on communication when it comes to sex and romance," Wolfe said. —Reuters ■

West Brom have 12 big games to rescue season, says Brunt



West Bromwich Albion's Chris Brunt. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — West Bromwich Albion still have 12 “big games” to ensure their Premier League survival, midfielder Chris Brunt said after Saturday’s 3-2 home defeat by Southampton.

West Brom have collected 20 points from 26 matches after three wins, 11 draws and 12 defeats and sit bottom of the league table. They are winless in the last three games, losing twice.

“We have got 12 big games left and we need to win as many as we can,” Brunt told the club’s

website.

The Midlands club made a bright start to the current season with victories in their first two games before going 20 games without a win. They sacked manager Tony Pulis and replaced him with Alan Pardew in November.

Pardew guided the team to their first win in 21 games beating promoted Brighton and Hove Albion last month but West Brom have continued to struggle for consistency.

“We’ve given ourselves a bit of a mountain to climb now but hopefully we can get a few bodies back this week and get out on the training pitch,” Northern Irishman Brunt added.

“All the lads that have played a lot of games over the December-January period can have a bit of a rest because we don’t play until next Monday night.”

West Brom return to league action with a trip to London to face champions Chelsea. —Reuters ■

Mindat Football Association to nurture youth footballers

MINDAT, a very beautiful, hilly and cold town in Chin State, located in the West of Myanmar has registered its township football association for the first time recently according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The football association is a very first one in the Chin State, was founded with 15 officials altogether by the supervision of Myanmar Football Federation.

Meeting for the confirmation and formation of this as-

sociation was also conducted last week. The Mindat Football Association is aimed at promoting not only the township football but for the Chin State, and upgrading the standard of Myanmar football. They will nurture any youths who are interested in football to become professionals. The association is chaired by U LeinHtun and the other 14 officials are former footballers, said an official of the association. —KyawZin Lin ■

City Stars FC changed its name to Royal Thanlyin FC in MNL League II

CITY Stars FC, a football club of the MPT Myanmar National League II of 2018, has changed its name to Royal Thanlyin FC recently.

City Stars FC is a Myanmar football club, founded in 2015 in the MNL-2 League.

The team gained the agreement by officials from Myanmar National League to change its name into Thanlyin FC.

The new name for the team will be officially used starting from the MPT Myanmar National League II season.

The MNL-2 is the sec-

ond-tier football league in Myanmar. The official name is MNL-2 League. The inaugural season has begun in 2013.

The MNL-2 was founded in 2013 as part of MFF’s effort to extend competitiveness into the nation’s football standard and the league is played in a league cup format.

The 2015 MNL-2 winner was Southern Myanmar and 1st runner-up was Horizon FC. In 2016 MNL-2 season, four new clubs were included and three clubs will be qualified to MNL-2. —KyawZin Lin ■

Moyes refuses to blame off-field incidents for defeat

LONDON — West Ham United manager David Moyes said that recent off-field problems at the club had nothing to do with Saturday’s 3-1 Premier League defeat at Brighton and Hove Albion. The London club sacked director of player recruitment Tony Henry on Friday following allegations of racial discrimination. According to a report in the Daily Mail newspaper, Henry said the club wanted to limit the number of African players in their squad as “they have a bad attitude” and “cause mayhem” when they are not in the team. Asked if the incident had a bearing on the result, Moyes said: “It had no effect whatsoever. ‘The club have done what they think they have to do and move on, and we have to. It’s always the manager’s job but I don’t think the events

would do that.” Henry’s sacking followed defender Arthur Masuaku’s six-match ban for spitting at an opponent during West Ham’s FA Cup defeat at Wigan Athletic last weekend. “Maybe that’s just West Ham, I don’t know,” Moyes added. “In management no day is ever dull. The job brings up some difficult situations and some strange ones.” Defeat at Brighton left West Ham in 12th on 27 points but just three points above the relegation zone in a congested bottom half of the table.

“When I took over we were in the bottom three so to be where we are now I’d have said ‘thanks very much’. We are still in a battle to stay up but it’s the same for other teams.” West Ham host Watford in their next league game on 10 February. —Reuters ■

Defender Stones in line for Man City return against Leicester

LONDON — Manchester City defender John Stones is in line to return for next weekend’s Premier League clash with Leicester City after missing Saturday’s draw at Burnley with a knee problem, manager Pep Guardiola said.

Stones, who missed last week’s 3-0 win over West Bromwich Albion with illness, was rested for the match at Turf Moor with skipper Vincent Kompany returning from a calf injury and new recruit Aymeric Laporte available as defensive cover. The England international has made 15 league appearances this season apart from featuring nine times in domestic cup competitions and the Champions League. “He



Manchester City's John Stones. PHOTO: REUTERS

(Stones) has a bit of a problem in the knee and I prefer for him to rest, to recover a bit,” Guardiola said. “It is a little bit painful... I decided not to use him, let him recover and come back better

against Leicester and Basel.” After the visit of eighth-placed Leicester, City return to Champions League action with a last 16 first leg clash at Swiss side Basel on 13 February. —Reuters ■