

■ NATIONAL

Prizes presented
at closing ceremony of
Children's Literature
Festival in Mandalay
▶ **PAGE 3**



■ NATIONAL

Legal advisor to
NLD assassinated at
Yangon airport
▶ **PAGE 3**



■ ARTICLE

Yangon
Sailing Club "Rater
Stay" Day
▶ **PAGE 8**

Vol. III, No. 289, 3rd Waxing of Pyatho 1378 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 30 January 2017

STATE COUNSELLOR: CHERRY TREES SYMBOL OF MYANMAR-JAPAN BOND, ALSO OF PEACE

STATE COUNSELLOR
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participated in a ceremonial planting of Japanese cherry blossom trees in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with the aim of promoting friendship between the peoples of Myanmar and Japan and to encourage future generations to embrace peace and promote good relations.

At the ceremony, she urged the peoples of both countries to consider the tree planting as cultivating, nurturing and strengthening the friendship between Japan and Myanmar and to highlight the need for peace in this country.

"The planting of cherry trees should be considered the symbol for supporting the peace process of Myanmar," she said.

The State Counsellor said that cherry trees are the symbol of friendship between Myanmar and Japan, and that the Japanese "are very fond of cherry flowers, which look quite beautiful, and that planting of cherry trees in Myanmar is meant to bring things of beauty to Myanmar, that cherry flower is a symbol of dramatic importance and that cherry flowers are truthfully blooming every

year but they are short-lived."

She went on to say that nevertheless, cherry flowers look elegant as long as they survive, and that they can, therefore, learn a lesson from the cherry flowers.

"Taking lessons from the cherry trees, people must make the environment beautiful as long as they are breathing. When making the environment beautiful, it is necessary for the environment to look beautiful both physically and psychologically," she added.

The State Counsellor said the cherry trees should also be a reminder of how all should take care of the environment. "However ephemeral our life is, we should bring benefit to our environment, the country we live in and the world we live in. Setting a value upon cherry flowers means setting a value upon such philosophies."

"There are always good things in a culture which we can share. Sharing of what ought to be shared is a grateful act."

She also expressed her hope that sharing will strengthen the spirit, by which humans communicate among themselves.

SEE PAGE 3 >>



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi plants a cherry tree in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MNA

Request to voters

1. The Union Election Commission conducted a door-to-door survey to compile a correct voters' list for vacant constituencies for the by-elections to be held on 1st April based on that of the General Election in 2015.
2. The compiled voters' lists will be announced on notice boards at ward/village tract submission offices and villages from 1-2-2017 to 14-2-2017. It is necessary for voters to check the lists so that correct and complete voters' lists are compiled.
3. Therefore, voters are urged to check the lists, to apply for inclusion of their names in the list with Form (3) if they are not included in the list, to object if someone who is eligible for voting is found in the list with Form (4), to submit corrections if any of the facts stated on list are wrong with Form (4) (C). All the forms are available free of charge at ward/village tract sub-commission offices. After such additions, rejections and amendments to the lists, the final lists of the eligible voters will be announced on 17 March.
4. At least one member in an eligible household are requested to check the eligible voters' list.

*Union Election Commission
(Unofficial Translation)*



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Myanmar to take part in Hamalia mountain range conservation project



MYANMAR will participate in a Hamalia mountain range conservation programme organised by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

As a member country, Myanmar has been invited by the ICIMOD to work together in implementing the programme with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, China and Bhutan. The preservation works will begin in 2018

under the five-year plan.

The new scheme will cover promotion of socio-economic status of mountain people, development of research and prevention of possible natural disasters caused by melting ice.

The Hamalia mountain range, which is the highest in South Asia, is famous for its unique natural beauty, eye soothing waterfalls, varieties of medicinal plants, different species of birds, reptiles, and wild animals.

The ICIMOD is a region-

al intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan – and based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Negotiations were made between the ministry and the ICIMOD earlier this month to promote collaboration in conducting research, eco-tourism development and disaster management.—200

9th Yangon Photo Festival on 3-19 March

THE NINTH Yangon Photo Festival will take place in March at major sites in Yangon with a wide range of programmes, according to organisers.

The organising body is now selecting suitable places for the photo festival, inviting all enthusiasts to come to the event free of charge, said one member.

Frontier photographs made

between 1918 and 1935 by James Henry Green, a British army officer and amateur photographer, will be part of the festival. This documentary work is a unique visual catalogue of early 20th century Myanmar and its exceptional ethnic diversity.

Works of photojournalists and professional photographers at home and abroad will also be

displayed during the festival.

Yangon Fashion 1979, the first showcase of images taken in late 1970s Yangon at Bellay Photo Studio give visitors a surprising insight into the fashion of 1970s Yangon, according to organisers.

Winning photographers of the festival will have an opportunity to pursue photography techniques in Europe.—200

Diverse species of plants to be grown in Ayeyawady Delta

A DIVERSE species of plants are planned to be grown in forest reserves in Ayeyawady Delta under the 10-year plan of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, said an official from the ministry.

A wide range of plants including mangroves such as *Heritiera fomes* and *Avicennia officinalis*, hardwood trees and teaks will be planted on over 50,000 acres of land in the forest reserves situated in Pyapon, Lubbata and Bogale townships in Ayeyawady Region between 2017 and 2026, according to the region forest department.

Funded by the Union government, mangrove trees will be developed on 2,800 acres of coastal lands while hardwood trees and teakwoods will be

planted on another 2,350 acres of lands in the target forest reserve, said U Thin Maung Than, director of the forest department (Ayeyawady).

He went on to say that the key purpose of the development of those plantations is to protect people from the risk of natural disasters by conserving forests, urging the public to actively participate in the programme to ensure its success.

The logging of teak and hardwoods was stopped in 2016 in the region to prevent deforestation and related forest problems. The forest department will resume its teak and hardwood production from forest reserves in Patheingyi and Hinthada districts this year in order to meet the country's demand, planning

to manufacture 9,000 tonnes of logs. There were over 100,000 acres of mangrove plantations in Ayeyawady Region Cyclone Nargis hit in 2008, destroying 60 per cent of the mangrove areas. Under the ministry's rehabilitation plan, 2,850 acres of mangrove forest have been developed in Kadonkani Forest Reserve in Bogale Township between 2013 and 2017, with the assistance of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

Currently, the region has 35 forest reserves, according to the forest department.

Different types of forests found in Myanmar include tropical evergreen forests, mixed deciduous forests, dry forests and deciduous dipterocarp forests.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Retaining walls to be built to develop Ayeyawady River in Sagaing and Mandalay

MANDALAY region government will build retaining walls to maintain the flow of the Ayeyawady River in Sagaing and Mandalay in 2018, it is learnt.

"ISAM Korea Company has been conducting final surveys to build retaining walls between Min Kun and Inwa over the next two years. The estimated cost of river maintenance is US\$106.3 million," said U Zarni Aung, minister for electrical power, energy and construction.

Final surveys for the pro-

ject will be made within 2017, with the project slated to start in 2018. Upon completion of the project, the flow of the river will be reconfigured.

"Currently, in the western part of Mandalay a sandbank has formed. The sandbank divides the river and the water flows into Sagaing and Mandalay.

So, we need to build the retaining walls between Min Kun and Inwa to maintain the waterway," he added.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Prevention and protection of violence against women and rape of children discussed in Myawady

PREVENTION and protection of violence against women and rape of children were discussed at the district general administration department, Myawady town, Myawady district, Kayin state on 27 January.

First, district women's affairs committee chairman district administrator U Lwin Ko Oo delivered the opening speech, saying that there are many cases of violence against women and rape of children across the coun-

try. He added that the educative talks and table discussions will be held down to the level of villages. Lastly, he said that he wanted all to co-operate in these activities.

Then, district social welfare department deputy director U Myint Zaw, members from district women's affair committee and Maternity and child welfare association, ward administrator, school heads and officials concerned attended the meeting.—*Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)*

70th Shan National Day to be celebrated in Yangon next month



69th Shan National Day is celebrated in Yangon. PHOTO: 200

THE 70th anniversary of Shan National Day will be celebrated at People's Park in Yangon on 7 February with several entertainment programmes, according to the event organising committee.

U Sai Aung Myint Khaing, secretary of the committee, said this year's celebration is scheduled to take place from 6 p.m. to 12 p.m. on the target date, planning to perform traditional dances and songs.

Food and clothing which reflect the cultural heritage of Shan ethnic people and related accessories will be put on display for sale through booths by Shan people residing in Yangon during the half-day event.

The 70th anniversary of Shan National Day will be celebrated not only in Yangon but

in every township across Shan State. Except for Yangon, townships in Shan State will hold celebrations for three days starting from 3 February.

The organisers say almost 10,000 people gathered at the celebration of the 69th anniversary of Shan National Day held last year at the same venue in Yangon.

Shan is one of the eight major ethnic groups in Myanmar. The state shares a border with China to the north, Laos to the east and Thailand to the south. Several ethnic groups also inhabit the area. The Shan people live primarily in Shan State, but they also inhabit some parts of the country including Yangon and Mandalay regions as well as Kachin and Kayin states.—200

Almost 100,000 people visit closing day of Children's Literature Festival in Mandalay



The Children's Literature Festival in Mandalay attracts about 100,000 visitors in Mandalay yesterday. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

NEARLY 100,000 people visited the Children's Literature Festival in Mandalay yesterday, the final day of the festival.

"It is the most crowded day of the festival and we felt it is worth organising the event," said U Maung Pe, Director General of the Information and Public Rela-

tions Department.

Book stalls sold books worth K24 million on the first day, Ks47 million on the second day and Ks40 million on the last day, when they had already sold out of almost all their books. — *Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

State Counsellor: Cherry trees symbol of Myanmar-Japan ...

>> FROM PAGE 1

The climate in Myanmar now is neither too cold nor too hot thus it is favourable for the growing of cherry trees. The State Counsellor said she hoped that was a good sign for ongoing negotiations.

"Our country is now on the path of peace. Building of peace sets a value on beauty, elegance, truth and peaceful co-existence. Building the path of peace based on the said values can lead us to the goal we desire straight away."

She continued to say that she believed all humans on this earth are desirous of, aspire for and value peace. "Only those who do not understand the meaning and value of peace do not set a value on peace and are not desirous of it," she said. "We should resort to different symbols to enable our citizens to appreciate the beauty of peace. As known to all, the little white

dove is the symbol of peace. The very beautiful cherry flower is also a symbol of peace and a means of communication between different cultures, teaching us how to build unity within diversity."

One thousand cherry trees from Japan are planned to be planted on both sides of Zawana Road from the Kyarpan roundabout to the Hluttaw Building and one hundred of them have been planted before two hundreds of them will be planted at each time between 2017 and 2019 and 300 of them will be planted in 2020.

At the ceremony, cherry trees were planted by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Te Khun Myat, union ministers, the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and the chairman of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw speaker receives Japanese guests

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker receives Myanmar-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Committee and Parliamentary Sakura Promotion Association of Japan HE Mr Ichiro Aisawa at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building yesterday morning.

They discussed promotion of friendship between the two parliaments, two governments and the two peoples in all sectors.

Also present were Vice Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with HE Mr Ichiro Aisawa in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Prizes presented at closing ceremony of Children's Literature Festival in Mandalay

THE closing ceremony of the Children's Literature Festival jointly organised by the Ministry of Information and the Mandalay Region Government was held at the Myanmar Information and Institutional Technology University in Chanmyatharzi Township in Mandalay yesterday.

At the ceremony, the regional minister for Shan Ethnic Affairs expressed his thanks for those who contributed to the success of the event.

Prizes were then presented to eight winners from public schools, monastic schools and private schools for each category of the event, including story-

telling, impromptu talks, paper folding contests and colouring contests at the high school, middle school and primary school levels.

Later, certificates of honour were presented to those who contributed to the success of the event. — *Tin Maung (Sub-printing House-Mandalay)*



The booth at the Children Literature Festival in Mandalay is crowded with children. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MDY)



U Ko Ni, a prominent legal advisor of the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) .

Legal advisor to NLD assassinated at Yangon airport

A PROMINENT legal advisor of the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) was gunned down at Yangon International Airport yesterday upon his arrival back from Indonesia after the conclusion of a leadership programme in Jakarta. The gunman also killed a taxi driver who had tried to detain him before he was arrested by police and bystanders.

U Ko Ni was shot in the head at close range on Sunday at

about 5pm as he was standing at the platform outside the airport after his return to Yangon from Indonesia, where he had attended the Senior Leadership Program in Jakarta and Maluku Province of Indonesia from 22 to 29 January.

Police and people nearby managed to arrest the gunman shortly after he killed U Ko Ni and U Nay Win, 42, the taxi driver. The taxi driver was shot in public and died on the way to

hospital.

The police said the name of the gunman is Kyi Lin, 53, of Maha Aungmyay Township, Mandalay. The Police seized one 9mm pistol and nine bullets and one five-barrel gun with four bullets from him. He is under interrogation in an ongoing investigation.

Officials on social media expressed their sadness and outrage upon hearing of the

assassination.

"A very dark day for Myanmar. Just hearing the incredibly tragic and upsetting news that U Ko Ni was just assassinated at Yangon airport," tweeted U Thant Myint-U, an advisor to Myanmar's president.

Pictures of a man said to be the suspect covered in blood wearing a pink shirt are being distributed widely on social media. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Indian PM's opponents join forces for key regional election

NEW DELHI — Two of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's main political opponents opened their joint campaign on Sunday to win a crucial election in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, which heads to the polls next month.

Home to 200 million people and India's most important region politically, Uttar Pradesh will help shape Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) chances of winning a second term in national elections in 2019.

The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and president of the Samajwadi Party, Akhilesh Yadav, and the vice-president of the Congress party, Rahul Gandhi, smiled and hugged for the cameras in a show of personal and political unity.

"We are going to fight united and we are going to defeat the BJP," Gandhi, 46, told reporters in the state capital, Lucknow, before the two headed off for their first campaign roadshow.

In Uttar Pradesh, a poor and agrarian state, people tend to vote along social and religious lines. With no one community dominant, political parties



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves towards the crowd as he leaves after attending the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, India on 26 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

struggle to win unless they can convince more than one social group to back them.

The alliance brings together two parties that have previously won a large share of Muslim voters. Muslims account for 19 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's population. Another party in the state, led by politician Mayawati, is also

wooing their vote.

BJP minister Mahesh Sharma said the Congress and Samajwadi party tie-up was a "desperate and opportunistic alliance".

Modi has invested huge political capital in winning Uttar Pradesh, holding a series of rallies and trumpeting the benefits of his controversial decision to abolish high-de-

nomination banknotes in November.

Congress, run by the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty that has ruled India for most of its existence, has watched its voter base shrink in recent years. The alliance offers it a chance for a limited comeback.

Akhilesh Yadav, 43, is a relatively popular leader and regarded as the mod-

ern face of his party after he triumphed in a bruising battle with his father for control of their party.

Voting in Uttar Pradesh begins on 11 February. The election is set to be the world's largest democratic exercise this year.

Four other Indian states also head to the polls, with results due on 11 March.—Reuters

Heavy snow disrupts traffic in NE China province

SHENYANG— Heavy snow has disrupted traffic in northeast China's Liaoning Province, local authorities said on Sunday.

The snowstorm started Saturday afternoon, the first day of the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival, and continued Sunday.

As of 9 am, 18 expressways in the province, including the section that links neighboring Jilin Province and part of the Beijing-Harbin Expressway, are either closed or restricted, according to the provincial department of transportation.

Most highway coach stations in Liaoning are also closed as a result of the snow. The local meteorological station forecast snow to continue in most parts of Liaoning throughout Sunday.—Xinhua

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editor

Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International News Editor

Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Local News Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

Advertising inquiry

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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.

Passengers wait for rescue at sea after Malaysian boat carrying Chinese tourists sinks

KUALA LUMPUR — A missing boat carrying Chinese tourists has been found sunken off Malaysia's Sabah state on North Borneo, and multiple survivors were reported drifting at sea waiting for rescue, China's consulate general's office in Kota Kinabalu said on Sunday.

The boat went missing on Saturday after sailing from Kota Kinabalu, the state capital, to Pulau Mengalum, a popular tourist island some 60 km to the west. Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said the boat was carrying 31 people, including 28 tourists from

China.

China's consulate office, citing reports from Malaysian authorities, said the boat has sunk in waters near Pulau Mengalum. The skipper and one of the crew left to look for help, while the passengers and the remaining crew member stayed to-

gether to wait for rescue.

The consulate office said the search and rescue operation was still ongoing. Malaysian authorities said earlier the joint rescue effort by the maritime enforcement agency, navy and airforce was hampered by bad weather.—Xinhua

Philippine troops kill 15 Islamic State supporters; rebel leader wounded

MANILA — Philippine soldiers killed 15 militants and seriously wounded their leader, believed to be the Islamic State's representative in the country, following air and artillery strikes in a southern province, a senior military official said on Sunday.

Isnilon Hapilon, also known as Abu Abdullah and a leader of the Philippine militant group Abu Sayyaf, might die as he needed immediate medical treatment, military chief General Eduardo Ano told reporters, citing intelligence and communications intercepts.

"He needs blood transfusion. Without proper medical treatment, he may die," Ano said.

Philippine forces on Thursday dropped bombs and fired shells at rebel positions in the mountains of Lanao del Sur in a bid to flush out Hapilon. The province is a stronghold of the Maute rebel group, which has also pledged allegiance to Islamic State. Hapilon is on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most wanted list for his role in the kidnapping of 17 Filipinos and three Americans in 2001 and carries a bounty of \$5 million.

One of those killed is an Indonesian but Ano said they were still "digging and doing more investigation" about the foreigner's background. Hapilon was with two other foreigners whose nationality was uncertain, he said. President Rodrigo Duterte appealed on Friday to the country's Muslim separatist groups to deny sanctuary to militants with links to Islamic State, warning a war would ensue that would put civilians in danger.

A day before he made the appeal, the defense minister said foreign intelligence

reports showed Hapilon was getting instructions from Islamic State to expand in the Philippines, in the strongest sign yet of links to the Middle Eastern militants.

Duterte has said he could no longer contain the extremist "contamination" and urged two Muslim separatist rebels groups — the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front — to rebuff Islamic State's advances. Ano said a firefight could be expected between soldiers and Hapilon's group following the strikes.—Reuters

Abe, Trump agree to hold summit on 10 February, affirm alliance importance

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump agreed during a telephone conversation Saturday to hold face-to-face talks on 10 February and affirmed the importance of bilateral ties, the Japanese and US governments said.

The leaders “affirmed in our phone conversation the importance of the Japan-US alliance in economic and security challenges,” Abe told reporters after the call.

And Trump “affirmed the ironclad US commitment to ensuring the security of Japan,” the White House press office said.

The talks on 10 February in Washington will be the first meeting between the Japanese and American leaders since Trump took office. The two held unofficial talks in New York last November shortly after Trump’s US presidential election victory.

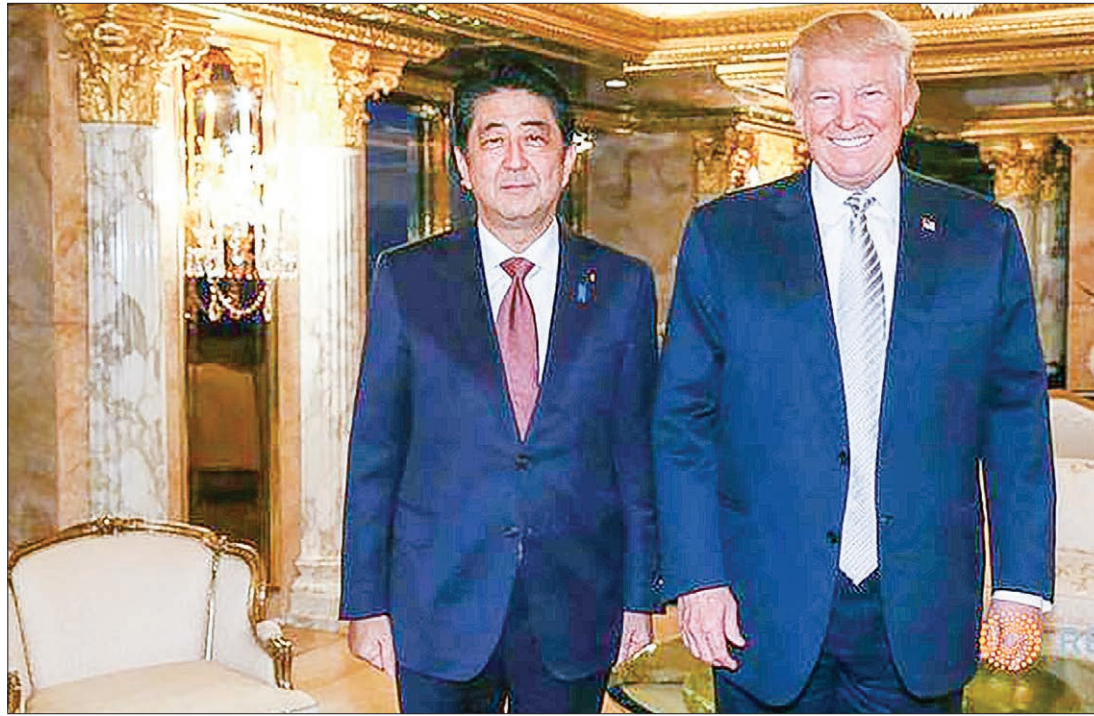
“I want us to have a frank exchange of views on the economy and security in our meeting,” Abe told reporters after speaking with Trump on Saturday for 42 minutes.

A Japanese government official quoted Abe as telling Trump that he “hopes the United States will become a greater country through (your) leadership,” adding Japan wants to “fulfill our role as your ally.”

Trump told Abe the United States considers Japan an extremely important partner, and feels the alliance between the countries is of high importance, the official said.

The two leaders also committed to deepening the bilateral trade and investment relationship, according to the White House.

During the call, Abe ex-



Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets with US President-elect Donald Trump (R) at Trump Tower in Manhattan, New York, US, on 17 November 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

plained to Trump the contributions of Japanese automakers to the US economy, the official said without elaborating, while another government source said Trump asked Abe to urge Japanese companies to create more jobs in the United States.

Since his inauguration, Trump has accused Japan of conducting trade practices in the automobile sector that are “not fair” to US companies. Trump administration threats to impose a 20 per cent tariff on various products made in Mexico and shipped to the United States could also adversely affect Japanese automobile and auto parts makers with plants there.

After Trump criticized Toyota Motor Corp this month for building a second vehicle assembly plant in Mexico, Japan’s biggest automaker quickly an-

nounced it would invest \$10 billion in its US operations over the next five years.

Trump and Abe did not specifically discuss the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal from which Trump withdrew the United States through an executive order this past week, according to a Japanese official.

Trump has said he favors bilateral deals over the TPP, which he called a “disaster” for the United States, while Abe has hailed both the TPP’s promised economic benefits and strategic importance in setting a fair standard for regional trade. China is not a signatory to the TPP.

The leaders also did not specifically discuss the possibility of negotiating a bilateral trade deal, the official said.

Abe indicated in the Diet

last week that Japan could pursue a free trade agreement or economic partnership agreement with the United States while still promoting the TPP.

While noting that Abe and Trump have “different approaches” on trade, the Japanese official said the two leaders will have a frank discussion about trade when they meet next month.

The leaders also discussed matters related to the security situation in East Asia, as well as US Defence Secretary James Mattis’ trip to Japan next week, the Japanese official said. Mattis will visit Japan on 3-4 February for talks with Japanese Defence Minister Tomomi Inada following a stop in South Korea. The White House quoted the leaders as saying they will “consult and cooperate” on the threat posed by North Korea.—Kyodo News

Japan, US defence chiefs to affirm bilateral pact covers Senkakus

TOKYO — The Japanese and US defence chiefs will reaffirm during their meeting this week that the countries’ security pact covers defense of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea that are administered by Japan and claimed by China, Japanese and US government sources said on Sunday.

With concern growing that Washington’s commitment could falter under President Donald Trump, Tokyo and Washington will seek to underline the robustness of the security alliance by confirming the Senkakus fall under Article 5 of the Japan-US security treaty, amid China’s growing maritime assertiveness in the region, the sources said.

The uninhabited islands, which are also claimed by Taiwan, have long been a major source of friction between Japan and China. China and Taiwan call the islands Diaoyu and Tiaoyutai, respectively.

US Defence Secretary James Mattis will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Friday and with Defense Minister Tomomi Inada on Saturday.

Abe is also set to meet with the US president in Washington on Feb. 10, their first meeting since Trump took office on 20 January. The two held unofficial talks in New York last November shortly after Trump won the US presidential election.

In 2014, Barack Obama became the first said US president to publicly state that the Senkakus fall under the security treaty.

Mattis is likely to maintain the Obama administration’s stance on China’s military buildup in disputed waters of the South China Sea and to affirm the strengthening of cooperation on ballistic missile defense to address North Korea’s nuclear and missile development, the sources said.

Last Wednesday, Trump’s nominee for secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, also reaffirmed the United States’ commitment to defending Japan.

“We’ve made a commitment to Japan in terms of a guarantee of their defense,” Tillerson said during his Senate confirmation hearing. Concern in Japan over ties with the United States has grown since Trump withdrew from the 12-country Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact, initiated by his predecessor and championed by Abe, and Trump’s accusation that Japanese trade practices in the automobile sector are “not fair” to US companies.—Kyodo News

Muslim-majority Indonesia deeply regrets US immigrant vetting plans

JAKARTA — Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said on Sunday the Muslim-majority nation deeply regrets President Donald Trump’s plans for “extreme vetting” of people from some Muslim countries entering the United States under new immigration orders.

In a far-reaching order that caused chaos and confusion after it was signed late on Friday, Trump put a four-month hold on allowing refugees into the United States and temporarily barred travellers from Syria and six other Muslim-majority countries.

Indonesia, which has the world’s largest Muslim population, is not among the seven nations whose citizens face

restrictions. However, when asked about Trump’s plans for “extreme vetting”, Marsudi said in social media message sent to Reuters: “We have deep regrets about the policy.”

In December 2015, Trump called for a ban on all Muslims entering the United States. The idea drew fire for suggesting a religious test for immigrants that critics said would violate the US Constitution and later evolved into a proposal for “extreme vetting”.

Most of Indonesia’s 220 million Muslims practise a moderate form of Islam, although the country has some vocal Islamist groups and has suffered in the past from attacks by militants.

Indonesia has close rela-

tions with the United States and many of its citizens think highly of former US President Barack Obama, who spent part of his childhood in Jakarta.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo said after Trump’s inauguration he was optimistic that relations between the countries would strengthen, to the benefit of both.

Foreign Minister Marsudi said Indonesians seeking visas to go the United States had not faced any problems so far. She said there were “hundreds of thousands” of Indonesians in the United States.

A statement on the website of the Indonesian embassy in Washington (<http://bit.ly/2kd-BJs1>) urged its citizens in the United States to stay calm, but

keep vigilant.

It said Indonesian citizens should respect US laws and help ensure public order in their neighbourhoods, but also that they should understand their rights in case of any issues and directed them to the website of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). (www.aclu.org).

The ACLU sought and won a temporary stay on Trump’s order to restrict travellers with passports from Syria, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Trump told reporters in the White House’s Oval Office on Saturday that his order was “not a Muslim ban” and said the measures were long overdue.—Reuters

Trump talks to Putin, other world leaders about security



US President Donald Trump (L-R), joined by Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, Vice President Mike Pence, senior advisor Steve Bannon, Communications Director Sean Spicer and National Security Advisor Michael Flynn, speaks by phone with Russia's President Vladimir Putin in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, US on 28 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump discussed Syria and the fight against Islamic State with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday in one of several calls with world leaders that the new US president used to put his stamp on international affairs.

Trump's call with Putin was their first since the New York businessman took office and came as officials said he was considering lifting sanctions on Moscow despite opposition from Democrats and Republicans at home and European allies abroad.

Neither the White House nor the Kremlin mentioned a discussion of sanctions in their statements about the roughly hour-long call.

"The positive call was a significant start to improving the relationship between the United States and Russia that is in need of repair," the White House said. "Both President Trump and President Putin are hopeful that after today's call the two sides can move quickly to tackle terrorism and other important issues of mutual concern."

Former President Barack Obama strongly suggested in December that Putin personally authorized the computer hacks

of Democratic Party emails that US intelligence officials say were part of a Russian effort aimed at helping Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton in the 8 November election.

Trump's relationship with Russia is being closely watched by the European Union, which teamed up with the United States to punish Moscow after its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

Trump spoke to two top EU leaders, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande, on Saturday in addition to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

His call with Merkel, who had a very close relationship with Trump's predecessor, former President Barack Obama, included a discussion about Russia, the Ukraine crisis, and NATO, the US and German governments said.

Trump has described NATO as being obsolete, a comment that has alarmed long-time US allies. A White House statement said he and Merkel agreed NATO must be capable of confronting "21st century threats."

Trump's executive order

restricting travel and instituting "extreme vetting" of visitors from seven Muslim-majority countries already puts him at odds with Merkel, whose embrace of Syrian refugees was praised by Obama even as it created political problems for her domestically.

Trump has said previously that Merkel made a "catastrophic mistake" by permitting more than a million refugees, mostly Muslims fleeing war in the Middle East, to come to her country.

In his call with Hollande, Trump "reaffirmed the US commitment to NATO and noted the importance of all NATO allies sharing the burden on defence spending," the White House said.

Hollande warned Trump against taking a protectionist approach, which he said would have economic and political consequences, according to a statement from the French president's office.

The refugee order created confusion and chaotic scenes in airports on Saturday and largely overshadowed the news of Trump's calls with foreign leaders, which took place throughout the day and which photographers captured in photos and video outside the Oval Office.—Reuters

British PM May says does not agree with Trump on immigration

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May said on Saturday Britain did not agree with "this kind of approach" on US President Donald Trump's curbs on immigration into the United States.

May had been criticised by lawmakers in her ruling Conservative Party for not condemning

Trump's decision to put a four-month hold on allowing refugees into the United States and temporarily barring travellers from Syria and six other Muslim-majority countries.

Her spokesman said: "Immigration policy in the United States is a matter for the government of the United States, just the same as

immigration policy for this country should be set by our government." "But we do not agree with this kind of approach and it is not one we will be taking. We are studying this new executive order to see what it means and what the legal effects are, and in particular what the consequences are for UK nationals." —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Merkel critical of US immigration ban, spokesman tells Spiegel

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel has criticised a new US travel ban on people from seven Muslim-majority countries, the online site of German newsmagazine Der Spiegel reported on Sunday.

"She is convinced that even the necessary, decisive battle against terrorism does not justify putting people of a specific background or faith under general suspicion," Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, told the magazine.

US President Donald Trump on Friday ordered a four-month hold on allowing refugees into the United States and temporarily banned travelers from Syria and six other predominantly-Muslim countries. —Reuters

Americans with Iran visas welcome to enter country-foreign minister

DUBAI — Americans who already hold Iranian visas can enter the country, Iran's foreign minister said on Sunday, even though Tehran has vowed to respond in kind to a US ban on visitors from Iran and six other Muslim countries ordered by President Donald Trump.

"Unlike the US, our decision is not retroactive. All with valid Iranian visa will be gladly welcomed," Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Twitter. —Reuters

Iraq to lobby against US travel curbs to preserve cooperation against Islamic State

BAGHDAD — Iraq plans to lobby the US administration to mitigate the impact of the new travel curbs on Iraqis, to preserve cooperation in the war on Islamic State, two members of parliament, who declined to be identified, said on Sunday.

The Iraqi government has so far declined to comment on the executive order signed by US President Donald Trump on Friday, which suspends the entry of travelers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for at least 90 days.—Reuters

Iraq Shi'ite paramilitary calls for ban on US nationals

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Popular Mobilization on Sunday called on the Iraqi government to ban US nationals from entering Iraq and to expel those who are already in the country, in a reaction to the new US travel curbs on Iraqis.

Popular Mobilization is mainly a coalition of Shi'ite paramilitary groups armed and trained by Iran to fight Islamic State. It became an Iraqi government-approved body last year.

The call to ban US nationals came in a statement published by its spokesman, Ahmed al-Assadi.—Reuters

Airlines in Cairo asked to implement Trump travel ban — EgyptAir official

CAIRO — Airlines operating at Cairo airport were officially requested on Sunday to prevent US immigration visa holders from seven Muslim-majority countries from boarding flights to the United States, Hossam Hussein, an EgyptAir official, said.

Hussein, who is responsible for EgyptAir's daily flight to New York, said authorities there had notified them hours earlier of the new restrictions.

He said green card holders from Sudan, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Somalia and Libya would be allowed to board as would holders of diplomatic passports or government officials.—Reuters

Germany's SPD leaders nominate Schulz as chancellor candidate — sources

BERLIN — Leaders of Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD) on Sunday unanimously nominated former European Parliament President Martin Schulz to run against conservative Angela Merkel in a national election in September, sources familiar with the decision said.

The decision is to be formalised at a special party conference to be held on 19 March, the sources told Reuters.—Reuters

Ex-Panama dictator Noriega let out of prison for brain surgery

PANAMA CITY—Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega has been released from prison for three months to have surgery to remove a brain tumor, his lawyer said on Saturday.

Noriega, who ruled Panama from 1983 to 1989, left prison under heavy police guard to undergo treatment ahead of the surgery planned for 15 February, and was taken to the apartment of one of his daughters in an upscale part of Panama City.

His defence lawyer, Ezra Angel, said judicial authorities had granted 82-year-old Noriega a period of home arrest until 28 April to go through with the operation. Afterwards an assessment will be made on whether he should return to prison or recover outside, judge Katerin Pitti said.

Noriega, who is serving time for murder, was initially sentenced in the United States in 1992.—*Reuters*



Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega sits in a wheelchair as prison wardens help him after a health check up at the facilities of the Public Ministry in Panama City, Panama, on 22 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Local Taliban leader surrenders to government in northern Afghan province

KUNDUZ, (Afghanistan) — A Taliban local leader together with five comrades have surrendered to government in Afghanistan's northern province of Kunduz, a local official said on Sunday.

"Payyenda Mohammad after understanding the truth about the situation of his country defected the Taliban ranks and surrendered to provincial branch of National Directorate of Security (NDS) late Saturday," a NDS official told Xinhua on the condition of anonymity.

The NDS is the national intelligence agency of the country.

The surrendered man was leading a group of Taliban militants in Dasht-e-Archi district of the province, according to the official.

"Mohammad took the decision after founding the high-ranking leaders of the Taliban insurgent group have made contacts with the Russia recently," the source said.

Some Taliban members or their fathers were involved in fighting against former Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 to 1989.

The source also noted several hundreds of Taliban members would join the government-initiated peace and reconciliation process in near future in the province, bordering Tajikistan.—*Xinhua*

Alleged US raid in Yemen kills 30 Qaeda members, civilians

SANAA — Helicopter-borne commandoes launched a raid in southern Yemen at dawn on Sunday that killed around 30 people including al Qaeda suspects and civilians, residents and local officials told Reuters.

Residents and officials as well as al Qaeda itself said the attack was carried out by the United States, which did not immediately acknowledge the operation.

The gunbattle in the rural Yakla district of al-Bayda province killed a senior leader in Yemen's al Qaeda branch, Abdulraoof al-Dhahab, along with other militants, the local witnesses said.

Medics at the scene said 30 people were killed, including 10 women and three children.

If confirmed, the raid would be the first in the country by the American military since Yemen descended into civil war nearly two years ago. It would also be the first such operation during Donald Trump's presidency.

In a message on its official Telegram account, al Qaeda mourned al-Dhahab as a "holy warrior" and other slain militants, without specifying how many of its fighters were killed.

"The operation began at dawn when a drone bombed the home of Abdulraoof al-Dhahab and then helicopters flew up and unloaded paratroopers at his house and killed everyone inside," one resident said, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Next, the gunmen opened fire at the US soldiers who left the area, and the helicopters bombed the gunmen and a number of homes and led to a large number of casualties."

A Yemeni security officer and a local official corroborated that account. Fahd, a local resident who asked that only his first name be used, said several bodies remained under debris and that houses and the local mosque were damaged in the attack.

US special forces attempted to rescue an American and a South African hostage held by al Qaeda in another part of the country in December 2014. The captives were killed in the subsequent firefight.—*Reuters*

US special forces attempted to rescue an American and a South African hostage held by al Qaeda in another part of the country in December 2014. The captives were killed in the subsequent firefight.—*Reuters*

Chaos, anger as Trump order halts some Muslim immigrants

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK — President Donald Trump's order to restrict people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States sparked confusion and anger on Saturday after immigrants and refugees were kept off flights and left stranded in airports.

In his most sweeping decision since taking office a week ago, Trump, a Republican, put a four-month hold on allowing refugees into the United States and temporarily barred travellers from Syria and six other countries.

Civil rights and faith groups, activists and Democratic politicians were furious and vowed to fight the order.

Capping a day of confusion and chaos and protests in several airports across the country, a federal judge in Brooklyn, New York, granted a temporary reprieve. The American Civil Liberties Union successfully argued



The last group of travelers allowed through the security checkpoint inside Terminal 4 at San Francisco International Airport before police block the security check point off completely in San Francisco, California, US, on 28 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

for a temporary stay that allowed detained travellers to stay in the United States.

Supporters outside the Brooklyn courtroom and at protests at airports in Dallas, Chicago, New York and elsewhere cheered the decision, but a bigger fight lay ahead.

The court action does not reverse Trump's order, which was criticized by some of America's

closest allies.

Trump, a businessman who successfully tapped into American fears about terror attacks during his campaign, had promised what he called "extreme vetting" of immigrants and refugees from areas the White House said the US Congress deemed to be high risk.

He told reporters in the White House's Oval Office on Saturday that his order was "not a Muslim ban" and said the measures were long overdue.

"It's working out very nicely. You see it at the airports, you see it all over," Trump said.

Along with Syria, the ban affects travellers with passports from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The Department of Homeland Security said about 375 travellers had been affected by the order, 109 of whom were in transit and were denied entry to the United States. Another 173

were stopped by airlines before boarding.

The order "affects a minor portion of international travellers," the department said in a statement, saying the measures "inconvenienced" less than 1 per cent of travellers.

The new rules blindsided people in transit and families waiting for them, and caused havoc for businesses with employees holding passports from the targeted nations and colleges with international students.

Pegah Rahmani, 25, waited at Washington's Dulles airport for several hours for her grandparents, both Iranian citizens with US green cards. "They weren't treating them very well," she said.

Rahmani's grandfather is 88 and legally blind. Her grandmother is 83 and recently had a stroke. They were released to loud cheers and cries.—*Reuters*

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.

Carelessness and drunk-driving claim invaluable lives

Khin Maung Oo

EVERY individual loves his or her life, by nature. There is a saying that death cannot be stopped by anyone or anything. By judgment and precaution, however, we can protect ourselves from danger and sometimes from death. As the Myanmar saying goes, "There are some forces guiding us—our lives and our belongings—destiny and fate on properties and precautionary deeds and judgment over our lives." Outbreaks of epidemic, pandemic and endemic diseases are killing millions of people every year in the world, due to insufficiency of medicines, lack of skilled medical staff, and inaccessibility to reach disease-affected areas. Although we know that being equipped with these necessities will be able to solve our problems, still many patients and victims are subject to destiny and fate. These prob-

lems cannot be dealt with by individual efforts only, except for long-term collective efforts.

In Myanmar, according to "Real time traffic accident statistics," there were 90502 persons killed in traffic accidents in 2016. A total of 2229 persons were killed by road accidents in the first half of 2016, with 12018 injured in connection with 7348 cases of car accidents. A total of 387 persons were claimed in car accidents in May alone, with Yangon Region ranked as the highest place, followed by Bago Region. It is learnt that 4233 persons died in 15406 accidents with 25614 injured.

We—the bereaved, cannot imagine and dare not think about how much suffering victims experienced in such accidents. Yet, we are all well convinced that these accidents are attributed to failure of drivers to abide by traffic rules and

for passers-by to follow road disciplines. In fact, passengers entrust their lives to the drivers once they get on board. Knowing this point, drivers should not neglect traffic rules, even for a moment. Every driver is always required to maintain their car so that there cannot be any mechanical faults found on the way. We use vehicles to reach our destination easily and conveniently, not for getting there as quickly as we can. Cars driven at deadly speed will lead us to our last days. Every driver needs to know not only about the car but also about the road and traffic rules. Pot-holes, turning points, curbstones and any hard solid substances dropped from one of the vehicles ahead can cause dangers for drivers driving behind. Likewise, jay-walkers and herding cattle on roads can cause dangerous traffic accidents.

Some people emphasize that driving while drunk is a notorious death sentence. A driver under the influence of alcohol, any kind of intoxicants or drugs can do stupid things. At that time, he is likely to lose many senses—awareness, depth of perception, stability, judgment and vision. If so, he, or rather passengers will be on the wrong side of fate. If car drivers are found to be drunk while driving after being tested with a "breathalyzer", he should not be allowed to go and he needs to be arrested and prevented from driving for a period of time so that they will learn to abide by the law. At the same time, passengers need to be educated to inform the situation to authorities concerned if they happen to get into a car with a drunken driver at the wheel.

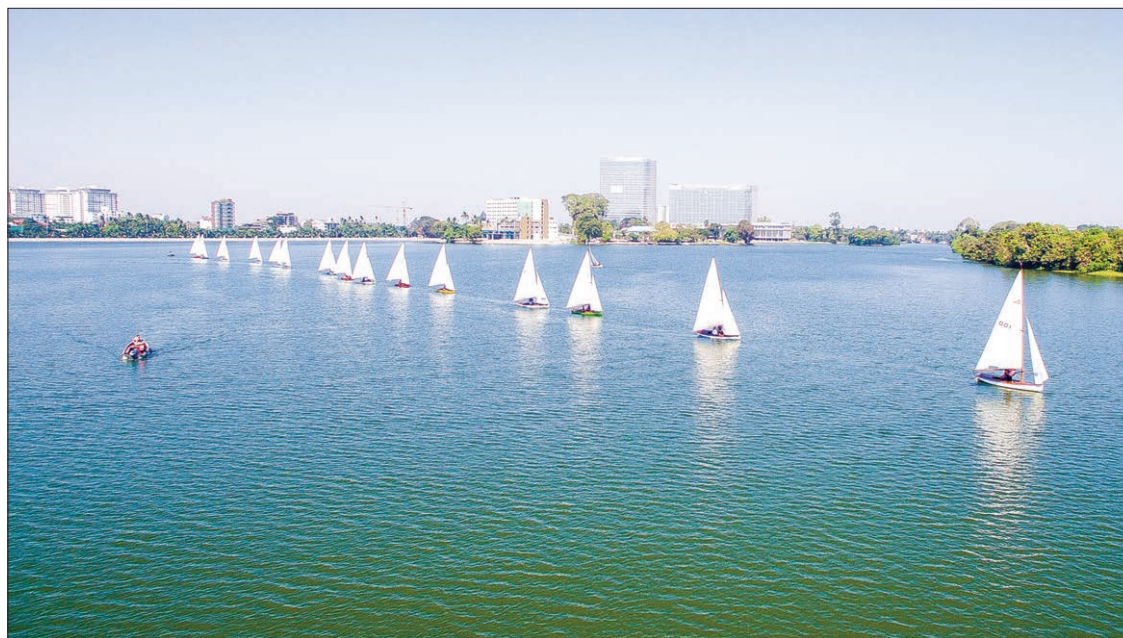
These days, the more we drive, the more dangerous it is for us.

YANGON SAILING CLUB "RATER STAY" DAY

U Tint Swe

IT was a beautiful day and a beautiful Sailing event at the Yangon Sailing Club on Inya Lake. On all Sailors of the classic Rater Class sailboats met and sailed around the lake in a procession, which was led by the Commodore of the Club. This was a first on the lake and was named 'Rater Stay' by the Clubs Captain of Boats. For readers who are not familiar with Yangon Sailing Club or Raters, the wording "Rater Stay" might be confusing, therefore we include a brief history and explanation.

The Yangon Sailing Club, a jewel of a Club, is situated on Inya Lake in the heart of Yangon, Myanmar. Historically, the Yangon Sailing Club was founded by a group of sailing enthusiasts who met at the house of a Mr. D. F. Thomas on Inya Lake back in 1924 and enjoyed sailing and socializing. As this became more popular, the land where the present Club is located was acquired and the Club officially formed in 1925. The Club was always quite active except for the period during the Second World War when Japanese occupied Myanmar. By 1940, the Club had about 20 Raters, plus a number of 10 ft and 15 ft dinghies. The Raters were and still are the backbone of the sailing fraternity and traditionally, were owned, outfitted and equipped by private owners. After 1961, the Raters were purchased by the Club and since that time, have been chartered (in other



words, leased) to senior and experienced sailors.

The Rater, as it is called, is based on the Linton Hope designed Half-Rater. This boat was built for a Mr. H.C. Tower and the original boat was named "Black Cap". Thus, the boat also became known as the Black Cap Rater. Initially, 8 boats based on the "Black Cap" design were procured and shipped from Cochin, India to Yangon, Myanmar. As the Club as well as Rater sailing became more popular, additional boats were built in Yangon following the lines and construction detail of the original boats. During the Second World War, most of the Raters were sunk in Inya Lake by their owners with the intent to prevent them from being exploited or destroyed by the Jap-

anese occupying forces. It was only after the war that these boats were found, raised, and returned to their owners. A total of twelve Raters were salvaged whereby some of them were in very bad condition or even beyond repair. In addition, the Clubhouse was destroyed.

In June 1945, all the original Club members gathered to decide if it would be worthwhile to rebuild the Clubhouse and start repairing the boats. With much enthusiasm, the vote was a clear "yes" and they started immediately to rebuild the Clubhouse. On 1st September 1945, a formal meeting of all the Club members was called during which the Club's Bye-Laws were drafted and approved. It is worth noting that the original Club Bye-Laws

from this time, with the exception of some minor changes, are still in full effect at the Club today. Major General Symes was elected as the Club's first Commodore and Peter Waine was elected as Captain of Boats and was tasked to repair all boats and to extend the fleet as applicable. Peter Waine's immense efforts in this regard were rewarded by the Club and an Honorary Life Membership was granted to him when he had to return back to England. When he arrived there, he was so enthusiastic about the Raters that he searched all over England for the original "Black Cap" Rater (mentioned earlier in this article). Indeed he found the boat, but like the Raters in Yangon immediately following the Second World War, it was in very bad shape and

needed significant repairs. After restoring the "Black Cap", he sailed the boat all over England and even at sea. When he finally retired from sailing in 1983, he donated the boat to the famous Maritime Museum in Greenwich, United Kingdom where it still remains today.

The Yangon Sailing Club has not only been an active sailing fraternity, but also a place for many social engagements of families and friends whereby this tradition has been maintained up to the present day. Besides the weekly Club races and main regattas held by the Club locally, there has always been a tradition of participating in International events, especially in the 1950s and early 60s. There was a strong international showing by Myanmar in 1956 Melbourne Olympics in Australia and Rome in the Olympic Games in 1960. The Myanmar Olympic Sailing Team at both events were led by Commander U Khin Pe Gyi, who was the first Myanmar national to become the Commodore of the Yangon Sailing Club.

The 2nd SEA Games was hosted by Myanmar whereby the sailing event was held in Ngapali Beach. At the time, Myanmar was the first country to introduce the sport of sailing at the SEA Games and the Rater was one of the main classes raced during the competition. Myanmar won two gold medals in the sailing event at the time, one being in the Rater Class.

See page 9 >>

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects farms in Central Command

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the agricultural and livestock breeding farm of the Central Command yesterday morning.

Officers reported to the senior general on breeding of Novogen brown chickens through Evap Type and many others livestock breeding and agriculture methods, before inspecting mushroom farm, pig breeding farms. —Myanmar News Agency



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the piggery of the Central Command. PHOTO: MNA

Charities offer free operations to correct cleft lips, palates

A CLEFT and palate repair surgery will be performed free of charge in target regions and a state next month to treat people's broken smiles, according to Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, a local philanthropic organisation.

The free surgical care will be organised by the Ministry of Health and Sports with the support of the Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation and Smile Asia Medical Mission.

Between 3 and 10 February, the organisations will carry out medical operations on patients with congenital cleft

lips and palates in Mandalay, southern Shan State and Kayah State.

The free healthcare activity aims to provide a better life to people with congenital facial deformities and to reduce the treatment gap in the country. According to estimates based on Central Women's Hospital records, between 6,000 and 8,000 children in the country are born with cleft lips and cleft palates every year.

The foundation will support transportation, accommodation and food for the patients. People who are in need of help may contact 09 420 476 875 and

09 472 329 822 for registration.

Cleft lips and palate are facial and oral malformations that occur very early in pregnancy. It is the most common birth defect. The condition causes difficulty in eating, breathing and speaking.

According to a study, the diseases are congenital defects affecting one in 700 people. More than 170,000 children worldwide are born with cleft lip, palate or both each year.

Cleft lips and cleft palates are commonly found in children from families with low socioeconomic status, mostly from the country's remote areas.—200

Martial arts demonstrations in Myitkyina prior to 70th Union day

MYANMAR traditional martial arts skill demonstrations will be held in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, to mark the 70th anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February.

The demonstrations are scheduled to be staged at basic education high schools in downtown Myitkyina with the purpose of promoting and developing the national spirit of the younger generation.

The events will be organised by the Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association (MANA) and Shan

Literature and Culture Committee (Pamatee).

The traditional self-defence techniques will be performed by more than ten fighters during the demonstrations at the target schools.

Based on culture and people living in states and regions, Myanmar's martial arts are diverse. Bando (Animal system or free-hands system), Banshay (arts of the sword, staff and spear), Lepwei (boxing) and Naban (wrestling) are included in the main categories of traditional martial arts.—200

Land leased to foreigners damaged

THE cultivation lands leased to the foreigners are found to be infertile because of use of chemical fertilizers from China. The plots of land leased to the foreigners to grow chili last year were all destroyed, and crops cannot be grown. The plots of land are situated beside the creek in Hswar town, Yedashe township, Bago region, said a local farmer.

"We grow the paddy in the raining season. But, we just get back the seed. Now, we grow the beans but it is a failure. Whatever we cultivate, the seeds fail to grow because the soil layers are destroyed," he added.

Foreigners were granted to lease the land to grow the chili.

They spent over Ks 170 million to register the patent right for their chili species in China. Then, they used the chemical fertilizers which were directly imported from China. We are difficult to say the potency of the fertilizers. But, their fertilizers should be more potent than the fertilizers we are using, said a local grower who grows the chili for the foreigners.

"The lands are destroyed because of their fertilizer. We have to wait for two years to get back the original soil. Local farmers lease land this year again. But, they did not do so because the land was Ks 0.6 million per acre, he added.—Ko Lwin (Swar)

YANGON SAILING CLUB "RATER STAY" DAY

>> from page 8

In 2013, Myanmar again hosted the SEA Games whereby the sailing event was held at Ngwe Saung Yacht Club located in Ngwe Saung Beach. In honor of the history of Myanmar introducing sailing to the SEA Games and the Rater being one of the Classes then, the President of the Myanmar Yachting Federation, who himself is a Rater Charterer and Life Member of the Club, proposed to all participating nations if they would agree to sail the Rater Class again in memory to all Sailors who participated in the 2nd SEA Games. All nations agreed to honor the tradition and brand new Raters were built specifically for the 27th SEA Games using the craftsmanship and experience of the Yangon Sailing Club boats department foremen and carpenters. The traditional lines of the Raters were kept, however, due to new international safety regulations, some changes were implemented to improve the boats buoyancy as well as ability to be 'uprighted' and continued to be raced by the sailors themselves in the event of a capsize. The 27th SEA Games was a

very successful and memorable event (the last time it Myanmar had the opportunity to play host was over 50 years ago) whereby Myanmar won the Gold medal again in the Rater Class, with Thailand winning silver and Singapore winning bronze.

Raters continue to be sailed frequently during the year and remain the backbone for sailing at the Yangon Sailing Club. The racing involves regatta type series races, monthly challenge cup races (once a month), outright cup races (on special public holidays), and not to forget, the moonlight sailing races hosted once a month during the full moon. The moonlight races are literally sailed at night with only the moonlight providing light to guide the sailors and their crews. Moonlight sailing is certainly more geared towards families and loved ones also getting on the water and has a huge social aspect. Some Rater Sailors simply take out their boats on their own or with their families just to enjoy being on the beautiful lake without the pressure of racing.

There is a long history, tradition, and love for the Raters in the

Yangon Sailing Club which resulted in what is now called the "Rater Stay" day. The name was simply created by the fact that whatever happens, "Rater Stay". The English come, the English go, the "Rater Stay". Commodores come, Commodores go, "Rater stay". Members come, Members go, "Rater Stay". Foreigners come, Foreigners go, "Rater Stay". Hardly all existing Raters are sailed at the same time, since some Sailors might be busy during scheduled races days, or some boats may be dry-docked and undergoing refurbishment works in order to keep them in pristine condition as good seamanship requires. As a result, the Rater Fleet Captain, Captain Holger Rolfs, himself a devoted and passionate Rater Sailor, asked for permission from the Club Committee to organize a day where it would be compulsory that all Raters have to sail. The main intent was to honor all Rater Sailors, who since 1924, put their love and efforts towards keeping the Rater Class alive.

The Club Committee unanimously approved the request. On the actual "Rater Stay" day, a

skipper's meeting was held in the morning whereby it was decided to sail the boats in an "orderly manner", similar to a procession. The Commodore with sail number "1" would lead the Rater Fleet, with all other Raters following respectively with their sequence sail number in a distance of about two boat lengths, which resulted in an impressive long line of Raters sailing in Inya Lake. A Rater is of course driven by the wind and has no brakes like a car, therefore keeping the line formed required very good sailing skills. It was certainly very challenging at times for the Sailors to maintain their exact position due to the constantly shifting wind and changes in pressure, however, not impossible whereby the attempt was completed successfully. Last, prior to returning to shore, it was decided that all Raters will do a so called "Pass-by", which at some Clubs sailing is still a common tradition undertaken once a year. The Commodore's Rater was moored and all other Raters would form a single file line to Pass-by and show their respect and honor the Commodores for his leadership during his

time of service. Upon immediately approaching the Commodore's Rater, sailors on other Raters would remove their hats, bow, and wave at the Commodore, and some adding a "thank you Commodore" in full view of the Club members who also attended the event, however, remained onshore. The event was wrapped up with an appropriate ending involving all Rater Sailors gathering to start with what in the Club is called "Bar Sailing", a phrase invented for Club members who are either afraid to sail or don't do sailing for health or other personal reasons. Former Rater Sailors were invited whereby everybody enjoyed the drinks as well as the BBQ prepared by the Boats Department. All Rater Sailors decided to maintain the event as a tradition of the Club which is to be repeated every year going forward and held during the month of and prior to the Club Annual General Meeting.

U Tint Swe
Sr. Management Advisor (SMA)
MPRL E&P Pte Ltd.
"Build through Excellence -
Lead with Integrity"

US economy slows on wider trade gap; business spending rises

WASHINGTON — US economic growth slowed sharply in the fourth quarter as a plunge in shipments of soybeans weighed on exports, but steady consumer spending and rising business investment pointed to sustained strength in domestic demand.

Gross domestic product increased at a 1.9 per cent annual rate, the Commerce Department said on Friday in its first estimate of fourth-quarter GDP. The economy grew at a 3.5 per cent annual rate in the third quarter.

The slowdown masked a surge in home building spending and a rebound in business investment on equipment after four straight quarterly declines.

The economy expanded 1.6 per cent for all of 2016, the worst performance since 2011, as it struggled with weak oil prices, a strong dollar and efforts by businesses to reduce a large inventory overhang.

US President Donald Trump vowed during last year's election campaign to deliver 4 per cent annual GDP growth, largely on the back of a plan to cut taxes, reduce regulations and increase infrastructure spending.

"The details of the report were



Shipping containers are seen at the Port Newark Container Terminal near New York City on 2 July, 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

quite sound. The US economic expansion got its mojo back and the momentum appears to be carrying over into 2017," said Scott Anderson, chief economist at Bank of the West in San Francisco.

A measure of private domestic demand increased at a 2.8 per cent

rate last quarter. Economic growth in the third quarter was driven in part by an outsized jump in soybean exports.

Excluding soybeans, GDP increased at about a 2.7 per cent rate in both the third and fourth quarters, according to analysts. Econ-

omists polled by Reuters had forecast GDP rising at a 2.2 per cent rate in the fourth quarter.

In the first half of 2016, weak corporate profits because of cheaper oil and the robust dollar undercut business spending. The inventory correction resulted in companies

placing fewer orders with manufacturers. The economy grew 2.6 per cent in 2015. With oil prices rising and global demand picking up, the economy appears set for continued expansion. A labour market at or near full employment also is starting to lift wages and is supporting consumer spending.

Although Trump has offered little detail on his economic policy, his promises have been embraced by consumers, businesses and investors. Consumer and business confidence have soared, while the US stock market has rallied to record highs.

A separate report on Friday showed consumer sentiment hitting a 13-year high in January.

"While the size and the timing of the tax cut, infrastructure spending and regulatory rollback are uncertain, economic growth could double during the second half of the year," said Sung Won Sohn, an economics professor at California State University Channel Islands in Camarillo.

But uncertainty over the Trump administration's trade policy and sustained dollar strength pose a risk to the economy.—Reuters

German watchdog suspected VW scam on CO2 emissions: report

BERLIN — Germany's motor industry watchdog raised suspicions Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE) was using prototype vehicles to lower carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in tests in 2015 soon after VW's manipulation of diesel emissions tests was uncovered, the Berliner Zeitung newspaper reported on Saturday.

It quoted the Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA) as telling VW in a November 2015 email it would choose test models randomly and appoint new external experts to carry out testing because of doubts about the independence of the company's CO2 testing regime. "VW has to give a declaration that they (vehicles submitted to tests) comply with standards for serial production models and were

not subject to change in any way," the newspaper quoted the KBA's email as saying. There was no immediate comment from a VW spokesman. The German Transport Ministry, which is home to the KBA, declined to comment as its investigation into CO2 emission tests is not concluded yet, a spokesman said. It was not clear in Saturday's report whether the KBA remains concerned about the transparency of VW's CO2 emissions tests. VW admitted in November 2015 that besides rigging diesel emissions tests it had understated the fuel consumption and CO2 emissions of about 800,000 vehicles. It then announced a month later that follow-up tests had shown the CO2 irregularities affected less than 40,000 cars.—Reuters



The Volkswagen logo is seen at the company's display during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, US, on 10 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

US tech leaders sound alarm over Trump immigration order

SAN FRANCISCO — The US technology industry, a major employer of foreign workers, hit back on Saturday at President Donald Trump's sudden executive order on immigration, with some leaders calling it immoral and un-American.

Trump's order temporarily bars citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries from entering the United States even if they hold valid visas or permanent residence permits, a move that caught many companies off-guard.

Netflix Inc Chief Executive Reed Hastings called it "a sad week" and added: "It is time to link arms together to protect American values of freedom and opportunity."

Apple Inc CEO Tim Cook sent a letter to employees saying Trump's order was "not a policy we support" and promised to help affected employees.

"We have reached out to the White House to explain the negative effect on our coworkers and our company," Cook added.

Elon Musk, the South African-born founder of Tesla and SpaceX who met recently with Trump, said on Twitter: "The blanket entry ban on citizens from certain primarily Muslim countries is not the best way to address the country's challenges."

Airbnb co-founder and CEO Brian Chesky said: "Not allowing countries or refugees into America is not right and we must stand with those who are affected."

Airbnb will provide free housing to anyone not allowed into the United States, Chesky said.

Aaron Levie, the outspoken founder and CEO of online storage company Box Inc, said: "The executive order on immigration is immoral and antithetical to our values."

Friday's order could be a major headache for tech companies, potentially leaving employees stranded overseas and unable to return to the United States.

Alphabet Inc's Google urgently called back employees from overseas and told ones who might be affected by the ban not to leave the United States.

CEO Sundar Pichai said in an email to staff that more than 100 Google employees were affected by the order, according to a Google executive.

One Google employee of Iranian nationality with legal US residency made it back to the United States just hours before the order took effect, the executive said.

"We're concerned about the impact of this order and any proposals that could impose restrictions on Googlers and their families, or that could create barriers to bringing great talent to the US," Google said in a statement.

Microsoft Corp President and Chief Legal Officer Brad Smith said in a company-wide email posted on LinkedIn that 76 company employees were citizens of the seven countries in

question and held US work visas, and thus were directly affected by the order.

He said the company had not determined how many people with green cards, or permanent residence status, might be affected.

"As a company, Microsoft believes in a strong and balanced high-skilled immigration system," Smith said in the post. "We believe in the importance of protecting legitimate and law-abiding refugees whose very lives may be at stake in immigration proceedings."

Uber Technologies Inc [UBER.UL] CEO Travis Kalanick, who has faced criticism from some employees for participating in President Trump's business advisory council, said in a statement that the company would compensate drivers from the seven countries who might not be able to return to the United States for three months or more. He said the company knew of about a dozen affected employees.

"This ban will impact many innocent people — an issue that I will raise this coming Friday when I go to Washington for President Trump's first business advisory group meeting," Kalanick said.

Facebook Inc CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in a post on Friday that was "concerned" about the order and voiced support for immigrants.—Reuters

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

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

YGN TO DMK

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

YGN TO CAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-713	20:25	01:00+1	1
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ-3056	11:35	15:50	3,6
CZ-3056	17:40	22:20	1,5

YGN TO SIN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ-997	10:25	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,3,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	16:20	20:50	4,6
MI-533	13:35	20:50	2
3k-584	19:40	00:10	Daily
3K-582	11:35	16:05	Daily
TR-2823	9:25	13:55	1,2,4,5,7
UB-001	7:15	11:45	Daily

YGN TO NRT

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	22:10	06:45	Daily

BANGKOK TO YANGON

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

DMK TO YGN

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

CAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-714	2:05	3:40	2
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ-3055	8:40	10:35	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:40	1,5

SIN TO YGN

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

NRT TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	16:30	Daily

YGN TO ICN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

YGN TO KUL

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

YGN TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:30	16:00	Daily
MU-2032	15:30	18:50	Daily
MU-2012	12:55	19:55	3

YGN TO TPE

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:50	16:10	Daily

YGN TO PEK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	1,3,5,7

YGN TO HAN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	Daily

YGN TO SGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	14:55	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-251	1:05	5:25	Daily
UB-8027	09:00	13:30	1,3,5,7

YGN TO DOH

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:05	11:30	1,3,4,6,7

YGN TO CNX

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-724	13:40	15:35	Daily

YGN TO DAC

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

MDL TO DMK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:55	15:15	Daily

ICN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:30	22:30	Daily

KUL TO YGN

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

KMG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:50	11:30	Daily
MU-2031	13:50	14:30	Daily
MU-2011	08:20	11:55	3

TPE TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

PEK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5,7

HAN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:40	18:10	Daily

SGN TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:25	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

HKG TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:50	23:45	1,3,5,7
KA-252	22:20	00:10	2,4,6
UB-8028	14:50	16:20	1,3,5,7

DOH TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:10	5:20	1,3,4,6,7

CNX TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	12:00	12:55	Daily

DAC TO YGN

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

DMK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	11:10	12:25	Daily

MDL TO SIN

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

SIN TO MDL

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

MDL TO BKK

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:10	16:35	Daily

BKK TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

MDL TO KMG

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:25	17:15	Daily

KMG TO MDL

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

NYT TO BKK

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

BKK TO NYT

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

AIRLINE CODES

8M = Myanmar Airways International

BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines

MH = Malaysia Airlines

MU = China Eastern Airlines

NH = All Nippon Airways

SQ = Singapore Airways

PG = Bangkok Airways

UB = Myanmar National Airlines

VN = Vietnam Airline

3K = Jet Star

AI = Air India

CI = China Airlines

DD = Nok Airline

KA = Dragonair

MI = Silk Air

TG = Thai Airways

AK = Air Asia

CA = Air China

CZ = China Southern

FD = Air Asia

KE = Korea Airlines

QR = Qatar Airways

TR = Tiger Airline

DAY

1 = Monday

2 = Tuesday

3 = Wednesday

4 = Thursday

5 = Friday

6 = Saturday

7 = Sunday

NASA unveils spaceship hatch 50 years after fatal Apollo 1 fire

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA on Friday marked the 50th anniversary of its moon program’s fatal Apollo launchpad fire with the first public display of the scorched hatch that trapped three astronauts inside their spaceship during a routine pre-launch test.

NASA astronauts Virgil “Gus” Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee died when thick smoke filled the crew module of the Apollo 1 capsule on 27 January, 1967, in what was the first deadly accident in the space agency’s early days.

The men were unable to open the capsule’s three-part hatch before being overcome by smoke. Emergency rescue teams rushed to battle the fire at the launchpad, located at what is now Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, but were too late.

The hatch has now been taken out of storage and incorporated into a new display at the Kennedy Space Centre Visitor Complex to honor the fallen astronauts and serve as a reminder of the risks of spaceflight.

“Had that accident occurred in space, we’d have never known exactly what had happened,” former Gemini and Apollo astronaut Tom Stafford said at a ceremony to mark the exhibit’s opening.

The deaths of these “three great heroes ... helped save at least

Astronauts, from the left, Gus Grissom, Ed White II and Roger Chaffee stand near Cape Kennedy’s Launch Complex 34 during training for Apollo 1 in January 1967. PHOTO: REUTERS

one other in flight, maybe two,” he added.

Investigators discovered several problems with the Apollo capsule design that led to the fire, including an electrical wiring issue, a pure-oxygen environment and flammable materials throughout the crew cabin.

NASA made dozens of changes and resumed flying in October 1968, setting the stage for the historic Apollo 11 lunar landing in July 1969.

Grissom, aged 40 and one of the original Mercury 7 astro-

nauts, became the second American in space in a suborbital flight that preceded John Glenn’s landmark first US orbital space flight. White, who was 36, became the first American to walk in space as pilot of the Gemini 4 mission in June 1965. Chaffee, 31, was a rookie astronaut with no previous spaceflight experience.

Friday’s ceremony was one of several events this week in which NASA also paid tribute to the Space Shuttle Challenger crew, killed during launch on 28 January, 1986, and the Shuttle Columbia astronauts, who died when that spaceship broke apart as it re-entered the Earth’s atmosphere on 1 February, 2003.

At twilight, the families of the Apollo 1 astronauts gathered at the base of the seaside launch complex where Grissom, White and Chaffee had been testing their capsule when the fire broke out.

“It’s really important that we come together and we don’t forget who they were and what they sacrificed. Even more important we remember that we don’t ever want to have it happen again,” Kennedy Space Center director and former shuttle astronaut Bob Cabana told the families.

Cabana said the new exhibit was intended to highlight the importance of a work culture where people feel free to voice concerns. Management and communications problems contributed to both space shuttle accidents, investigators found.

NASA is preparing to turn over crew flights to the International Space Station to privately owned SpaceX and Boeing Co as early as 2018.

“The lessons learned from Apollo 1 are critical to our future success and I don’t ever want them forgotten,” Cabana said. “We got to the moon not in spite of Apollo 1, but because of Apollo 1.” —Reuters

Death toll from flu rises to 26 in Greece

ATHENS — The death toll from complications of the seasonal flu has risen to 26 so far this year across Greece, up from 14 a week ago, according to the latest data from the Greek Center for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO).

The 26 individuals were aged 38-92, and all of them except one were suffering from chronic health issues.

With most victims having not been vaccinated, doctors are advising patients, particularly those in high-risk groups, to get a flu shot as soon as possible.

According to KEELPNO, a total of 144 serious flu cases have been reported nationwide from October until 22 January, and only 21 per cent of these patients were inoculated against flu.

Greece recorded 80 deaths from complications of flu virus strains in 2016 and more than 100 in 2015. As the country is entering the peak flu season in February, experts urge the public to take precautionary measures and get flu shots.—Xinhua

French presidentials on knife-edge as left votes, right fights scandal

PARIS — A new chapter opened in France's closely contested presidential election campaign on Sunday as Socialists voted to choose their champion and conservatives fought to keep their scandal-hit campaign on track.

Polling opened at 0800 GMT in a Socialist primary runoff that pits pro-business ex-premier Manuel Valls against hard-left lawmaker Benoit Hamon for the Socialist ticket.

Francois Fillon — chosen as conservative candidate last year by his party The Republicans but hurt last week by a newspaper claim that his wife was paid for fake work — was meanwhile due to hold a rally on the outskirts of Paris.

Hamon is favourite to beat Valls in the Socialist primary's head-to-head vote, but neither man has much chance of winning the presidential race itself after five years of unpopular Socialist rule.

Until Fillon tripped up over his British wife Penelope's pay, prompting the opening of an official in-

quiry into the matter, he was favourite to win the election proper.

Opinion polls showed him beating far-right National Front (FN) leader Marine Le Pen in a run-off vote on 7 May with a comfortable two-thirds of the vote.

Popularity polls since have shown his rating slip slightly, although there have been no polls on voting intentions since the scandal broke.

Whichever Socialist wins on Sunday, opinion polls show him destined for a humiliating fifth place in the 23 April first round of the election itself, behind Fillon, Le Pen, centrist Emmanuel Macron, and rebel left-winger Jean-Luc Mélenchon who shunned the primaries.

Nevertheless, Sunday's outcome is important to the result, and for the future of the Socialist party, unpopular after five years of high unemployment under President Francois Hollande and split by a pro-business policy u-turn that angered its left-wingers.—Reuters



Former French Socialist party education minister and candidate Benoit Hamon casts his ballot in the second round of the French left's presidential primary election in Trappes, France, on 29 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EoI) for Cooperation Public Private Partnership (PPP) in No.14 Heavy Industry (Thagaya)

No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

No.14 Heavy Industry (Thagaya) (to produce multi-purpose diesel engines) under No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry are intended to cooperate with local (or) foreign entrepreneurs as PPP (JV, Lease, etc.)

As a first step, companies who are interested in that cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EoI) not later than 3:00 pm (Myanmar Standard Time), on 28th February 2017 to Planning Department, No.1 Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Office No.30, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entities can inquiry and take over the EoI Form and other indications at above office commencing from (1.2.2017) by presenting document of company profile.

Document of Company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
 - Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association of Company
 - Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator
- (For more information: Phone no: 067-405159, 067-405322)

Germany's Schaeuble admits 'mistakes' in refugee policy

BERLIN — Germany made mistakes with an open-door policy that saw more than a million migrants enter Germany over the past two years, Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble acknowledged on Sunday, but he said Berlin was trying to learn from those missteps.

"We have tried to improve what got away from us in 2015," Schaeuble told the newspaper Welt am Sonntag. "We politicians are human; we also make mistakes. But one can at least learn from them."

Schaeuble is a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats, who have lost support to the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party over the migration issue, after several attacks carried out by migrants.

The AfD is now poised to become the third largest party in parliament in September national elections.

The issue has also divided the European Union, with many countries balking at taking in a proportional share of refugees.

Schaeuble said Europe needed to consider harmonising its social benefits to achieve a more equitable distribution of migrants among EU members, a subject that he said had thus far



Germany's Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble arrives at a eurozone finance ministers meeting in Brussels, Belgium, on 26 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

been considered "taboo" in Germany. "We have much higher standards when it comes to social benefits than most European countries. That's why so many want to come to Germany," he told the newspaper.

Schaeuble also said he was skeptical about the leadership style of the US President Donald Trump, who has sparked concerns among European leaders with executive orders on immigration, as well as his decision to cancel trade agreements.

"In America, we can now see how someone

is acting as if he can do everything very quickly. That will not only have good results," he said.

A poll conducted earlier this month showed that refugee policy would be the biggest issue for voters in the September election.

Merkel, who is seeking a fourth term in office, spoke by telephone on Saturday with Trump, who has described her August 2015 decision to keep Germany's borders open to refugees, mostly from the Middle East, as a "catastrophic mistake."

In September, after

a defeat for her Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in a Berlin state election, Merkel said she wished she could turn back the clock on the migrant crisis, although she stopped short of saying her policy was a mistake.

Merkel has rejected calls from the CDU's Bavarian sister party to set an upper limit on migration, but is now pressing for more aggressive steps to send back migrants who are refused asylum, as well as action to prevent a similar flood of migrant from Africa.—Reuters

Merkel says fight against terrorism no excuse for US entry ban

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel told US President Donald Trump that the global fight against terrorism was no excuse for banning refugees or people from Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States, her spokesman said on Sunday.

"She is convinced that even the necessary, decisive battle against terrorism does not justify putting people of a specific background or faith under general suspicion," spokesman Steffen Seibert said.

He said the German government regrets the entry travel ban on refugees and citizens from seven Muslim-majority states, would review the consequences for German citizens with dual nationalities and would "represent their interests, if needed, vis a vis our US partners".

He said Merkel had

expressed her concerns to Trump during a telephone call on Saturday and reminded him that the Geneva Conventions require the international community to take in war refugees on humanitarian grounds.

Trump on Friday ordered a four-month hold on allowing refugees on the United States and temporarily banned travellers from Syria and six other predominantly Muslim countries.

Seibert's comments were the first indication of discord between Merkel and Trump over the issue.

The two leaders had highlighted common interests such as strengthening NATO and combating Islamist militancy in a joint statement after their 45-minute telephone call.

Thomas Oppermann, who heads the parliamentary faction of the Social Democrats, the junior part-

ner in Merkel's right-centre coalition, called Trump's order "inhuman and foolhardy" and said it would result in significant damage to the US economy.

"The order contradicts everything that makes up the United States' good reputation as a country of immigration," he told Die Welt newspaper. "No one should be discriminated against because of their religious beliefs."

Germany's pro-environment Green party also blasted the ban, with a senior party official telling Reuters the measure affected tens of thousands of Germans who had dual citizenship.

"Donald Trump is no longer a reliable partner," said Dieter Janecek, economic spokesman for the Green's parliamentary faction. "If this insanity is not rescinded, that one should

look into whether it is possible to impose a travel ban on him and (White House adviser) Stephen Bannon, the author of this unconstitutional rule."

Trump on Saturday accepted Merkel's invitation to attend the a meeting of the Group of 20 industrialised nations in Hamburg in July. He also invited Merkel to visit Washington soon.

But Janecek said Germany had to take action if changes in the US rules meant German lawmakers and other German citizens with dual citizenship could no longer visit the United States.

No comment was immediately available from Omid Nouripour, a Green lawmaker and vice-chief of the German-American caucus, who has German and Iranian citizenship.—Reuters

Ceausescu's bunker offers a window into Romania's communist past

BUCHAREST — The hermetically-sealed heavy steel door to the bunker of Romania's late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu opens with a squeak, releasing a burst of cool air.

The bunker sits two levels beneath a lavish villa in an upmarket neighbourhood in Bucharest, Ceausescu's private residence through the 24 years he ruled Romania, one of Eastern Europe's most repressive Cold War-era regimes.

"It is a transitional bunker," said tour guide Roxana Iliescu, pointing out that, with no bathroom or kitchen, it could not have been lived in for any long period.

"From what we know, it hasn't been used."

The bunker, which houses some of the dictators' hunting trophies, and an adjacent basement art gallery, were opened to the public in recent weeks, adding to the curiosities on display at the villa which started admitting tourists only last year, in what the government said was an attempt to help Romanians learn about their past and put it to rest.

The L-shaped mansion has 80 rooms in a variety of contrasting styles including Louis XIV bedrooms and an Art Deco cinema. Peacocks



A Russian tourist takes pictures of a mural inside the Winter Garden at former Romanian communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's villa in Bucharest, Romania, on 25 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

walk in the garden — descendants of a pair Ceausescu brought in after seeing some during a visit to Japan in the 1970s. A chess board with intricate wooden pieces has pawns carved to look like peasants.

The villa was ransacked during the revolution of 1989, but protesters did surprisingly little damage, Iliescu said.

Ceausescu, who would have been 99 on Thursday, was summarily tried and shot by firing squad along with his wife on 25 December, 1989, the only Cold War-era communist dictator to be executed. Up to 2 million people are believed to have been killed, imprisoned, deported or relocated in Romania between 1945 and 1989.

While his residence

may look like an ornate, marbled time capsule from the 1980s, the country still bears the scars of his regime 27 years later.

Romania joined the European Union in 2007, but remains its second-poorest state, with entrenched bureaucracy and corruption that date back to those times.

Many communist-era officials are still in public

life, wielding political and business influence. The government is still returning properties seized under communism to their owners, a process other countries in the region finished long ago.

In 2016, a court sentenced a 90-year-old prison commander, Alexandru Visinescu, for crimes against humanity, the first case of its kind.—Reuters

84% of Japanese concerned about Trump administration

TOKYO — A majority of 83.8 per cent of Japanese people are concerned that the administration of US President Donald Trump could create global instability, according to a Kyodo News survey conducted Saturday and Sunday.

Only 13.1 per cent of respondents in the nationwide telephone survey said they are not concerned about the administration of Trump, who was sworn in on 20 January and has pushed an "America First" agenda on trade and immigration. Meanwhile, the support rating for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet stood at 59.6 per cent, up 4.8 percentage points from the previous survey conducted last month. The disapproval rating stood at 27.2 per cent. On Japan-US ties, 54.6 per cent of the respondents said relations will deteriorate, 34.4 per cent said bilateral ties will remain the same and 4.5 per cent said they will improve. In the latest survey, 52.6 per cent favored pursuing a trade deal with the United States, while 36.4 per cent said there is no need.—Kyodo News

US states discussing lawsuit over Trump immigration order

WASHINGTON — A group of state attorneys general are discussing whether to file their own court challenge against President Donald Trump's order to restrict people from seven Muslim-majority countries entering the United States, officials in three states told Reuters.

Democrat attorneys general are expected to be a source of fierce resistance to Trump, much as Republican AGs opposed former President Barack Obama. A lawsuit brought by states would heighten the legal stakes surrounding the president's executive order, signed late on Friday, as courtroom challenges to the ban have so far mostly been filed by individuals.

Officials in the offices of attorneys general in Pennsylvania, Washington and Hawaii said on Saturday they were

evaluating what specific claims could be filed, and in which court.

"We do believe the executive order is unconstitutional," Hawaii attorney general Douglas Chin told Reuters on Saturday. He declined to give further detail.

The states could decide not to file, and it is unclear how many states would ultimately sign on for such an effort.

"There certainly are conversations underway," said Joe Grace, a spokesman for Pennsylvania attorney general Josh Shapiro.

A Trump representative could not be reached immediately for comment.

Trump, a businessman who successfully tapped into American fears about terror attacks during his campaign, had promised what he called "extreme vetting" of immigrants and refugees

from areas the White House said the US Congress deemed to be high risk. He told reporters in the Oval Office on Saturday that his order was "not a Muslim ban" and said the measures were long overdue.

However, his order hit a roadblock late on Saturday when a federal judge in New York said stranded travelers could stay in the country. The American Civil Liberties Union, which sought the emergency court order, said it would help 100 to 200 people with valid visas or refugee status who found themselves detained in transit or at US airports after Trump signed the order.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement it would comply with judicial orders but that Trump's immigration restrictions remained in effect.—Reuters

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော
MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.
Plan View: 21'6" width, 18' depth, 7'2" depth.
Front View (cars): 21'6" width, 14'4" height, 7'2" depth.

TPW
Ideas coming true
Tel: 09.25.981.36.36

TPW
(BRNo.200904356H)

No. (31), Room (5), 7 Miles,
Pyay Road, Yangon
T: 09.259.81.36.36
: 09.259.81.37.37
: 09.259.81.46.46

အမှတ်(၃၁)၊ အခန်း (၅)၊ ၇မိုင်၊ ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်။

Hollywood producers name 'La La Land' the year's best film

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood producers named the musical "La La Land" the best film of 2016 on Saturday at a ceremony marked by criticism of President Donald Trump's immigration policies.

The big win by "La La Land" at the 28th annual awards set up the film, which stars Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, as an odds-on Oscar favourite, after it scored a record-tying 14 Oscar nominations earlier this month.

The Producers Guild of America (PGA), which is among the leading industry organizations representing makers of movies and TV shows, also named its best animated film which went to "Zootopia," favorite documentary, won by "O J: Made in America" and honored Netflix's "Stranger Things" as the top television drama.

Musician John Legend, a star of "La La Land", criticized the new president's executive order placing curbs on people arriving in the United States from certain Muslim-majority countries, which spawned protests and confusion at several US airports on Saturday. "We encourage everybody out there to speak out against it," Legend said.

Later, introducing the splashy, colorful musical film, Legend said "Our vision of America is directly antithetical to that of President Trump. I want to specifically tonight reject his vision and affirm that America has to be better than that."

Accepting the award, "La La Land" producer Marc Platt continued in a similar vein, saying "It is the power of cinema fueled by free artistic expression that cannot be denied, that has no borders, and will never be banned from our hearts, our minds and our souls."

In past years, PGA best film winners have often gone on to win the best picture Oscar, Hollywood's big prize.

Among other honors for television productions, two FX shows prevailed, as another look at the famous O J Simpson murder case, "The People v O J Simpson: American Crime



Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone pose with their awards for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy and Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy for their roles in 'La La Land' during the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California, US, on 8 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Story," won the producers' award for long-form television and the comedy series award was won by "Atlanta."

Netflix's "Making a Murderer" won for non-fiction television, while NBC's "The Voice"

took home the prize for reality competition series and PBS' "Sesame Street" scored for children's programme. Outstanding sports programme went to "World of Sports," while "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver"

won the live entertainment and talk television award. The Academy Awards will be bestowed on 26 February to producers, directors, actors and actresses by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.—Reuters



Indian-origin American actor Kal Penn. PHOTO: PTI

Kal Penn starts fundraiser for Syrian refugees

LOS ANGELES — Indian-origin American actor Kal Penn has started a CrowdRise fundraiser in the name of a commenter who told him he doesn't belong in the US. The message appeared to be written in an Instagram post of 39-year-old Penn's, in which he spoke out about the personal effect President Donald Trump's Muslim Ban is having on him and his friends, reported People magazine. "Families are being torn apart," Penn wrote.

"Shame on us. This is un-American. What Donald Trump and the Republican Party are doing is wholly un-American." His online critic responded, "you don't belong in this country you ... joke." Penn, who worked in President Obama's administration as an associate director in the White House Office of Public Engagement and plays fictional White House Press Secre-

tary Seth Wright on the hit ABC show Designated Survivor, was born in Montclair, New Jersey, to Gujarati immigrant parents.

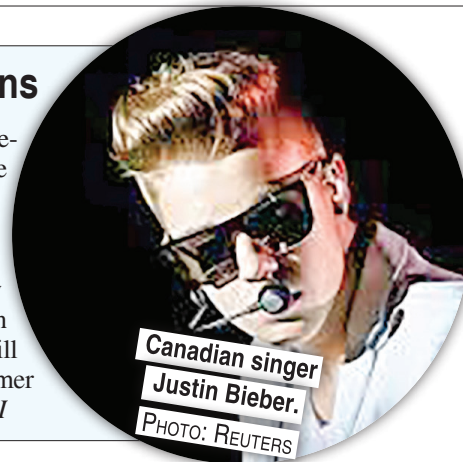
Responding to the racist claims with a charity effort is an example of the love Penn sees in the United States, he said. "We are better than the hateful people who tell us we don't belong in our own country, that America can't be a beacon of freedom and hope for refugees from around the world," Penn wrote in the fundraiser's description. "We will turn their bigotry, along with the President's, into love."

Within 30 minutes of the fundraiser's posting, it had already received over USD 5,000 in donations. Penn's response is just one of the many ways in which Americans are responding in opposition to President Trump's executive order, which he signed Friday.—PTI

Justin Bieber's special surprise for fans

LONDON — Singer Justin Bieber has teased a special surprise for his fans ahead of musical hiatus. The "Love Yourself" hitmaker gave an update on the mysterious project he is working on, hours after a source said he is going on one-year hiatus to travel after his "gruelling" Purpose World Tour.

"Working on something special," the 22-year-old wrote. The "What Do You Mean?" singer continues his tour in Mexico in February and is coming to London on 2 July, where he will headline British Summer Time in Hyde Park.—PTI



Canadian singer Justin Bieber. PHOTO: REUTERS

Actor John Hurt, star of 'The Elephant Man', dies aged 77

LONDON — Veteran British actor Sir John Hurt, Oscar-nominated for his star turn in "The Elephant Man" and his supporting role in "Midnight Express", has died after a long battle with pancreatic cancer, a representative said on Saturday. He was 77.

Hurt, who had starred in more than 200 films and television series over a career spanning six decades, revealed in 2015 that he was suffering from the early stages of pancreatic cancer and that he was receiving treatment. His death was confirmed to Reuters via email by

Charles McDonald, a British-based representative for the actor's Los Angeles talent manager, John Crosby. The BBC, citing the actor's agent, also reported that Hurt had died. Further details of the circumstances of his death were not immediately available.

Hurt said at the time of his cancer diagnosis that he intended to continue working. He most recently starred in the Sundance TV crime series "The Last Panthers" and in the Oscar-nominated film "Jackie", playing a priest who consoled the newly widowed wife of slain US President John F Kennedy. Hurt, a native of Derbyshire in England, garnered his first Academy Award nomination for his supporting role as Max, an inmate and heroin addict who befriends the imprisoned drug smuggler Billy inside a Turkish jail in the gripping 1978 drama "Midnight Express".—Reuters



British actor John Hurt holds the Gold Giraldillo Award as a tribute to his career during the Sevilla European film festival in the Andalusian capital of Seville on 7 November, 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS



Princess Diana arrives at the Royal Geographical Society in London for a speech on the dangers of landmines throughout the world on 12 June, 1997. PHOTO: REUTERS

UK Princes William and Harry say they will erect statue to late mother Princess Diana

LONDON — Britain's Prince William and his younger brother Harry have commissioned a statue in honor of their mother Princess Diana who died in a Paris car crash 20 years ago to be erected outside their official London home, their office said on Saturday.

Diana, the first wife of the brother's father the heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, was killed when the limousine carrying her and her lover Dodi al-Fayed crashed in a Paris tunnel in August 1997.

William was 15 and Harry was 12 at the time.

"It has been 20 years since our mother's death

and the time is right to recognize her positive impact in the UK and around the world with a permanent statue," William, 34, said in a statement.

The princes have formed a committee to advise on the sculptor and to raise private funds to pay for the statue which will be located in a public garden at Kensington Palace.

Work on the statue will begin soon and it is hoped that the statue will be unveiled before the end of the year, the statement from their office said.

The first permanent memorial to her, a 210-metre (689-foot) long fountain was unveiled

in Hyde Park in 2004 after years of bureaucratic wrangling and squabbling over the design.

It had to be closed down a number of times after its opening and a committee of lawmakers later said it was "ill-conceived and ill-executed".

William announced earlier this month that he would move into Kensington Palace with his wife Kate and children, George and Charlotte, from his current home in eastern England when he gives up his job as an air ambulance pilot to focus on royal duties full-time later this year. —Reuters

Beijing parks receive 180,000 tourists on Spring Festival

BEIJING — Beijing's 11 municipal parks and the Museum of Chinese Garden and Landscape Architecture received a total of 180,000 tourists on Saturday, the first day of the Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival.

During the Spring Festival public holiday, a string of events and activities, such as winter sports and flower exhibitions, are being held across Beijing's parks. Many Beijingers have said that visiting parks is on their holiday "must do" list.

Taoranting Park reported 40,000 visitors, while the Temple of Heaven Park and the Summer Palace saw 30,000 tourists each, according to the Beijing parks office.

Spring Festival is the most important festival in China. —Reuters



People perform the lion dance during the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations at Chinatown in San Jose, capital of Costa Rica, on 28 January, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Vasco da Gama secure loan deal for Fiorentina defender

RIO DE JANEIRO — Vasco da Gama have secured a one-year loan deal with Fiorentina left-back Gilberto.

The 23-year-old will undergo a medical at Vasco's Sao Januario headquarters in Rio de Janeiro this week, according to the Uol news outlet, which cited an unnamed Fiorentina official.

Capped 11 times for

Brazil at under-21 level, Gilberto joined Fiorentina in 2015 from Rio de Janeiro club Botafogo.

But he made just five appearances for the Italian Serie A side before being loaned to local rivals Hellas Verona.

Vasco earned promotion to Brazil's top flight after finishing third in the Serie B last year.

—Xinhua

MRTV Programme Schedule (30-1-2017, Monday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Mingun Sayadaw	4:10 Pm	◆ University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) —Second Year (Zoology)
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	4:35 Pm	◆ Society Economic Scenes
7:30 Am	◆ People's Talks	5:15 Pm	◆ This Week's Special Interest 6:35 Pm
8:30 Am	◆ Women in Myanmar Society	◆ Yes or No Talk (Seson-3)	
9:30 Am	◆ World Heritage "The Wish Castle" (Great Britain)	6:15 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
10:30 Am	◆ Documentary (She Leads)	6:35 Pm	◆ Law Affairs
11:15 Am	◆ Documentary (ASEAN)	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
11:35 Am	◆ MRTV's programme	8:00 Pm	◆ News/International News/ Weather Report
12:35 Pm	◆ Teleplay	8:35 Pm	◆ Political Parties Campaign Speeches
1:40 Pm	◆ Pyi Thu Ni Ti	9:00 Pm	◆ News/ Weather Report
2:45 Pm	◆ Tasty Trip	◆ TV Drama Series	
3:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series	◆ MCN Debate	

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(30-1-2017 07:00am ~ 31-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-3)The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar
07:41	Am	Mural Painting Bagan
07:53	Am	The Storytellers
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Continuation In Rural Tradition
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Aesthetic Chinlone
09:51	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: ARTIST SOE HNIN AUNG
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Life of Sea Urchin Diver
10:37	Am	Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Gu Pha Ya
10:53	Am	Gardener: Rose Plantation

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Sunday 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	New
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (EP-1)(Part-1)
07:49	Pm	Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Enchanting Rakhine Land
08:45	Pm	Entrepreneur "Nan Ei Ei Zar"

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Sunday 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)

Federer edges Nadal to win Australian Open

MELBOURNE — Roger Federer shrugged off a decade of grand slam heartbreak against Rafa Nadal, felling his great rival 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 in a classic Australian Open final to capture his 18th major title.

Roared on by a partisan Rod Laver Arena crowd, Federer roared back from 3-1 down in the nerve-shredding final set before closing it out on the second championship point with a forehand winner to seal his fifth crown at Melbourne Park.

Seeded 17th and playing

his first tour tournament after six months out of the game, Federer capped his brilliant comeback from injury with his first grand slam title since Wimbledon in 2012. The win made Federer the first player ever to win five titles at three different grand slams and at 35, the oldest grand slam winner since Ken Rosewall won the 1972 Australian Open at 37.—Reuters



Switzerland's Roger Federer hits a shot during his Men's singles final match against Spain's Rafael Nadal at Australian Open at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia on 29 January, 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS

19-year-old Watanabe sets world record in men's 200 breast

TOKYO — Nineteen-year-old Ipppei Watanabe broke the world record in the men's 200-metre breaststroke, swimming the distance in 2 minute, 6.67 seconds at the Kosuke Kitajima Cup on Sunday.

Swimming at at Tatsumi International Swimming Center, Watanabe, who swam for Japan at the Rio Olympics last summer, took 0.34 seconds off the previous mark, held for four years by compatriot Akihiro Yamaguchi. "I'm out of my head with joy," Watanabe said. "I was just thinking I'd go for broke. I'm a bit surprised because I didn't think I'd make it (the record)." Watanabe set an Olympic record of 2:07.22 in the Rio semifinals, but the Waseda University student finished sixth in the final. —Kyodo News



Ipppei Watanabe competes in the men's 200-metre breaststroke during the Kosuke Kitajima Cup tournament at Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tokyo on 29 January, 2017.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Wenger praises Welbeck as Arsenal thrash Southampton

LONDON — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger praised Danny Welbeck after the striker scored his first goals since injuring his knee last May to help his side hammer Southampton 5-0 in the FA Cup on Saturday.

Welbeck, starting for the first time this season after three substitute appearances since recovering, struck twice in the opening 22 minutes and set up England team mate Theo Walcott for the first of his three goals as Arsenal killed off the fourth-round tie before halftime.

fore halftime.

"We were very dynamic, explosive and overall we had a good consistent performance over 90 minutes and everybody played well," Wenger, who was forced to watch from the stands because of a four-match touchline ban, said.

"Welbeck has been out for such a long time, I didn't expect him to score straight away and it shows the desire is there.

"He was very sharp because he has been working very hard. He has gone through some tough

moments mentally.

"But his resilience was absolutely marvellous and he was rewarded tonight, so we are happy."

Arsenal, who gave run-outs to young midfielders Jeff Reine-Adelaide and Ainsley Maitland-Niles, are in the last 16 of the Cup for the seventh consecutive year.

It was a chastening night for Southampton three days after they had beaten Liverpool at Anfield to reach the League Cup final where they will play Manchester United.

chester United.

Manager Claude Puel made 10 changes to his side and paid a heavy price with Arsenal having far too much strength in depth.

"I am responsible for the defeat," Puel said.

"We had nine players not available and I had to protect some players. It is not possible to play every three days with the same players and with some players with injuries.

"It was a good lesson, they are a great team."—Reuters

Wolves leave Liverpool reeling after Cup shock, Spurs scrape through

LONDON — Liverpool sank deeper into their mid-season rut when Championship side Wolverhampton Wanderers claimed a deserved 2-1 FA Cup fourth-round victory at Anfield as the competition lived up to its reputation for shocks on Saturday.

Goals by Richard Stearman and Andreas Weimann proved enough for Wolves, 18th in the second tier, to inflict a third home defeat in a week on Jurgen Klopp's faltering side who managed only one win in eight matches in January.

Fourth-tier Wycombe Wanderers, 70 places below Tottenham in the English pyramid, were minutes away from trouncing Wolves with a genuine giant-killing away win over Premier League title hopefuls Tottenham Hotspur but lost a thriller 4-3.

Two goals by Paul Hayes,

one a penalty, gave Wycombe a 2-0 halftime lead at White Hart Lane and Garry Thompson sent the away fans crazy by restoring their lead seven minutes from time after Tottenham had fought back. Tottenham were reduced to 10 men when Kieran Trippier limped off after the hosts had used all their substitutes but Dele Alli coolly equalised in the 89th minute before Son Heung-min struck seven minutes into stoppage time with his second goal of the game.

"This is the beauty of the FA Cup. It's magic. This is completely different to Spain or France," relieved Tottenham coach Mauricio Pochettino said after his side's ninth consecutive home victory in all competitions. Lincoln City, one of two survivors from outside the Football League, continued their



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Jon Dadi Bodvarsson shoots at goal at FA Cup Fourth Round against Liverpool at Anfield on 28 January, 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS

dream run with a 3-1 home victory against Championship leaders Brighton & Hove Albion to reach the fifth round for the first time in the modern era.

They also got that far in 1887 when the competition involved

far fewer clubs at the outset.

Rafael Benitez's Newcastle United, Brighton's close rivals for promotion to the top flight, also slipped up to lower-level opponents, outplayed 3-0 at League One's Oxford United.

Arsenal made light of a touchline ban for manager Arsene Wenger as Theo Walcott scored a hat-trick and Danny Welbeck struck twice in a 5-0 hammering of League Cup finalists Southampton at St Mary's while in the day's other all-Premier League duel Manchester City outclassed Crystal Palace 3-0 at Selhurst Park.

Premier League leaders Chelsea breezed past second-tier Brentford 4-0, Middlesbrough beat Accrington Stanley 1-0 and Burnley saw off Bristol City 2-0.

Blackburn Rovers won a north-west derby 2-0 against Blackpool in a game memorable for protests against their clubs' respective owners by both sets of fans. Huddersfield reached the fifth round with a 4-0 thrashing of Rochdale. —Reuters