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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the meeting for planning and finance from Cabinets of Regions and States in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor meets Planning and Finance Ministers

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor, met Ministers for Planning and Finance from Cabinets of Regions and States at the meeting hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the meeting, the State Counsellor addressed the importance of coordination between government entities.

“In implementing projects,

commitments of the Hluttaw need to be taken into consideration. Implementing projects is not for a party or an organization, it is just for the development of the country. So, it is necessary for all, to openly submit if there are matters to be fulfilled by the Union Government and difficulties encountered and current situations on performance and completion,” she said.

Afterwards, Ministers for

Planning and Finance from Cabinets of Regions & States clarified situations on performance, completion and remaining parts of projects carried out during the 10-month period, challenges and difficulties encountered in implementing the projects, and matters to be cooperated with the Union Government.

The State Counsellor gave necessary advice on the submis-

sions made by the Ministers.

Present at the meeting were Nay Pyi Taw Council members, and Ministers for Planning and Finance from the Cabinets of Kachin State, Kayin State, Chin State, Mon State, Shan State, Yangon Region, Mandalay Region, Ayeyawady Region, Sagaing Region, Magwe Region, Bago Region and Tanintharyi Region.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar International Cooperation Agency to be abolished

MYANMAR International Cooperation Agency, which has been criticised for not having been established in accordance with the law and has managed state-owned assets and factories since its establishment, was voted for abolishment at Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

The decision comes after the

issue was put to a vote yesterday at the parliament following clarification over the issue by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The ministry is currently taking measures to abolish MICA and to take over the assets from the agency, said the deputy minister.

It is still necessary to get permission from the Union Government to abolish the agency, he added.

The proposal was submitted in December 2016 by MP Naw Christ Tun, also known as Dr Akar Moe of Constituency-7 from Kayin State.

MPs debated the issue on

Monday, suggesting to abolish the agency and to operate it under the Union Government in order to promote the country's economy.

When MP Naw Christ Tun put forward the issue to the parliament in December, she called for ensuring greater transparency of the ways MICA does business and handles profits.

She also suggested abolition of MICA, whose stated aim is to boost fish and meat production and to assist in food sufficiency for the country, but it has not brought benefits to the people.

She also called for transparency in its management of state-owned factories, firms and lands

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

Allocation of flight charge money discussed in Pyithu Htuttaw

HOW revenue from international flight fees are being spent was discussed on the fifth day of the Pyithu Htuttaw's fourth regular session.

The discussion was started in response to a question by the U Tun Tun, a Member of Parliament for the Pyint Phyu constituency.

"I would like to know which ministry is collecting the overflight charges starting from which year and how this revenue is being spent," U Tun Tun questions.

International flights that pass over Myanmar air space are charged a fee, called an overflight fee. The response came from U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transportation and Communication.

"The Department of Civil Aviation has collected the overflight service charges since 1948 under the Aviation law enacted in 1948. The rate of the overflight fee is collected based on the weight of the flight according to

the guidelines of the International Aviation Association.

"We paid all collected money to the government through the ministry and spent systematically those funds under the management of the government," the deputy minister said.

According to ministry statistics, international flights over Myanmar can currently reach 600 a day. Revenue from the overflight charges was US\$83.233 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year and US\$58.491 million as of December 31 in the current fiscal year.

The deputy minister made clarifications on the issue of direct flights from Nay Pyi Taw to Kengtung once a week by U Steven, MP for Kengtung constituency that there is one state-owned airline and nine private airlines in Myanmar and that state-owned Myanmar National Airline has commercially run as an international airline without asking for budget assistance from the government since 2013-2014, when



Pyithu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

the ministry replaced old planes with modern Boeings or ATRs and established aircraft maintenance buildings in which the ministry has invested and took out loans from GECAS Co, Ltd for items over budget.

"We invested a large amount of money. Currently we have overhead costs and some domestic routes have not been operated commercially. We had operated direct flight from Kengtung to Nay Pyi Taw from 2010 to

2014 but we stopped it as the revenue cannot cover the operation cost," he replied, adding that private airlines also have not operated the unprofitable Kengtung-Nay Pyi Taw route. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Myanmar International Cooperation Agency to be abolished



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA



U Kyaw Naing of Yangon Constituency. PHOTO: MNA

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without permission of the Union Government. She urged the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to make the agency's financial management transparent.

The agency was established with 34 officials and 70 staff members, according to the meeting resolution 13/2014 of the Union Government on 3 July 2014.

According to the debate at the parliament in December last year, the MICA had taken over 48 farms owned by the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, 64.54 acres in Danyingon, 17 fishery-related property and more than 90 acres owned by the Insein Livestock Breeding and

Veterinary Department.

Amyotha Hluttaw also discussed correct mapping and land record management. Members of the Parliament raised queries on a single-mapping system, a rural/urban land record project, a farmland registration long-term project, action plans to farm lands which are against the Forest and Pasture Land Act 2012, correct mapping and land record management and re-digging and restoration of a silting creek to the original area in Paung of Mon State.

The Parliament discussed amendment of draft law for Union of Myanmar Exam Board Law 1973.—GNLM

YBS improvements for Yangon's populace

Ko Moe

OLD buses currently operating under the YBS Bus Lines System will be replaced by new buses in three months, said Dr. Maung Aung, secretary of Yangon Region's Transport Supervision Authority.

"New vehicles made in Korea and China will replace the old buses plying currently in Yangon. Air conditioning, GPS systems and other necessary equipment will be installed in these new buses. Dyna, BM buses and old buses will be substituted with over 1,000 new buses," he said at the Safety on Roads meeting held at the office of Merchants and Industrial Entrepreneurs' Federation on Monday.

According to Yangon Region's Transport Supervision Authority, arrangements are being made to upgrade bus stands and to control YBS buses under the GPS system, it is learnt.

To reduce traffic jams in Yangon Region and for the bus lines to become disciplined, Yangon Region's Cabinet changed to



Commuters waiting to board YBS No.12 at a bus stop on 6 February. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

a new system starting 16 January.

U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region's Cabinet, also said that Ks60 billion would be spent to buy new vehicles for the YBS bus line in Yangon Region.

It is also learnt that the Yangon Region Cabinet will assess the situation of the YBS system quarterly and the above bus lines will be changed into public-owned bus lines. After transforming into publicly owned companies, all

the buses will be equipped with interior CCTVs and card-paying systems. The Yangon Region Transport Supervision Authority released the news that in launching new buses, over 3,700 buses will commence operation, with 55 units to be used for short routes and more than 110 units for long bus routes. Out of over 6 million of urban and sub-urban populace in Yangon Region, nearly 2.5 million people regularly use buses for transportation.

Patient satisfaction survey to be conducted at six major hospitals in Yangon

A NEW survey of patient satisfaction will be conducted by researchers at six major hospitals across Yangon, said a spokesperson of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Altogether 60 researchers will participate in the programme to find out the patients' level of satisfaction with hospital service, aiming to promote the quality of the physician-patient relationship.

The target hospitals include

the Yangon People's Hospital, the New Yangon General Hospital, the Yangon Children's Hospital, the 500-bed Hospital, Orthopaedic Hospital and the Central Women's Hospital.

Improving reception services of the hospital, reducing the pressure on family members for care of patients and promoting the hospital's healthcare service are the key objectives of the

survey programme.

Led by the medical social work department, plans are underway to extend and improve reception service nationwide to provide quality care to patients at hospitals with 200 beds and above.

Since 1957, the medical social work department has helped patients and their family members as well as members of philanthropic bodies.—200

President U Htin Kyaw sends message on 70th Anniversary Shan State Day

Following is the translation of the message sent by the President to the 70th Anniversary Shan State Day.

I send greetings of auspiciousness to dear respected citizens, brothers and sisters, ethnic nationals living in the Shan State,

I am very happy and honored to have this opportunity to send this message of greetings to the 70th Anniversary celebrations of Shan State Day which falls on 7th February.

The fact that Myanmar has existed for years with her own culture and language is firmly established in historical records. It is a country where many ethnic national races have settled and lived together in weal and in woe. We have lived among the countries of the world well known and well recognized. A country so rich in natural resources, both underground and above ground, lost her sovereignty and independence in 1885.

In the history of our fight for independence, our national leader General Aung San conducted negotiations with the British colonialists and to express the desire of the people that they wish to gain

independence for the central regions as well as the mountain regions, mobilized the people of the Shan State and well as the people of the mountain regions and held a conference at Panglong town of the Shan State and tried to get their agreement. The Shan nationals were able to make a decision to gain independence together with the Chin and Kachin nationals, who live in the mountain regions. This decision was made on 7th February 1947. This decision to work for Independence after achieving national unity was thus made and the Panglong Agreement underscored the importance of national unity as the main pillar. To honor this day, it was designated as Shan State Day and we have been having celebrations to mark this day and now we are in the 70th year. I wish to emphasize here that the Shan State Day which is very important for Union Independence, is a day which is connected with all ethnic nationals born in this Union and all Myanmar nationals.

After gaining Independence, in our past history, because mistrusts and misunderstandings emerged for many reasons, among our ethnic national brothers and sisters, development and peace of the Union was affected. Even though we became free, because of armed conflicts, in some parts of our country, the fruits of Independence could not be enjoyed fully and they lost sight of their future. There was no peace and this is a cause for regret and disappointment.

At this time, all our ethnic national brothers are working hard for the cessation of all kinds of mistrusts and misunderstandings, using all kinds of methods for the emergence of a genuine democratic federal republic and to get genuine and durable peace. The Union government has started working for national reconciliation and peace in the Union by convening the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong. Our Union's development has lagged behind by sev-

eral decades because of armed conflicts. We have seen this clearly. That is why it is very important for our ethnic nationals to look to the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong to collectively meet, discuss and seek solutions.

For the equitable development of all areas in our country and the food, clothing and shelter needs, security needs and socio-economic development, all ethnic nationals should join hands with the Union government and work together without discriminating between mountains and plains and central and regions. As we march towards a modern democratic federal republic, I urge all ethnic nationals to join hands and work together with full "Panglong Spirit". On this auspicious Shan State Day, I send this Message of Greetings and good wishes for peace and happiness of all Shan nationals and all ethnic nationals in the whole of the country.

*Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President*

JMC-U discusses procedures, budget

THE Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) discussed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), Terms of Reference and budget at its ninth meeting at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting also discussed administrative matters related to state-level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-S) offices and the budget for JMC-U.

On the last day of the three-day meeting, the members of the JMC-U will discuss security matters for the members of the monitoring groups, according to JMC-U's Secretary-1 Dr Shwe Khar.

On the first day of the meeting on Monday, Chairman of JMC-U Lt-Gen Yar Pyai has called for preventing clashes between troops as the leaders

are planning to hold the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong for building a federal democratic nation.

He also stressed the need for the JMC-U to follow the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement as part of its efforts for assisting in peace building in the country.

Saw Isaac Po, Vice-Chairman-1 of JMC-U, urged troops from both sides to avoid actions which could collapse the trust between them, stressing the need to seek ways for building trust between the troops at the negotiation table.

During the three-day meeting, the members of the JMC-U will also discuss matters on arrangements for a visit to the Philippines, conducting mine clearance trainings and demarcation for the troops.—
Ye Khaung Nyunt



The meeting of Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee in progress at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



Vice President U Henry Van Thio meeting with school children studying at a school in Htantalan. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Henry Van Thio discusses development in Haka, Hantalan

VICE President U Henry Van Thio inspected development work in Haka and Htantalan yesterday, meeting with locals to enquire about the needs of the region.

The Vice President attended the opening ceremony of Haka No. 1 State High School, a two-storey building, with Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister, U Salai Hlyan Lwe, Chief Minister of Chin State, U Zo Bwe, Speaker of Chin State Hluttaw and U Paung Lon Min Htan, Chin State minister. All participated in the ceremony that included a ribbon cutting.

The Vice President also unveiled the plaque of the No. 1 State High School by pressing button that sprayed scented water onto the plaque. After posing

for photos, the Vice President inspected the school building, then presented Ks 100 lakhs from the Ministry of Border Affairs to the authorities to spend in the education and health sectors. Lt Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister, donated solar panels and accessories, Dr Aung Thu, Union Minister, offered economical furnaces that consume only one stick of firewood, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister, presented blankets and Dr Win Myat Aye gave K 500 Lakhs to resettle disaster-caused damages.

In the afternoon, the Vice-President met with people from Htantalan township at the town hall and was updated about the matters on availability of electric power and drinking water, transport and health affairs.

Union Ministers and responsible officials noted the comments and promised a resolution.

"Presently, under the leadership of the State Counsellor, the government is implementing to hold the 21st Century Panglong Conference, which is greatly needed for the national development to bring about peace, stability and national reconciliation. Now, we came here to fulfill the needs of the regional development as much as possible. The government will never neglect the affairs of Chin State, which lagged behind in development. We want to urge the local people to actively take part in building up the progress of Chin State," U Henry Van Thio said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

May Yu FM Radio programme refutes rumours of invented stories in Rakhine

IN effect since 1 February 2017, regarding the part-time broadcast as a test May Yu FM Radio Programme that can be received within the area of Buthitaung and Maungtau townships in Rakhine State, the following statement has been released to the public.

1. The May Yu FM Radio Programme is broadcasting for local residents living in northern Rakhine State to give news and information

to keep up with the times. The information that is broadcast is not intended to reach any other groups.

2. Conflicts have taken place recently in the region, causing rumours and invented stories to emerge. It is urgently needed to release the news for the local people living in the region to know the true stories and to know the programmes being carried out by the government

and the ministries.

3. May Yu FM is the programme implemented for current needs within the restricted area, and it is broadcast with a view to reaching all local people, in multiple languages — Rakhine, Myanmar and Bengali.

**Ministry of Information,
Spokesperson & Information
Committee**

(Unofficial Translation)

Local tea growers to go Japan for technical study



Workers work in tea leaf field in Mong Mao on 1 October, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

THE Myanmar Tea Group plans to send local tea growers to Japan to study tea cultivation techniques in the world's top tea-producing country as part of its project to boost high-quality tea products in Myanmar.

The tea group will provide airline tickets for the selected growers, said a spokesperson of the group based in Mandalay, adding that a non-governmental organisation in Japan has

pledged to assist with food, accommodations and a stipend for Myanmar farmers while in the island nation.

The main purpose of the programme is to gain knowledge, experience and expertise on tea cultivation from the technology of Japanese farmers and further spread the valuable technical information among domestic growers.

Priority will be given to

young, active, self-disciplined growers who are able and willing to share the information they learn. The tea group plans to choose 20 farmers for the internship programme. The group hopes to eventually send about 500 farmers to the hilly regions in Japan under the programme.

Since its establishment in 2013, the Myanmar Tea Group now has over 10,000 members.—200

Traditional handicrafts of ethnic people available at market festival on 10 February

TRADITIONAL handmade materials from a diverse range of ethnic people will be on display at the market festival to be held on 10-12 February in Mandalay.

The new event is scheduled to take place at Mandalathiri Stadium in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region from 9 am to 11 pm each day, planning to showcase local products, traditional food, handicrafts, clothing and related ac-

cessories manufactured by major ethnic groups as well as other minor tribes.

Traditional dances and songs will also be performed by local troupes during the three-day event, according to a spokesperson for the organisation committee, who said that the key objective of the event is to promote union spirit and mutual understanding among diverse groups of ethnic people

and to feature the dissimilar culture of ethnicity.

With the assistance of the regional government, Mandalay-based social organisations established by people from different ethnic backgrounds have collaborated to host the market festival in the region for the sixth time to mark the 70th anniversary of Union Day, which falls on 12 February.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

One shot dead, two injured on illegal fishing boats

WHILE performing patrol duty in the Naf River at the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh, security forces fired shots at eight illegal Bangladeshi fishing boats which had approached the patrol boat to attack the forces, officials said.

A Tatmadaw marine patrol boat found eight illegal fishing boats from the neighboring country in the middle of the Kanyin creek and Nyaung Creek and were going to inspect the boats because five of the eight boats at that point were trespassing in Myanmar terri-

tory.

But the illegal boats surrounded the marine patrol boat in manoeuvres that suggested they were going to attack.

To ensure security and the lives of the soldiers, the patrol team fired two shots, causing the boats to abandon the area.

After the incident, Border Guard forces from Bangladesh informed the Myanmar side that one died and two were injured in the incident.

An investigation is ongoing into the incident.—*Myanmar News Agency*

12 dead, 65 injured in accidents last month on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

TWELVE people died in traffic accidents along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway last month, while 65 individuals sustained injuries, according to highway police records.

There were 36 road traffic accident cases reported during the first month of this year, resulting in the deaths of seven women and five men and injuring 32 males and 33 females.

The deaths and injuries were due to a failure to abide by traffic safety rules and regulations by both drivers and pedestrians, a police officer said.

In the majority of cases, drivers lost control of their cars because of tyre explosions, said Police Major Yan Naing Win, who urged drivers to check the tyres of their cars before driving on the highway and abide by the rules to wear seat belts that prevent ejection from the vehicle during a crash.

To reduce road-related deaths and injuries, police are accelerating traffic rule enforcement efforts throughout the nation, with the hopes that the number of car accidents will decreased.—200

Crime NEWS

Unregistered car seized in Thaton Township

A YOUNG man on Tuesday was arrested by local police after he could not produce documents proving his ownership of a car in his possession, according to Thaton District Police.

According to the investigation, the cars entered the township while heading from Hpa-an to Thaton Township in Mon State, a police officer said.

Min Thein, 26, has been charged under Section 8 of the Export and Import Law by

Thudhammawaddy Police Station as he apparently imported a motor car without permission from the Ministry of Commerce.

Police confiscated the unregistered car. Authorities continue to check vehicle at points of entry around the district. Action is being taken against those who break the existing laws, rules and regulations relating to import and export.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Electrical fire damages home, no injuries reported

NO INJURIES were reported after an electrical fire broke out on Monday in a house in Katha Township, Sagaing Region.

According to the township fire service department, a fire was reported in a home on Shwemyitta Street in Ward-3, about two furlong from the fire department.

The small fire was quickly put out by 28 firefighters plus 30 residents, who brought the blaze under control within

minutes. The department used three fire engines and two tanker trucks loaded with 1,600 gallons of water.

The electrical fire occurred because of problems in the wiring of the house, said officers. Damage was estimated to be about Ks6,000.

Action has been taken against the owner of the house under Section 285 of the Penal Code.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Bilateral Trade Myanmar-Northeast state of India has grown

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the Northeast state of India has grown by Rs6,699 lakhs (Ks135,553 lakhs).

Nirmala Sitharaman, the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry in India, told the media that the total estimated trade between India and Myanmar through the Northeast has increased from Rs7,752.72 lakh to Rs14,452.26 lakh during the past three years.

Some of the steps taken for promoting trade include shifting from barter trade to normal trade,

expansion of all tradable commodities, use of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport facility for increasing trade through sea route, construction of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway and widening of the Imphal-Moreh road for better land connectivity.

A comprehensive telecommunications development plan for the Northeast, initiation of better banking facilities, expansion of the rail network in the region, Land Customs Stations (LCS)

at Moreh, Zokhawthar and Champhai, establishment of border posts and an Integrated Check Post at Moreh are some of the other measures included in this policy.

In August 2016, after President U Htin Kyaw's four-day state visit to India, the two countries signed four MOUs and released a joint statement. The statement, which ran to 30 clauses, touched on relevant points in bilateral relations.

While India wants to cooperate with Myanmar as part of its "Act East"

policy to gain influence and market share in ASEAN, the two countries' relationship is largely underdeveloped. Myanmar's trade with India is US\$ 1.3 billion, which is less than the US\$ 9.6 billion with China and US\$ 5.7 billion with Thailand.

There are several reasons for the lesser amounts. The two countries' economic relationship, especially border trade, has suffered from a lack of clear policy, high tariffs from the India side and logistical challenges. —GNLM

Rice and broken rice export hit 1.2million tonnes

THE export volume of rice and broken rice hit 1.2 million tonnes as of the third week of January.

Over 400,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth US\$120million were exported through normal trade, whereas about 800,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth US\$256million were exported via border trade camps, according to the figures of the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar's rice market looks promising with possibly new market access. Previously, the market was solely dependent on the China market. Now, Myanmar's rice market attained more international markets: countries in Asia, Europe, the EU and Africa. In addition, rice and broken rice are proposed to be purchased by Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and other countries in the region.

Agricultural products are in second place in the export sector, accounting for 24 per cent of export



Workers loading rice bags onto a ship at a Botahtaung jetty in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

volume. In the agricultural export sector, about 1.1million tonnes of various peas worth US\$1.2 billion, 1.2 million tonnes of rice and broken rice worth about US\$380million, about 900,000 tonnes of maize worth about US\$185million, over 90,000 tones of sesame worth US\$127million and over 100,000 tonnes of

rubber worth US\$135million were shipped to the foreign countries.

The rice export volume is likely to rise with new markets opening up. The country exported 1.8 million tones of rice in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, whereas 1.4 million tonnes of rice were exported in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Concerted efforts

are being made to effectuate development in all sectors, achieve self-sufficiency and boost the export volume, according to the 12-point economic policy laid down by the government. As a result, the export value as of 27 January this final year was up by US\$709.7 million when compared to last year. —Ko Htet

FMI to sell more stocks depending on budget for Landmark project

FIRST Myanmar Investment (FMI) will sell its new stocks if there is a budget deficit for a landmark project being developed with foreign partners, said U Thein Wai, the chairperson of FMI.

The Landmark project

will be implemented with a capital of US\$600million, with 12 per cent of shares by FMI, 48 per cent by Yoma Company and 30 per cent by two Japanese companies — Mitsubishi Corporation and Mitsubishi Estate and International Finance Cor-

poration (IFC) and Asia Development Bank (ADB) will put 5 per cent each into the project.

The volumes of shares which will be placed on the stock exchange and the commencing date of share trading have not been decid-

ed yet, said U Thein Wai.

This Landmark project is being carried out on the sites of the former Myanma Railways Headquarters and will include high-end housing projects, office towers and shopping centres, it is learnt. —200

Over 800,000 tonnes of maize exported to foreign countries during over 10 months in this FY

OVER 800,000 tonnes of maize worth US\$176million were exported to foreign countries from April to the third week of January this fiscal year, according to Commerce Ministry figures.

Maize is mainly exported to China, where there exists a limit on the amount of corn that enters the country. A quota system for corn exports is still under discussion, with efforts being made to get wider access, said U Khin Maung Lwin, the assistant secretary of the Commerce Ministry.

Ninety-eight per cent of maize exports flowed into China and Thai-

land through border trade camps. Additionally, maize worth US\$12million were shipped to Japan and maize worth US\$6million, to Singapore.

Myanmar's corn needs to be of higher quality in order to be exported to the EU and other international markets, said U Tun Tun Naing, a corn merchant.

Myanmar is one of the highest corn production countries in the region. About 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes of corns are annually exported to China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Viet Nam, Bulgaria and Spain. —200

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Dated **8 February 2017**

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Duterte to send rogue cops to violence-plagued south Philippines

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Tuesday corrupt police will be sent to a violence-racked stronghold of Islamist militants or they should quit, in a fierce dressing down of men from a force he had relied on to fight his war on drugs.

Duterte had been unwavering in his defence of the police in the face of international outrage over the death toll, but his faith in the force was shaken by the killing of a South Korean businessman late last year by rogue officers.

Duterte late last month denounced the police as “corrupt to the core” and suspended their anti-drug operations, though vowing to forge ahead with the drug campaign.

On Tuesday, he spoke to ranks of 400 policemen lined up in the grounds of the presidential palace, all of them under investigation for various infractions, and condemned them as “foolish, idiots and sons of bitches”.

He even challenged them to a shootout.

“I will send you to Basilan, live there for 2 years. If you get out alive,



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte speaks while talking to police officers who are under investigation for various infractions during a meeting at the Malacanang presidential palace in metro Manila, Philippines on 7 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

you can return here. If you die there, I will tell the police not to spend anything to bring you back here but to bury you there,” Duterte told them.

Basilan is a southern island stronghold of the notorious Islamic State-linked Abu Sayyaf militant group, who have developed a reputation for beheading their captives.

Those who did not want to go to Basilan could quit, Duterte said, but he

warned any who did to stay out of trouble.

“Find a clean livelihood,” he said.

“I will keep a battalion to keep track of your movements because it has been the sad experience of this country that the most vicious criminals, most are ex-police or ex-military men.” More than 7,700 people have been killed since Duterte unleashed his bloody crackdown on drugs seven months ago,

about 2,500 in police operations.

The rest of the killings are under investigation but rights groups suspect many of the victims were killed by vigilantes or hitmen supported by the police.

The Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency has been put in charge of anti-drug operations and Duterte has also raised the possibility of getting the military to help.—*Reuters*

China, United States cannot afford conflict — Chinese foreign minister

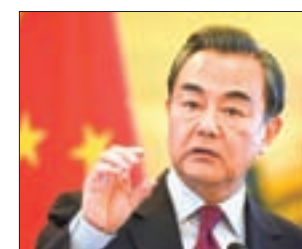
SYDNEY—There would be no winner from conflict between China and the United States, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned on Tuesday, seeking to dampen tension between the two nations that flared after the election of US President Donald Trump.

Relations between China and United States have soured after Trump upset Beijing in December by taking a telephone call from Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen and threatened to impose tariffs on Chinese imports.

China considers Taiwan a wayward province, with no right to formal diplomatic relations with any other country. But China is committed to peace, Wang said, after meeting Australia’s Foreign Minister Julia Bishop. “There cannot be conflict between China and the United States, as both sides will lose and both sides cannot afford that,” he told reporters in the Australian capital of Canberra. While seeking to reduce tension, Wang

called on global leaders to reject protectionism, which Trump has backed with his “America First” economic plans. “It is important to firmly commit to an open world economy,” Wang added. “It is important to steer economic globalization towards greater inclusiveness, broader shared benefit in a more sustainable way.”

While Trump’s trade policies have spurred concern the United States is entering a period of economic protectionism, China has previously accused Australia of adopting a similar practice by blocking the sale of major assets to Chinese interests.—*Reuters*



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks during a joint press conference with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Beijing, China on 5 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Abe to visit US from Thursday for summit with Trump



Photo shows Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and Donald Trump holding talks at Trump Tower in New York, just over a week after Trump’s US presidential election victory. Abe will visit the United States from 9 February, 2017, to hold a summit with the new president, the Japanese government said. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO —Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will visit the United States from Thursday to hold a summit with President Donald Trump, the Japanese government said on Tuesday.

Abe will hold talks with Trump in Washington and also visit the US president’s vacation estate in Florida before returning to Japan next Monday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference.

“(We) want this trip to be an opportunity for (the leaders) to hold a frank exchange of views and display to the world that the Japan-US alliance is unwavering,” Suga, the top government spokesman, said.

The visit to Florida is

aimed at deepening the personal relationship of trust between the leaders, he said.

Finance Minister Taro Aso, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko will accompany Abe to Washington if their parliamentary schedules allow, Suga added.

Abe and Trump agreed in a telephone call late last month to hold a summit on 10 February in Washington. It will be their first sit-down meeting since Trump took office on 20 January.

They held an unofficial meeting in New York in November last year shortly after Trump’s victory in the US presidential election.—*Kyodo News*

Japan, Thailand to jointly rev up SMEs with business matching

BANGKOK — Japan and Thailand have agreed to expand their collaboration for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises by mutually encouraging business-matching deals between SMEs of the two countries.

A memorandum of understanding on further synergy was inked last week between Japan’s Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation and Thailand’s

Department of Industrial Promotion at the Ministry of Industry. The two organizations signed their first collaborative agreement in September 2014. The latest pact is set to continually strengthen SMEs of the two countries, encouraging business-to-business matching and human resource development along with technology and innovation exchanges.

Hiroshi Takada, chairman of the Japanese organ-

ization known as SMRJ, said it is trying to expand collaboration with member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations where the combined population is more than 600 million and Thailand is considered “the leader of technical and service industries in the region.”

Industry Minister Utatama Savanayana said that under the MOU, SMRJ will assist the Thai side in providing guidance on the man-

agement of SME promotion projects, the SME Rescue Center, Business Service Center and a 20 billion baht (\$580 million) SME development fund run by DIP to enhance the competitiveness of Thai SMEs. “There are many Japanese SMEs currently located in Thailand. I agreed to encourage Thai SMEs to partner with them, and the 20 billion baht fund will be spent to help make business matchings,” Utatama said.—*Kyodo News*

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Channeling Steve Jobs, Apple seeks design perfection at new 'spaceship' campus

SAN FRANCISCO — Inside the original Macintosh computer, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs inscribed the signatures of his team, revealing his deep concern for even the hidden features of his products.

His last work — Apple Inc.'s (AAPL.O) sprawling new headquarters in Cupertino, Calif. — will be a fitting tribute: a futuristic campus built with astonishing attention to detail. From the arrangement of electrical wiring to the finish of a hidden pipe, no aspect of the 2.8 million-square-foot main building has been too small to attract scrutiny. But constructing a building as flawless as a hand-held device is no easy feat, according to interviews with nearly two dozen current and former workers on the project, most of whom would not be named because they signed non-disclosure agreements.

Since Apple unveiled its plans in 2011, the move-in date has slowly receded: Jobs' initial projection was 2015, but this spring now



The Apple Campus 2 is seen under construction in Cupertino, California on 13 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

seems most likely, according to people involved in the project. A lengthy approval process with the city contributed to the delay.

Apple has not revealed the total price tag, but former project managers estimate it at about \$5 billion — a figure CEO Tim Cook did not

dispute in a 2015 TV interview. More than \$1 billion was allocated for the interior of the main building alone, according to a former construction manager.

For all the time and money sunk into the project, some in the architecture community question wheth-

er Apple has focused on the right ends. The campus is something of an exception to the trend of radically open offices aimed at fostering collaboration, said Louise Mazingo, a professor and chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at UC Berkeley. Its central office building — a massive ring of glass frequently likened to a spaceship — could be a challenge just to navigate, she noted.

"It's not about maximizing the productivity of the office space, it's about creating a symbolic center for this global company," she said. "They are creating an icon." Tech companies have long favored generic office parks, which allow them to lease and shed space through booms and busts. Jobs' unveiling of what's formally known as Apple Campus 2, months before his death, marked a new chapter in Silicon Valley architecture.

When completed,

the campus will house up to 14,200 employees, according to the 2013 project description. The main building — which boasts the world's largest piece of curved glass — will be surrounded by a lush canopy of thousands of trees. Little remains from the cement-laden campus Apple acquired from Hewlett-Packard, though the iPhone maker preserved a century-old barn that remained intact as the land passed from tech giant to tech giant. But what was most striking to those who worked on the project was Apple managers' insistence on treating the construction of the vast complex the same way they approach the design of pocket-sized electronics.

Apple's in-house construction team enforced many rules: No vents or pipes could be reflected in the glass. Guidelines for the special wood used frequently throughout the building ran to some 30 pages.—Reuters

Hackers take down Austrian parliament website, no data lost

VIENNA — Hackers took the Austrian parliament's website down for 20 minutes on Sunday by flooding its server with digital service requests, and although no data was lost authorities are investigating the attack, the parliament said in a statement.

"The hacker attack was most likely a so-called DDoS-attack; a similar attack took place last November targeting the websites of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministries," it said, using the acronym for Distributed Denial of Service attack.

In November, hackers launched a DDoS-attack, among the most common cyber threats, on the European Commission's computers.

The Vienna-based Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was also recently the target of a cyber attack.—Reuters

Asia stocks, euro pressured by economic, political uncertainty

SINGAPORE — Appetite for Asian stocks and the euro ebbed on Tuesday as a rising tide of economic and political concerns added to anxiety over expectations China's foreign exchange reserves fell again in January.

European stocks look set for sluggish start, with financial spreadbetter CMC Markets expecting Britain's FTSE 100 to open up 0.1 per cent, France's CAC 40 0.1 per cent lower and Germany's DAX to be little changed.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was fractionally lower, while Japan's Nikkei closed down 0.35 per cent.

Chinese shares dropped 0.4 per cent ahead of data expected to show that foreign exchange reserves fell for the seventh straight month by about \$10.5 billion to \$3 trillion in January.

But some economists said reserves may have actually risen due to tighter controls on moving money out of the country, as well the impact of a weaker dollar. Nevertheless, as foreign exchange reserves linger at

around \$3 trillion, concerns remain over the speed at which China has depleted its cash resources to defend the currency.

Overnight, both US and European stocks dropped.

Wall Street dipped as much as 0.2 per cent, led lower by the energy sector as oil prices fell, with investors still waiting for details of US President Donald Trump's economic policies.

"The market's tone has been one of risk-off, as political fallout in both Europe and the United States is weighing on investor resolve, imposing an unpalatable risk on investor sentiment," Stephen Innes, senior trader at OANDA in Singapore, wrote in a note.

Declines in European shares came on the heels of the French presidential campaign launch of far-right National Front Leader Marine Le Pen on a platform pledging to fight globalisation and take France out of the European Union.

French stocks lost 1 per cent, and yields on 10-year French government bonds hit their highest level since September 2015.

"Despite the reaction in the French yields, polls show Le Pen would finish runner-up by a wide margin to either Independent Emmanuel Macron or Republican Francois Fillon," James Woods, global investment analyst at Rivkin Securities in Sydney, wrote in a note.

The euro fell 0.3 per cent to \$1.0714 on Tuesday, after dropping as much as 0.7 per cent the previous day to a near one-week low before recovering to close down 0.3 per cent.

The dollar added about 0.1 per cent to 111.845 yen on Tuesday, recovering some of its 0.8 per cent loss from Monday.

The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against a trade-weighted basket of its peers, was steady at 99.907, retaining its small gains of almost 0.1 per cent from Monday. The Australian dollar reversed earlier losses to rise 0.25 per cent to \$0.7679 after the Reserve Bank of Australia kept interest rates on hold at a record low 1.5 per cent as expected, and played down a recent soft patch in economic growth as a temporary hiccup.—Reuters

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Opinion

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

"Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny" Charles Reade

Kyaw Myaing

PEOPLE these days talk a great deal about the fact that Myanmar is on a very challenging, exciting and important journey towards a modern democratic federal republic. Another way of saying this is that we are in a period of transition from a quasi-military dictatorship to a democratic republic. We are sure that all of us want this transition to be smooth and without bloodshed.

To carry out a transition successfully is not going to be easy. Nobody said it was going to be easy, anyway. There will be pitfalls, challenges and cynics as well as critics. This is to be expected of course. The NLD party went to the polls in 2015 fully aware of the challenges and opportunities.

The Union government has made it quite clear that the goal of achieving internal peace is the top priority. It has established the NRPC - National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw with a branch in Yangon. A Peace Fund has also been initiated. These are important steps in the right direction. We all know that peace is a neces-

sary condition for development.

Before we achieve peace we all need to get rid of our bad habits. There are many things we need to do, and the first thing is to do away with our old bad habits. Regarding good habits and bad habits there is saying which is worth noting:

"Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny." Charles Reade

General Aung San talked about the need to have discipline and to get rid of our bad habits in one of his speeches.

If we wish to build our country into a modern, developed democratic federal republic, each of us need to do some soul searching and make a critical appraisal of ourselves to filter out the bad habits in our systems and get rid of them as quickly as possible.

Like good friends and bad friends, we need to get rid of the bad habits and keep the good ones. Training young children at home is the duty of both parents. When the children reach school going age, they become

the responsibility of the teachers. To become a modern country does not mean only having high-tech machines, skyscrapers and modern transportation systems. Of course, all these are important but what is more important for our citizens is to change the way they think, the way they view things and the way they behave at the work place and in public.

When we imitate people from other developed countries, we should make a careful selection of what should be imitated and what would not be useful for us because of our culture, traditions, our weather and our environment.

For example, one of the things we should definitely imitate is to line up at the bus stop. Lining up before we board the bus is efficient, fair and makes it easy for everyone concerned to get to their destinations in time. Another bad habit which needs to be corrected as soon as possible is to line up in front of the elevators. This is one characteristic of a developed and modern country. Whoever came first and is at the top of the line

should be the first person to board the elevator.

Another thing worth mentioning is the bad habit of littering public places such as platforms, drains and the back lanes of apartment buildings. A very good start has been made in Sanchaung Township. Thanks to the combined efforts of citizens committees and municipal workers, the streets are cleaner and the back lanes have been cleared of garbage and wastes that had accumulated over the years.

A citizen's duty is not only to go to the polls at every general election or by-election. Our duty does not end there. If we all want to live in peace and enjoy a good life, it is the duty of each and every one of us to assist the government by giving feedback and also by participating in all public service projects and initiatives. We cannot get rid of bad habits by pointing our fingers at others. The change will begin from within us and starting from each of us. We have all voted for change, now is the time for each of us to work on changing ourselves.

The State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee of the Sangha of ALL Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein
(Religious Affairs)

In accordance with the resolutions passed and adopted by the very First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders of 1980 which could reconstruct the unity of the Sangha of ALL Orders within one hundred years in the history of Buddhism of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the different levels of the Sangha Organizations throughout the country could be formed thoroughly. The different levels of the Sangha Organizations in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are as follows:-

- (1) State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee
 - (2) State Sanghamahanayaka Committee
 - (3) State Central Working Committee of the Sangha
 - (4) State and Regional Sanghanayaka Committees
 - (5) Township Sanghanayaka Committees
 - (6) Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees
- According to the principles

of the Sangha Organizations adopted by the First Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, all members at the different levels of the Sangha Organizations shall be elected after the duration of five years term is terminated.

Members of State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee, State Sanghamahanayaka Committee and State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of ALL Orders shall be elected only by the majority of Sanghasamuti Representatives who represent over five hundred thousand members of the Sangha in the Republic of Union of Myanmar.

Members of Region and State Sanghanayaka Committees, Township Sanghanayaka Committees and Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees shall be elected by majority of the members of the Sangha at their respective meetings. The main aims and objectives of those various Sangha Organizations are to carry out the noble tasks of the purification, perpetuation, propagation

and promotion of the Buddha Sasana throughout the world. We all Buddhists know that altogether six Buddhist Synods had been held in order to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Buddha Sasana after the noble demise of the Buddha over 2560 years ago.

The Six Buddhist Synod was held in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1954 and attended by the learned and chief monks (Maha Theras) from the Five Theravada Buddhist Nations—Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Although the Buddhist Synod has been held, it was still found that some -isms and views which were incompatible with and contradictory to the essence of the real teachings of the Buddha. And also, different sects and schools of the Sangha Orders appeared in the country. They were not united and parted from each other.

According to the strong wish of multifarious Buddhist people and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to reconstruct the uni-

ty of the Sangha, the First congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders for the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana which was attended by 1500 representatives of the Sangha throughout the country was successfully held in 1980.

As a result of the unity of the Sangha of ALL Orders, the Nine Sects (Ganas) of the Sangha of ALL Orders throughout the country were officially recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They are as follows:-

- (1) Suddhamma Gana (Sect)
- (2) Shwekyin Gana (Sect)
- (3) Dhammanu Dhamma Mahadwara Nikaya Gana (Sect)
- (4) Dhamma Vinaya Nulomamuladwara Nikaya Gana (Sect)
- (5) Anaukchaung Dwara Gana (Sect)
- (6) Veluvan Nikaya Gana (Sect)
- (7) Catubonmika Mahasatipathana Hngettwina Gana (Sect)
- (8) Gannavimotti Kuto Gana (Sect)
- (9) Dhammayotti Nikaya Mahayin Gana (Sect)

The different levels of Sangha Organizations throughout the country represent these nine Ganas (Sects) of the Sangha of ALL Orders. The State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee of the Sangha of ALL Orders is one of the different levels of the Sangha Organizations and comprises (111) chief and learned Maha Theras of advanced age who are elected by majority of Sangha representatives at the Congregation of the Sangha of ALL Orders.

Functions and duties of the State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee of the Sangha of ALL Orders

- (1) Members of the State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee in group or in individual may give admonitions (Ovadakathas) to the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee relating to the Sangha affairs.
- (2) Members of the State Ovadacariya Committee, themselves may go to give admonitions or may send the written statement.

SEE PAGE 9 >>

Union Solidarity and Development Party presents policies and programmes



U Thet Naing Win, General secretary of the Union Solidarity and Development Party.

General secretary of the Union Solidarity and Development Party U Thet Naing Win presented the policies, attitudes and programmes of his party on 7 February 2017, on Radio and TV programmes.

The full text of his presentation is given below:

Esteemed voters,

I wish you physical and mental well-being with due respect. I am (U) Thet Naing Win, the general secretary of the Union Solidarity and Development Party.

Under the multi-party democracy system, it is the people who decide. This being so, only those people's representatives who are elected and vested with people's mandate will have the right to bring benefit to the nation and its nationals.

Our party has laid down correct policies and practical programmes to be able to join hands with the people in building up of peaceful, modern, developed democratic nation bringing the national interest to the fore. With this objectives, we have contested the multi-party general election held on 7th November, 2010 and won the public support and have become the ruling party. Truthful to the voting public, we have performed the duties of a government in the service of our people.

As we place national cause in the fore, we have decided to contest the 2017 multi-party democracy bye election to be able to effectuate more effectively the national interest. In this regard, I'd like to emphasise that we'll resort to fair means only in our endeavour to accept the decision of the voting public.

Our voters,

We were born as a po-

litical party as required by our history and with solemn commitment to ensure perpetuation of our motherland, perpetuity of sovereignty, national solidarity, emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed democratic country, fulfillment of security of indigenous people, food, clothing and shelter needs and social requirements as well as to enable the people to enjoy human rights and democracy. Our USDP party is a nationalist party.

To be in accord with a party that always brings to the fore the people's aspirations, we focused our attention on people's aspirations in formulation of party's policies. We are constantly exerting effort to fulfil the aspirations and needs of the people. Such being the case, whatever our party members do, they are told to be people-centered, to give priority to the cause of the people, to ensure the stability and peace of the country and to help implement the socio-economic development of the people. This is our party's belief, which we hold invariably.

We place in the front the democratic cause, civil rights, human rights, equality and justice. In doing so, we are committed to making concerted effort according to the democratic practices, preserving national pride and adhering to the cultural mores of indigenous people. Moreover, we vow to co-operate with the political parties and all indigenous people to establish a union based on democracy and genuine federal system.

Voting public,

As it is our party's government that has initiated the reform to turn the country into a democratic one aspired by the people, we can say that "dem-

ocratic reform is started by USDP". In this regard, we have launched the democratic reform in three phases.

In the first phase, which is the preparatory phase, the military government took time to draft the 2008 constitution with an aim to effectuate the democratic nation and in a manner to include all indigenous races and people from all strata. Then, 2010 multi-party general election was held to prepare for the ruling party to form the hluttaws and the government. It's us who have paved the democratic path.

In the second phase, we have managed the peaceful transition to a democratic nation in a stable and smooth manner. This has won our country international recognition with the result that the international relations has improved significantly.

In the third phase, which is a transition to mature democracy, there has arisen a need to give priority to stability and peace as we're being faced with internal conflicts and racial conflicts. Solution has been sought through dialogue to ensure signing of a ceasefire accord, internal peace and national reconciliation.

As a result, an agreement has been reached to adopt two basic political principles – to find solution to armed conflicts through political means and to build a union based on federal system to effectuate equality among the indigenous races. As a consequence, nation-wide ceasefire agreement (NCA) has been signed, opening the door to peace.

When we were the ruling party, we were able to lay down the foundation for building a democratic nation in accord with the people's aspirations. Party, Hluttaw and the government have realized the party's policies and programmes. We did not just utter the words. The history has witnessed that we have proved by the deed. As we can be seen differently when compared to world's events, it is true that we have a different political culture. Our party understands people's aspirations for a change and we will try to find out their needs so that we can fulfil them.

Voters,

USDP will contest the coming bye election to be possessed with a chance to establish a peaceful, modern, developed democratic nation, joining hands with the people with its correct policies and programmes.

Voters from respective

constituencies will vote in the coming bye election for those candidates who are really able to bring benefit to the people in their constituencies. It is necessary for the representatives the people vote for to be able to really serve their voters and to bring benefit to their constituencies. In this regard, it is needed to judge the candidates based on their performance – present and past.

We believe in your discretion because you are well aware that which party, organization and individual are true to their words, abiding by the saying, "Not in word but in deed".

In building up of a nation, political, economic, social and public affairs management are to be handled in synchronization. In addition, we also need to effectuate sectoral development at the same time. Just as it is needed to formulate correct policies, it is also necessary to realize them in actual practice. Construction of a new, democratic nation requires a lot of experienced, qualified, human resources.

Assumption of the duties of a government involves striking a proper balance between needs and wants of the people within the budget constraints. We also need to consider our human resources and historical background. This is the reason why the political parties around the world study the political, social, economic and public affairs management continuously so that they are well prepared to perform the national duties in case they are elected by the people. So, our party is well prepared because we know no party ever wins in democratic nations.

People have to choose the party that can promote their quality of life in actual practice.

Esteemed voters,

Voters should decide based not only on the qualifications of the candidates but also on the merits of the party they represent. Our USDP has laid down strong policies, and we have

chosen the candidates who are qualified and who will exert their utmost effort for their constituencies. Our party and our party representing candidates will

- give priority to strengthening the national cause and national interest;
- give priority to fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of the people and ensuring security of their social life;
- promote private economic sector for development of national economy;
- give priority to enforce the rule of law inclusive of combat against narcotic drugs;
- to encourage and provide help to achieve internal peace; and
- build a republic which exercises democracy within the bounds of law.

I would like to reiterate that our USDP is a nationalist party, which will exist till the doomsday. As long as there exists USDP, we give a solemn guarantee that we can always be proud of our nation and our race and the territory of Myanmar shall never change.

Esteemed people,

- vote for USDP if you really want to establish a union based on federal system because USDP is the party that can sustain achievement in democracy, internal peace and national reconciliation;
- vote for USDP if you want to lead a peaceful and prosperous life because USDP is the party that can preserve and protect the country;
- vote for USDP because USDP is the party that can promote the socio-economic life of the people;
- vote for USDP because both the party and the candidates are the most reliable ones. (Thank you all).

"Let's vote for USDP for a real change". (Unofficial Translation)

The State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee of the Sangha of ALL Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

>> FROM PAGE 8

(3) Any member of the State Ovadacariya Committee may attend the meeting of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha of ALL Orders if he wishes,

and if he is requested to act as the Patron Maha Thera (Ovadacariya) at the meeting, he may act.

The members of the State Ovadacatiya (Patron) Committee of the Sangha of ALL Or-

ders represent the Nine Sects of the Sangha of ALL Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and carry out the noble tasks of the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Theravada

Buddha Sasana by giving admonitions to the members of the Sangha relating to the Sasana affairs and preaching the teachings of the Buddha to the people. We heartily wish that may the members of the

State Ovadacariya (Patron) Committee of the Sangha of ALL Orders be healthy and longevity, and peacefully carry out the benefits of the Buddha Sasana.

Job Vacancies

The Global New Light of Myanmar, the country's oldest continuously published English-language newspaper, is looking for experienced journalists to join its expanding editorial team. Applications should be sent no later than **21 February, 2017**.

The GNLM currently has openings for a chief editor, two editors, five translators and reporters for its newsroom in Yangon.

1. Candidates for the chief editor (Male, Myanmar national) position must have the following qualifications.

- He must have extensive editorial experience with editing and must possess at least an MA English degree.
- He must have at least 15 years experience with print media in positions at the senior management level and possess good computer skills.
- He must be in good health and willing to work night shifts.
- He must be aged between 40 and 60.
- Salary is negotiable.

2. Candidates for two expatriate editors (Male/Female) must have following qualifications.

- He/she must be a native English speaker and must be a university graduate with a specialisation in journalism.
- He/she must have editing experience at newspapers or online publications.
- He/she must be in good health and willing to work night shifts.
- Age should be under 40, but those over 40 will be considered if he/she possesses excellent skills.
- Salary is negotiable.

3. Candidates for two senior translators (Male) must have the following qualifications.

- He must be a university graduate.
- He must be able to quickly translate and rewrite multiple stories from Myanmar to English, with at least 10 years experience in translation.
- He must be in good health and willing to work night shifts.
- Salary is negotiable.

4. Candidates for three junior translators (Male/Female) must have following qualifications.

- He/she must be a university graduate.
- He/she must be able to translate from Myanmar to English, with at least five years experience in translation.
- He/she can work night shifts.
- Salary is negotiable.

5. Candidates for three senior reporters (Male/Female) must have following qualifications.

- He/she must be a university graduate.
- He/she must be fluent in Myanmar and be able to write clear and concise copy in Burmese. Those who can write news stories in English will be preferred candidates.
- He/she must have experience with writing for an English-language newspaper or online publication. This will be a major advantage.
- He/she must have at least three years experience in print or online media.
- Salary is negotiable.

6. Candidates for junior reporters must have following qualifications.

- He/she must be a university graduate.
- He/she can write news stories clearly in Burmese.
- Salary is negotiable.

For further information, please call or email the following contacts. Applicants should send a cover letter and CV to No.150 Nga Htat Gyi Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, or email: gnlmdaily@gmail.com, dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com or call (01) 8604529.



US President Donald Trump attends a meeting in Washington US, on 1 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Appeals court to hear arguments on Trump's travel ban

SAN FRANCISCO/WASHINGTON — The US Justice Department will face off with opponents in a federal appeals court on Tuesday over the fate of President Donald Trump's temporary travel ban on people from seven Muslim-majority countries, his most controversial act since taking office last month.

Last Friday, US District Judge James Robart suspended Trump's ban, opening a window for people from the seven affected countries to enter the country.

The 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco will hear arguments over whether to restore the ban from Justice Department lawyers and opposing attorneys for the states of Minnesota and Washington at 3 pm PST (2300 GMT). In a tweet on Monday night, Trump said: "The threat from radical Islamic terrorism is very

real, just look at what is happening in Europe and the Middle-East. Courts must act fast!" Trump has said the travel measures are designed to protect the country against the threat of terrorism. He has derided Robart, appointed by Republican President George W Bush, as a "so-called judge."

In a brief filed on Monday, the Justice Department said the suspension of Trump's order was too broad and "at most" should be limited to people who were already granted entry to the country and were temporarily abroad, or to those who want to leave and return to the United States.

Opponents say the 90-day ban barring entry for citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen and imposing a 120-day halt to all refugees, is illegal. The state of Washington argues

it has suffered harm, saying some students and faculty at state universities had been stranded overseas because of the ban.

The Republican president's 27 January executive order sparked protests and chaos at US and overseas airports in the weekend that followed.

All the people who had carried out fatal attacks inspired by Islamist militancy in the United States since the 11 September, 2001, attacks had been US citizens or legal residents, the New America think tank said. None came to the United States or were from a family that emigrated from one of the countries listed in the travel ban, it said. Trump faces an uphill battle in the liberal-leaning San Francisco court. Two members of three-judge panel that will hear the arguments were appointed by former Democratic Presidents Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama,

and one was appointed by Bush. Appeals courts are generally leery of upending the status quo, which in this case is the lower court's suspension of the ban.

Opponents of the ban received far more filings in support of their position than the Department of Justice. Washington state's challenge was backed by about a dozen friends-of-the-court briefs submitted by at least 17 state attorneys general, more than 100 companies, and about a dozen labour and civil rights groups. About a dozen conservative groups supported the government in three such briefs.

The appeals court was focusing on the narrow question of whether the district court had grounds to put the order on hold. The bigger legal fight over whether Trump had authority to issue the order will be addressed later in the litigation.—Reuters

NATO beef up send strong message of unity—Lithuanian president

RUKLA, Lithuania — NATO's military deployment in Lithuania sends a powerful message that the military alliance is strong and united, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė said during a ceremony on Tuesday to welcome a German battalion in the central

town of Rukla.

"Never before has Lithuania hosted military forces of such size and integrity. It sends a very clear and important message to all that NATO stands strong and united," Grybauskaitė said.

German Defence

Minister Ursula von der Leyen, who attended the ceremony, said the deployment of tanks and other military equipment made it clear that Lithuania was not alone.

The deployment is designed to beef up the defense of eastern Europe

and send a signal of resolve to Russia, which has denounced the build-up as an act of aggression.

The German army last month started sending about 200 vehicles, including 30 tanks, by train to Lithuania along with 450 troops.—Reuters

Air strikes hit Syria’s rebel-held Idlib city, 15 dead — residents

ALEPPO — At least 15 people died in air strikes on the rebel-held Syrian city of Idlib on Tuesday, in some of the heaviest raids there in months, residents and a rescue worker said.

Around eight attacks by what were believed to be Russian jets wounded scores of people and leveled several multi-storey buildings in residential areas of the northwestern city, they added.

“We are still pulling bodies from the rubble,” Issam al Idlibi, a volunteer civil defence worker, said. Most of the casualties were civilians and the death toll would probably rise, he added.



People inspect the damage at a site hit by airstrikes in the rebel-held city of Idlib, Syria on 7 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The extent of the damage and the debris bore the hallmarks of a Russian attack, said two witnesses. There was no immediate comment from Moscow.

Russian planes have targeted a number of towns and villages in the area since entering the Syri-

an conflict in September 2015 to back ally President Bashar al-Assad.

But activists and residents said there had been a reduction of Russian strikes in Idlib province since a Turkish-Russian brokered cessation of hos-

tilities late December.

Planes from the US-led coalition have also launched a number of attacks in the rural province, a major stronghold of jihadists, many of them formerly affiliated to al Qaeda.

Idlib’s population has been swollen by thousands of Syrian fighters and their families who were evacuated from villages and towns around Damascus and Aleppo city retaken by the government in recent months.—Reuters

Syria’s Assad views Trump as ‘promising’ on Islamic State

AMMAN — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said US President Donald Trump prioritising the fight against jihadists led by Islamic State was promising although it was too early to expect any practical steps, state news agency SANA reported on Tuesday.

The Kremlin, Assad’s most powerful ally, said Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed setting up “genuine coordination” in the fight against Islamic State and “other terrorist groups” in Syria during a phone call last month.

Assad was quoted by SANA as telling a group of Belgian reporters that Trump’s position was promising. “I believe this is promising but we have to wait and it’s too early to expect anything practical,” he said. Assad was also quoted as saying that US-Russian cooperation in stepping up the fight against the militants would have positive repercussions.—Reuters

At least five dead in blast outside Supreme Court in Afghan capital

KABUL — At least five people were killed and 17 wounded in a bomb blast outside the Supreme Court in the centre of Afghanistan’s capital, Kabul, on Tuesday, government officials said.

An apparent suicide bomber targeted Supreme Court employees leaving their offices at the end of the working day, police at the scene said.

The Ministry of Health, which reported the casualty numbers, said the figure was expected to rise. Reuters witnesses reported blood stains on the street and numerous ambulances leaving the area. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.—Reuters

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV DA HUA VOY. NO (155)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DA HUA VOY. NO (155) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV CORAL OCEAN VOY. NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CORAL OCEAN VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ININ SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV FRAUKE VOY. NO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRAUKE VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAL HEAVY LIFT GMBH.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV SHIPPAN ISLAND VOY. NO (009)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIPPAN ISLAND VOY. NO (009) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV FSL BUSAN VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FSL BUSAN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE
MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION
OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
Invitation for Bids

Date: 6th February, 2017

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: Steel Poles for National Electrification Project

Reference No. : C1-G3

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Steel Poles for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of steel pole 10 meter and 12 meter, for the total quantities of 11,484 poles to be delivered in 2017 and 2018 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 10 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmo.moep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in CD with English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Myanmar Kyats 100,000. The method of payment will be transferred to the following account:

Electricity Supply Enterprise, account no. SEE 10316 at Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The transferred slip shall be submitted with the above application. Once the application and the transferred slip received, the bidding documents will be provided in the CD.

In case of any difficulty in purchasing the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

1. Director General
Department of Electric Power Planning
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email: dep.pssp.info@gmail.com
2. Ms. Xiaoping Wang, Task Team Leader
The World Bank
Address: 30th Floor, Siam Tower.
989 Rama I Road, Pathumwan Bangkok
10330, Thailand
Email: xwang3@worldbank.org

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 am, 4th April, 2017. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below at 10:00 am, 4th April, 2017.

Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the bidding document.

8. The address referred to above para 4 and 5 are :
Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 67 410203
Facsimile : +95 67 410077
E-mail : nep.pmoep@gmail.com
Web site : <http://www.moep.gov.mm>

Magistrate orders French ex-president Sarkozy to stand trial

PARIS — A magistrate has ordered former French president Nicolas Sarkozy to stand trial over irregularities in the funding of his failed 2012 re-election bid, a judicial source said on Tuesday.

The charge against Sarkozy, who led France for five years from 2007, exposes the 62-year old conservative politician to a one-year prison sentence if convicted.

Sarkozy's lawyer Thierry Herzog described the trial order as "inane" and said he would lodge an appeal against it.

One of two magistrates handling the case ordered the trial on the charge that Sarkozy spent way more than he was entitled to, despite warnings from his accountants.

The source, who was speaking on condition of anonymity as is often the case in France when initial



Nicolas Sarkozy, former French president and candidate for the French conservative presidential primary, reacts after partial results in the first round of the French center-right presidential primary election at his campaign headquarters in Paris, France, on 20 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

announcements of trials are made, said 13 others would also face trial over the affair.

Lawyer Herzog highlighted the fact that only one of the two magistrates in charge of the case signed the trial order.

"The clear disagree-

ment between the two magistrates in charge of the matter is such a rare event that it is worth underlining, as it illustrates the inanity of the decision," he said in a statement.

The trial order comes at a time when French politicians face growing

scrutiny over their personal and political finances in the build-up to this year's presidential election in April and May.

Sarkozy's conservative predecessor Jacques Chirac was convicted in 2011, after his retirement, of misusing public funds to keep political allies in phantom jobs. That was the first conviction of a French head of state since Nazi collaborator Marshal Philippe Petain in 1945.

Conservative Francois Fillon, who beat rivals including Sarkozy to become the center-right's candidate in this year's race, has been engulfed by a scandal over payments of public funds to his wife and children.

Far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen is also being pursued by the European Parliament to refund money paid to her bodyguard and another person.—Reuters

Indian indigenous groups protest plan to give women political representation

GUWAHATI — Violent protests by male dominated indigenous groups in India's northeast have forced authorities to postpone a local election that would, for the first time, guarantee seats for women in urban civic bodies.

Two people were killed and dozens injured in Nagaland state last week as indigenous groups torched government vehicles and blocked roads in protest against government plans to reserve one third of all seats in local, urban authorities for women, state officials said.

Elections to the state's local bodies, which had been scheduled for 1 February, have been put on hold following the protests, they said.

"Allowing women reservations would be a scar on our age-old customary laws," said KT Vilie of the Nagaland Tribes Action Committee, that is leading the campaign in opposition.

"It is also a gross violation of the Constitution, which grants special status to Nagaland for protection of such laws," he told the Thomson Reuters Founda-

tion.

India's Supreme Court last year ruled in favour of a petition from the Naga Mothers' Association, the state's leading women's rights group, and directed the state to reserve seats for women in urban body elections.

Nagaland has never elected a woman legislator. Customary laws in the state also bar women from heading village councils, land ownership and inheritance rights.

Women's rights activists said the protests are a reflection of the entrenched

patriarchy that denies them ownership of property, as well as a place in the political hierarchy.

"Our customary laws are deeply rooted in patriarchy," Monalisa Changkija, a feminist writer, told the Indian Express newspaper.

"The fear is that women would finally have a say in how resources are used and shared in towns, which could then spill over to villages (and) ... disrupt the status quo that has marginalised Naga women politically and economically," she said.—Reuters

Sri Lanka calls on SAARC to unite to eliminate terrorism

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary Karunasena Hettiarachchi on Tuesday called on members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to unite in order to eliminate regional terrorism.

President Maithripala Sirisena had emphasized that every country of the SAARC should act with unity at a time when the very existence of SAARC might be threatened, Hettiarachchi said at a

SAARC's panel discussion jointly organized by the Institute of National Security Studies of Sri Lanka and the High Commission of Pakistan in Sri Lanka.

South Asia is the poorest region and the number of people living below the poverty line rises each year, so there is a long way before the region reaches its target of poverty alleviation, Hettiarachchi said.

He added in the past few decades South Asia had witnessed instances

of violence and extremism and it recently become an epi-center for terrorism.

Although some countries have made significant progress in economic growth, their influence in the region is still limited, therefore it is important for member states of the SAARC to cooperate and prioritize sustainable development goals and further development agenda, he said.

"During the past 31 years, with the combined

efforts of the member states, SAARC has made progress and praiseworthy achievements in strengthening trade and social welfare and in its battle against terrorism," Hettiarachchi said.

"However in some instances the traditions of mutual respect have been lacking and therefore SAARC as an organization for regional cooperation has not been able to achieve its full potential," he said.—Xinhua



Thai officials from the Conservation Science Division of the Fine Arts Department of the National Museum of Thailand repairs the Minor Chariot, which will be used during the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's funeral later this year, Thailand, on 6 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Golden chariot restored for Thai king's "ascent to heaven"

BANGKOK — Inch by gilded inch, the chariot to take Thailand's late king on his last journey is being restored by workers in Bangkok in a labour that will last months.

Built of wood and decorated with gold and mirrors, the 13.7 tonne chariot is 18 metres (yards) long, 11.2 metres high and 4.8 metres wide. Pulled by 216 men, it will carry the ornate urn containing King Bhumibol Adulyadej's body to the site of the cremation at the

Sanam Luang ground outside the Royal Palace.

The king died on 13 October after seven decades on the throne, plunging Thailand into mourning, which for many Thais will last a year. No date has yet been set for the cremation, but it will not take place before October.

Known as the "Great Victory" Chariot, the vehicle is believed take the divine back to heaven. Renovation began in January and is due to be completed

by September.

The chariot was first built in 1795 in the time of King Rama I for the cremation of his father. King Bhumibol was Rama IX in the Chakri dynasty. He has been succeeded by his son, King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun, known as Rama X.

The chariot has been used 25 times, most recently in 2012 for the cremation of Princess Bejaratana Rajasuda, the late king's cousin.—Reuters

Honda, Hitachi unit agree to form EV motor joint venture

TOKYO — Honda Motor Co and Hitachi Automotive Systems Ltd said on Tuesday they have agreed to form a joint venture to manufacture and market electric vehicle motors in July, with a view to establishing production and sales bases in China and the United States.

The Japanese automaker, which is said to lag behind rivals in the EV field, aims to catch up through the tie-up with Hitachi Au-

tomotive. The Hitachi Ltd subsidiary began marketing EV motors in 1999 and is recognized for its expertise in the technology.

The new venture, to be headquartered in Hitachinaka, Ibaraki Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, is slated to be capitalized at 5 billion yen (\$45 million), and 51 percent owned by Hitachi Automotive and 49 per cent by Honda.

Newly developed EV

motors will be provided to not only Honda but other global automakers. Honda and Hitachi Automotive are set to have further discussions on the project before finalizing a deal next month.

Honda President Takahiro Hachigo said at a news conference Tuesday the partnership would bring synergy effects in "investment and mass production technology."—Kyodo News

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMAR RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T)22/MR	(i) Under Floor Wheel Lathe Machine (Single)-(1) No
	(M) 16-17	(ii) Car Wheel Lathe Machine-(1) No

Closing Date & Time-23.3.2017(Thursday)(14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 8.2.2017 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Modernization of Public Finance Management
Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Server Room IT Equipment & Infrastructure for Treasury Department
Ref No: MPFMP-C1-GS239

1. This Invitation for Bids is for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Server Room IT Equipment & Infrastructure for Treasury Department.
2. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank and a Grant from UK and Australian governments towards the cost of Modernization of Public Finance Management Project (MPFMP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the agreement(s) resulting from this Invitation for Quotation: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Server Room IT Equipment & Infrastructure for Treasury Department (Hardware, Software and Associated Services) Ref No: MPFMP-C1-GS239.
3. The Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar serves as the implementing agency for the project now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Server Room IT Equipment & Infrastructure for Treasury Department (Hardware, Software and Associated Services such as training and technical support).
4. Bidders are required to meet the following minimum key qualification criteria and shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following requirement(s):
 - a) Have completed within the last 3 years at least one contract of a similar nature of at least 50% of the value of the bid or have sold similar goods of at least twice the volume /quantity required
 - b) Have authorization or dealership from the manufacturer to sell the goods
 - c) Have shops or offices in Myanmar to provide after sales services
 - d) Demonstrate that they are paying taxes to the Government.
 - e) Not be under any notice of suspension or debarment issued by the Government, or the World Bank
5. A **Pre-bid meeting will be held on 15 February 2017 at 2 p.m.** at Meeting Room, Treasury Department, Building No 34, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Nay Pyi Taw
E-mail: www.htut.8@gmail.com, marchsansan872@gmail.com
Telephone: 067-410162, Fax: 067410162
Contact person: U Thaung Htut
6. Bids must be delivered to the address given below at or before **2 p.m. of 21 March 2017**. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in public immediately thereafter at the address given below in the presence of the Bidders' representatives and the project's beneficiaries who choose to attend shall be allowed to be present in person.
7. The Purchaser shall award the Contract to the Bidder whose offer has been determined to be the lowest evaluated bid and is substantially responsive to the Bidding Documents, provided further that the Bidder is determined to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid securing declaration as described in the bidding documents, any bid not accompanied by one will be rejected as non-compliant.
9. The address where the document may be inspected and obtained is:
Project Office, Modernization of Public Finance Management Project
Ministry of Planning and Finance
Room No 12, Building No 26, Nay Pyi Taw
Email: mmt.budget@gmail.com, zawnaing652011@gmail.com,
www.htut.8@gmail.com, marchsansan872@gmail.com
Telephone : 067-410575, Fax : 067-410575, 067-410162, Fax : 410162

DICA Requests for Public Comments on Myanmar Investment Rules

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

Accordingly, in order to fully implement the said Law, we are working on drafting the Rules. In supporting the drafting process, "the Myanmar Investment Rules (Third Draft)" and the Restricted Investment Activities were posted on our website www.dica.gov.mm to seek public comments or suggestion.

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

Director of Investment and Company Administration
Ministry of Planning and Finance

'Beckileaks' email furore puts brand Beckham on the back foot

LONDON — David Beckham, the former England football captain turned international celebrity, was hit by a media onslaught on Monday after a series of hacked emails raised questions over his charity work after being made public.

A staple of British gossip and style columns, Beckham, 41, came under attack from newspapers after emails he allegedly sent were disclosed by the website "Football Leaks". A spokeswoman for Beckham said the emails had been taken out of context and doctored.

Among them was his foul-mouthed reaction when he found out he was not going to be knighted and his reluctance to donate his own money to a charity project.

The leaks fly in the face of his "man of the people" public image.

Known by the nickname "Golden Balls", the east-London born midfielder shot to fame with Manchester United thanks to his expert free-kick taking and crossing ability. He won six Premier League titles and one Champions League, when Manchester United won

the "treble" in 1999.

He is the third most-capped England international, and has global appeal having played for Spain's Real Madrid and US team LA Galaxy. He became as famous off the pitch as he was on it, marrying "Posh Spice" singer Victoria Adams in 1999.

Beckham told the BBC in a special radio appearance last month that he stayed with Victoria for love rather than to protect "brand Beckham".

However, the leaked emails portray a star who carefully maintained his image and who was tetchy when he did not get his way. His spokeswoman said the emails were misleading.

"This story is based on outdated material taken out of context from hacked and doctored private emails from a third party server and gives a deliberately inaccurate picture," she said in a statement.

Reuters was not able to verify the source of the emails independently.

Many tabloid newspapers that had helped to propel his fame were unrelenting in their

criticism of him on Monday.

The Daily Mail dedicated four pages to the "shame of Saint Becks," and the affair has been dubbed "Beckileaks" in the British media, although the Daily Mirror said that Beckham had been a victim of a "black-mail plot to shame footie hero".

Much of the outrage has centred around Beckham's work with the UNICEF children's charity. The leaked emails suggested that Beckham had billed it for a flight which he didn't need to take, and was reluctant to contribute his own money to the charity.

UNICEF said it could not comment on the emails, but defended Beckham's contribution. —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Sting, Wayne Shorter win 2017 Polar Music Prize

STOCKHOLM — British rock star Sting and American jazz musician Wayne Shorter have been awarded Sweden's Polar Music Prize, committee officials said on Tuesday.

The Polar Music Prize was founded in 1989 by ABBA manager Stig Anderson and the winners each receive 1 million Swedish crowns (\$113,000).

"As a composer, Sting has combined classic pop with virtuoso musicianship and an openness to all genres and sounds from around the world," the committee said in a statement. "Sting is a true citizen of the world, who has also been indefatigable in using his position as an arena-filling artist to promote human rights." The committee said saxophonist and composer Shorter had "constantly sought out untravelled paths" in a career that included work in groups such as Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, Miles Davis's Second Great Quintet and Weather Report. —Reuters

Kanye West appears to dump Trump with disappearing tweets



US President-elect Donald Trump and musician Kanye West pose for media at Trump Tower in Manhattan, New York City, US, on 13 December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Kanye West, one of Donald Trump's biggest celebrity supporters, appeared to have deleted his tweets about his meeting last year with the then US president-elect in which the two discussed multi-cultural issues.

The influential rapper's handful of Twitter entries from their 13 December meeting at Trump Tower in New York, where West said he had wanted to discuss "bullying, supporting teachers, modernizing curriculums and violence in Chicago," were missing from his account on Monday.

After the meeting, West had also tweeted that he felt it "important to have a direct line of communication with our future president if we truly want change."

West, 39, emerged as one of Trump's most high-profile supporters during the 2016 election campaign. He made headlines in November when he was booed at a concert for declaring his support for Trump, although he said he had not voted in the presidential election.

It was not clear why the Trump tweets had been deleted but the "Jesus Walks" singer has been the target of outrage and sarcasm from fans on social media following the December meeting.

West's representatives did not return requests for comment.

Celebrity website TMZ, quoting an unidentified source, said West had deleted the tweets because he was unhappy about Trump's actions since taking office. —Reuters

Hip hop band Migos tops Billboard 200 album chart

GEORGIA — Hip hop trio Migos scored their first Billboard 200 No 1 with their second album "Culture," according to figures released on Monday by Nielsen SoundScan, in a week during which five new albums came out.

The Georgia rappers sold 131,000 units of "Culture," boosted by single "Bad and Boujee" and a grassroots petition that had

urged, unsuccessfully, that the National Football League replace Lady Gaga with Migos at the Super Bowl halftime show. Country singer Brantley Gilbert's "The Devil Don't Sleep" took the No 2 spot with sales of 77,000 units, while singer-songwriter Kehlani, a former "America's Got Talent" contestant, debuted at No 3 with her first studio album "Sweet-

SexySavage." The slew of new releases knocked Canadian rapper The Weeknd off his 10-week domination of the Billboard 200 with "Starboy," which slipped to fourth place. The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album). —Reuters

Fans camp out for tickets to more serious Berlin film festt

BERLIN — Movie fans waited for hours — and in some cases camped overnight — to make sure they got passes to the 67th annual Berlin Film Festival, or Berlinale. Martina Grotzki, a regular at the film fest in Germany's capital, spent the night in the festival center at Potsdamer Platz to get her tickets when they went on sale on Monday.

She said this year's programme was somber, with little comedy on the agenda.

"You, me and everybody else, we're at the end of the food chain. We are the ones who have to deal with the loss of our jobs, money and homes, whose families are breaking apart. It's good to show this on a small scale because it is something we can identify with as an audience," she told Reuters TV. Last week Berlinale director Dieter Kosslick said that this year's festival will deliver a



People queue to buy tickets for the upcoming 67th Berlin International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin, Germany, on 6 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

timely commentary on what he calls the "daily apocalypse" of the modern world as well as offering viewers plenty of lighter moments.

Film fans were undaunted by the Islamist attack on a Berlin Christmas market that killed 12

people in December. "Whatever happens, happens, so if it hits me here in front of the ticket office — what a pity — but at least I was following my hobby," said Miriam Lesch, who was one of the first in the ticket queue. —Reuters

WORLD'S LARGEST SAILING SHIP



The 142.81 metre sail-assisted motor yacht 'Sailing Yacht A' passes Elsinore, North Sealand, Denmark on 6 February, 2017. With masts of 90 meters, a huge swimming pool and eight storeys 'Sailing Yacht A' is the world's largest sailing ship. The yacht, owned by Russian tycoon Andrey Melnichenko, was build in Kiel, Germany and is now passing through Denmark on its way to Kristiansand in Norway. PHOTO: REUTERS

Oldest captive fish euthanized in his mid-90s by Chicago aquarium

CHICAGO — The long-est-living fish in a zoo-logical setting, a lung-fish known as Granddad acquired by the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago in 1933, has been euthanized after suffering failing health well in his mid-90s, aquarium officials said on Monday.

Granddad, who came to Shedd from Australia in anticipation of the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair,

was seen by more than 104 million people during his time in Chicago, aquarium president Bridget Coughlin said in a statement announcing his death.

“For a fish who spent much of his time imitating a fallen log, he sparked curiosity, excitement and wonder among guests of all ages who would hear his story and learn about the incredible biology that makes his species a living

fossil and one of the oldest living vertebrate genera on the planet,” Coughlin said.

According to the aquarium, lungfish, which can live to be more than 100 years old and are a protected species in Australia, have existed for nearly 400 million years and fossils show they have remained unchanged for over 100 million years.

A Shedd spokeswoman said Granddad's exact

age was unknown but that he was believed to be in his mid-90s. The aquarium said Granddad was euthanized after losing interest in food and showing signs of organ failure.

Lungfish, which are native to the Mary and Burnett rivers in Queensland, Australia, have a single primitive lung and are among the few fish that can breathe air.

—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(8-2-2017 07:00am ~ 9-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuhar
07:51	Am	Black Gold (P - I)
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Discovering Tribes “MUUN (Epi - I)”
08:49	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar “The Decision”
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	Chef Life: Syi Syi Lwin
09:38	Am	Karaweik Palace-A Symbol Of Glorious Myanma Culture
09:53	Am	Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Herbal Medicine By Thurein) (Aloe Vera)
10:50	Am	Sagaing: Youth Leader
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Tuesday 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
07:25	Pm	Wonderful Indonesia (Electronic Media Trip)
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations-The Making Procedure Of Goldsmith
08:41	Pm	Maha Muni Pagoda
08:49	Pm	Distinguished Myanmar Lady “Kyin Po”
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Tuesday 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)		

Kindness matters, Britain's Duchess of Cambridge tells schoolchildren

LONDON — Britain's Duchess of Cambridge told a group of children to look for opportunities to be kind as she and her husband Prince William visited a primary school on Monday as part of a campaign to raise awareness of children's mental health issues.

William and Catherine attended a “Big Assembly” event at a London school as part of the “Heads Together” campaign that the couple and the prince's younger brother Prince Harry are spearheading to tackle the stigma of mental health in Britain.

“If you see someone who you think might need help, try to be kind to them. Keep a look out for them if they are on their own or seem sad or worried. Perhaps they just need a hug or someone to talk to,” Catherine told the assembly. “I know it is hard if you are feeling down yourself. But helping someone out will also make you feel so much better too.”

Catherine, who is patron of the children's mental health charity Place2Be, and William watched pupils perform role plays about kindness. They also presented Place2Be's first “Kindness Cup” to a young girl.

The charity wants to inspire kindness among adults and children during Children's Mental Health Week 2017, which began on Monday.

On Sunday, William and Catherine took to the track for a short race with Harry as they joined a training day for runners competing for Heads Together in April's London Marathon.—Reuters

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Britain's Catherine the Duchess of Cambridge speaks with school pupils as she arrives with Prince William at an event organised by charity Place2Be during Children's Mental Health Week at Mitchell Brook Primary School in north London, Britain, on 6 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Programme Schedule

(8-2-2017, Wednesday)

6:00 Am

♦ Paritta by Venerable Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 Am

♦ Breakfast News

7:30 Am

♦ Money Talk Myanmar

8:30 Am

♦ Solution for Agriculture

9:30 Am

♦ Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:50 Am

♦ Documentary (February For Monthly Weather Forecast)

10:30 Am

♦ Documentary

11:35 Pm

♦ MRTV's Education Programme

12:35 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

1:00 Pm

♦ Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions

2:00 Pm

♦ Documentary (Mon)

2:50 Pm

♦ Sunday Talk

3:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

4:35 Pm

♦ Analysis For Myanmar Movie

5:15 Pm

♦ 70th Anniversary Union Day Programme

5:35 Pm

♦ People's Talks

4:15 Pm

♦ Football Magazine

6:35 Pm

♦ Real Story Real Movie

7:15 Pm

♦ TV Drama Series

8:00 Pm

♦ News/International News/ Weather Report

8:35 Pm

♦ Political Parties Campaign Speeches

9:00 Pm

♦ News/ Weather Report

♦ TV Drama Series

♦ Musician's Talk

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Ibrahimovic hungry for more goals at Man United



Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic warms up before the match between Leicester City and Manchester United at Premier League at King Power Stadium on 5 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is refusing to rest on his laurels after becoming the oldest player to net 15 goals in a Premier League season when he scored in Sunday's 3-0 win at Leicester City.

The 35-year-old has shrugged off suggestions he may struggle to adapt to the pace and intensity of the English game,

scoring 20 goals in all competitions since moving to Old Trafford on a free transfer in July.

"I have a target in my head but I will not say it, and we are not there yet," Ibrahimovic, who is also the first United player to reach the 20-goal mark since Robin van Persie did in the 2012-13 season, told British media.

United are unbeaten in their last 15 league games and sit sixth in the table, just two points behind fourth-placed Arsenal, who hold the final Champions League qualification spot, after 24 games.

When asked if his side were back in the hunt for the Champions League places, Ibrahimovic said: "I think so. It was a big gap

a few months ago but it is smaller now. I think we are our own enemy.

"If we had won our games and got the points we should have got then the situation would be totally different but okay, we look at the other teams and hopefully they lose points."

United host 10th-placed Watford on Saturday.—Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts during the match of Spanish Liga Santander between Real Madrid and Real Sociedad at Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, Spain on 29 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ranieri certain he has the backing of Leicester players

LONDON — Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri insisted his players are fully behind him following media reports suggesting he has lost control over his dressing room.

Following their stunning title triumph last season, Leicester are battling relegation as they sit 16th in the table, a point above the bottom three after 24 games.

"Journalists ask about the players, and whether they are happy with me, and I can tell you they are happy with me," Ranieri told Sky Sports after Sunday's 3-0 home loss to Manchester United.

"We are together, I have full confidence in the players, and also the players are confident with me. Normally we never give up, but at the moment the confidence is not so high.

"It is important to forget. Last season was something terrific. Now, we have to fight. We are Leicester and we fight."

Leicester, who are on a four-game losing run in the league and have won just twice in their last 15 top-flight games, host second-tier side Derby County in the FA Cup on Wednesday before a trip to face relegation rivals Swansea City four days later.—Reuters

Aguero says he will stay and fight for future at Man City

LONDON — Striker Sergio Aguero says he is eager to win back his place in Manchester City's starting line-up and it will be up to the Premier League club to decide whether to keep him once the season ends.

Aguero, who is the club's top scorer with 18 goals in 26 games this campaign, was left out for the second match in a row in favour of young Brazil forward Gabriel Jesus, who scored a brace in the 2-1 win at home to Swansea City on Sunday.

"No, no, I don't want to leave. I have to help the team as much as I can in these three months. Afterwards we'll see what the club wants to do with me," Aguero told British media when asked about his future.

"In three years, my contract is up — that's why I say I'm happy at the club. In these last three

months that are left I have to help the club and, as I say, the club will decide if I have a place here or not. "Sometimes this happens. When you're on the bench you have to wait for your opportunity. —Reuters



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero warming up before the match between Manchester City v Swansea City at Premier League at Etihad Stadium on 5 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Real Madrid's game at Valencia rescheduled for 22 February

MADRID — Real Madrid's postponed league game at Valencia will be played on 22 February, La Liga announced on Monday.

The 16th round encounter, which will take place at the Mestalla stadium, was originally scheduled to be played in December but was moved due to Real's participation in the FIFA Club World Cup, a tournament the Spanish giants won.

The trip to Valencia will add to a busy calendar for the La Liga leaders, who will play eight games in the space of 25 days, including their Champions League last 16 two-legged tie against Napoli.

Zinedine Zidane's Real are one point clear of defending champions Barcelona at the top of La Liga but have played two games less.

Real's game at Celta Vigo on Sunday evening was called off for safety reasons after bad weather in Galicia caused damage to the Balaidos stadium.

That game has yet to be rescheduled.—Reuters