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Vol. III, No. 300, 14th Waxing of Tabodwe 1378 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 10 February 2017



A Malaysian NGO aid ship carrying food and emergency supplies for northern Rakhine arrives at the port in Yangon yesterday PHOTO: REUTERS

Malaysian aid for Rakhine arrives in Myanmar

A ship filled with food and supplies from Malaysia docked in Yangon yesterday, with the aid to be delivered to two communities in conflict areas in northern Rakhine State, said Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

"We will send the aid to northern Rakhine by navy ships and we will distribute the aid to conflict areas in cooperation with Rakhine Government," said Dr Win Myat Aye at the press conference held shortly after the arrival of the Malaysian ship.

The delivery comes after the Malaysian ambassador in Yangon asked the government to accept the aid as they want to donate to the two communities in northern Rakhine,



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, left, welcomes Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Dato Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, right, who was on board the Malaysian ship carrying aid for northern Rakhine. PHOTO: REUTERS

according the Union minister.

Shortly after the Nautical Aliya, which was carrying 2,300 tonnes of food, medicines, daily essential goods, bottled water, clothes and blankets worth more than US\$247,900 from Malaysia, docked at the Thilawa Port in Yangon, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Dato Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican handed over the aid to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye.

The Myanmar government has already expressed the country's readiness to accept humanitarian aid, which comes to the country through diplomatic channels, urging the donors to deliver the aid to both communities in Rakhine in a fair and balanced manner.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Rubbish collection in Yangon to be privatised

Ko Moe

Rubbish collection in the Yangon Region will be handed over to private enterprises, according to U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon City Mayor.

Fees for rubbish collection may rise if leases are granted to private companies, but a condition that the cost will not be a great burden to the people has been imposed in the handover, it is learnt.


"In every developing country, governments are supporting in this sector. It will be better provided that taxes are collected accurately and these taxes are rightfully spent. There has been a plan to hand over the garbage collection works to private companies in the tenure of the new government," said Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

It is learnt that Yangon City Development Committee will perform in accord with working commitments in handing over the works to private companies that can efficiently run the tasks, ensuring that nepotism does not occur in the granting of the contracts.

The Yangon Region produces over 2,500 tons of rubbish daily, and YCDC is performing its daily garbage collection routines at a loss of about K 133 Lakhs per day.


Currently, YCDC is collecting monthly refuse disposal fees of Ks600 from each house in the municipal areas, Ks450 in related townships and Ks300 each in sub-urban areas.

The YCDC employs 4,000 sanitation workers who collect trash from over 8,000 dustbins and nearly 3,000 trolleys using more than 450 dust collecting vehicles.



This is to convey the good news that "Than Daung Gyi Bank Branch" which is the 41st Branch of Innwa Bank Limited has already opened honoured to 70th Anniversary of Union Day and this all of the people could enjoy the banking service by dealing to the branch.

No(2) Qtr, Taungoo-Than Daung Gyi next to highway road,
Than Daung Gyi Township
Ph:054-45108, 054-45109



Pyithu Hluttaw

Rural development programme proposed at the wrong time: MPs

U Thaung Aye, a Member of Parliament for Pyawbwe constituency, urged the Union Government to implement an all-round development programme for small and medium-sized enterprises, including livestock and agriculture, and to provide grants for housing so that poverty can be reduced and living standards improved.

“The vision for a higher standard of living for rural life is a long-term strategic procedure based on high productivity and economic development, so the first important thing to do is to generate more foreign

income through high productivity,” said U Sein Win, MP for Maubin constituency to the question on the sixth day of the 2nd Pyithi Hluttaw’s fourth regular session. He also discussed the need for agricultural sector development, with resolution of land conflicts a priority before transforming to an advanced agricultural process from traditional agriculture.

U Sein Win also said that small and medium sized producers need to be upgraded based on modern agricultural methods and that the government is also planning for all-round devel-

opment. U Zaw Thein, MP for Wakema Constituency, objected because he said the proposer should not urge the Union Government at the present period when it is making a great effort to establish priorities and additional requests could slow down the plan.

The focus of the country’s development is internal peace and national reconciliation, which was announced in the declaration after the election.

The 21st Century Panglong conference is being held nationwide means people desire peace and the government, the Htut-



U Zaw Thein MP for Wakema Constituency. PHOTO: MNA



U Sein Win, MP for Maubin constituency. PHOTO: MNA

taw, the Tatmataw are working together as a priority task so that the government should not be asked for a rural development project through the Htuttaw, U

Zaw Thein said.

The proposal drew 221 objection votes, 147 supporting votes and four neutral votes. — Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 4th regular session holds its 6th day meeting



U Mya Min Swe of constituency of Magwe Region. PHOTO: MNA



U Pe Tin, constituency 6 of Mon State. PHOTO: MNA

U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications replied to the question raised by U Naung Na Ja Tan of constituency 4 of Kachin State as to whether there have been plans for the State to build the embankment of Tayonechaung bank flowing nearby Tayone village in Tanai township, Kachin State, “For the protection of Tayone village from erosion, stone-piled embankment with 1000 ft in length at the site of erosion and 135 ft in length nearby the upper side of the bridge, which will cost K 240 million in the fiscal year 2016-2017. And, tender bids were invited by water resources and rivers development department for 10 works of protection river banks

from erosion to be implemented with the fund of Kachin State Cabinet in 2016-2017 financial year.

Out of them, two tenders won but it has not been implemented due to the security of the area and objection over the construction of the embankment by People’s Republic of China. Designated budgets for the two work sites have been transferred to 9 worksites that are still needed to be implemented. Out of designated budget K 2419.46 million, K 240 million will be used for protection Tayone embankment from erosion.” Afterward, U Mya Min Swe of constituency of Magwe Region, U Min Swe Naing of constituency 6, Kachin State, U Pe Tin of constituency 6 of Mon

State raised questions respectively. Over the questions, U Kyaw Myo, deputy minister replied.

Then, the deputy minister submitted the proposal to discuss the bill on road transport board.

U Thein Lwin, Amyotha Hluttaw Drafting Committee member read out the report which included findings concerning bill on road transport board and notes on the bill. Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw announced to have their names enlisted if the representatives are interested to submit the amended motion over the bill, by describing paragraphs and sub-paragraphs needed to be amended, in detail with their signatures signed. — Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of service organization appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as head of organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Shwe Lay Deputy Director-General (Administration) Department of Bridges Ministry of Construction	Director-General Department of Bridges Ministry of Construction
(b) U Ohn Lwin Deputy Director-General (Construction) Department of Roads Ministry of Construction	Director-General Department of Roads Ministry of Construction

Two suspects detained in An

POLICE detained two men as they were abandoned by an alleged human trafficker in An, Rakhine State, on Tuesday, according to the police.

Z Tuu and Baw Shiamud from Pauktaw Palaung Village in Kyauktaw Township left the village by motorcycle together with Kaw Maw after reaching a business agreement with Kaw Maw

to transport them to Yangon.

The police found the two men while conducting an area clearance operation between the Mile Post 20/1 and 20/2 on An-Sittway Road at 9 pm on Tuesday.

The suspects will be handed over to a local police station for further interrogation. — Myanmar News Agency

JMC-U’s 9th meeting concludes

THE Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) decided yesterday to begin demarcation discussion starting from the state-level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-S) and approved rules which would be exercised at the JMC-S offices.

Out of 45 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), 10 were approved at previous meetings and two at the 9th meeting which ended yesterday at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon. During the three-day meeting, the members of the JMC-U discussed Terms of Reference-TOR, the budget for JMC-U and matters on arrangements for a visit to



Col Wunna Aung (R) talks to media after the meeting. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

the Philippines, conducting mine clearance trainings and demarcation for the troops. “We will make further discussion on clearance of

mines and the work is scheduled to launch in Kayin State,” said Col Wunna Aung, Secretary-2 of the JMC-U.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)

Crime Awareness event held in Maungtaw

A CRIME awareness event conducted by Camp Commandant and Police Captain Kyaw Aye Hlaing and responsible persons was held yesterday near the clock tower junction in Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

The topics centered on reduction in child rape, overall

crime, homicides and drugs. Also discussed were police services and procedures.

“We want the public to know about the punishment for committing crime and child rape. We are conducting awareness activities not only in the junction but also in schools,

wards and villages. We want them to have such knowledge,” said Police Captain Kyaw Aye Hlaing.

Local resident Arshi Kumer said: “Such knowledge sharing is good and we gain knowledge and want to do frequently.” — Myanmar News Agency

Maungtaw curfew hours relaxed

A less-strict curfew in Maungtaw, Rakhine State has been issued by the Maungtaw District administration for the next two months.

In the amended curfew, it is ordered that in the streets, paths, alleys, parks and marketplaces where the people of Maungtaw district gather, assembly of five persons and above is prohibited and going outside between 9pm till 5am the next morning is not allowed. The previous curfew prohibited going outside after 7pm until 6am the next morning. The new order is valid for two months in effect from today, it is learnt.

“With the improving peace and stability in the region, the time period for curfew was reduced, from 9pm till 5am the next morning instead of from 7pm till 6am the next morning. The people are urged to effectively use the limited time and co-

operate for the security of people’s lives,” said U Myint Khaing, Maungtaw township administrator.

Due to the events which tried to harm the security of the people and rule of law in June, 2012 in the Maungtaw region and the violent armed terrorist attacks on the No. 1 border guard control station (headquarters) and two police outposts, government troops and security forces still need to perform in accord with the law for the security, peace and stability and rule of law in the region, it is learnt.

The new order was met with relief from locals.

“We are very glad to have the curfew amended,” said Abdul Amin, a resident of Maungtaw. “Previously, we had to finish our works hurriedly before 7pm, but now we need not be eager for finishing. We warmly welcome the order.”—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Kai Mykkanen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of Finland

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received a Finnish delegation led by H.E. Mr. Kai Mykkanen, Minister for Foreign Trade and

Development of Finland at 2 p.m. yesterday at the Minister’s Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on promoting bilateral relations and coopera-

tion between Myanmar and Finland, especially in the areas of trade and investment, democratic governance, the rule of law, natural resources, environmental governance and education.—*Myanmar News Agency*

SEZ must establish global trust and better relationships

THE most important part of the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is to establish a global relationship and global trust through the investors who have invested in the zone, the Vice President said yesterday.

“If there is trust, there will be more investors,” said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

He told the Central SEZ Management Committee meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw that the implementation of economic, trade and investment projects cannot be accomplished by an individual or a country alone, as it is necessary to make the expansion from the domestic to the international market.

“The role of the Special Economic Zone is more important

because the necessary economic development for the country cannot be attained without international investment, although we understand that we depend on our own efforts for economic development,” said the Vice President.

“There needs to be a smart and smooth economic and political philosophy in the establishment of an SEZ,” he said. By establishing such an SEZ, the region and the state where the SEZ is located results in developing job opportunities, human resource development and vocational skills. Similarly, it can also build better transportation and trade improvement with other countries, the Vice President said.

“After we have constructed

the Dawei SEZ, we will have better transportation mainly with our nation’s best trade partner, Thailand. Besides, basic infrastructure will rapidly emerge as a result of the ports at which ocean liners can dock and improve trade,” said the Vice President, who added that the Kyauk Phyu SEZ must also be implemented in the same smart way.

The new Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Central Management Committee and Central Working Committee was formed with officials led by Vice President-2 U Henry Van Thio. The government is making efforts to operate SEZs successfully with four visions and 12 principles.

“Thilawa is a successful SEZ,

which has now started operating and is now producing products to be sold to the international market,” said the Vice President.

The committee needs to make a special effort to develop SEZs by taking responsibility and presenting future operational work and advice through discussions, he said. The Vice President added that the committee members should work transparently, without committing any corruption in accord with the guidelines from the State Counsellor.

Next, the committee members presented their sectorial operational and future plans after which the Vice President gave his concluding remarks.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the meeting of the central SEZ management committee in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Tatmadaw releases reaction to OHCHR report

THE Tatmadaw true news information team released news in reaction to a report from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) yesterday.

The statement noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued a news release on Wednesday over “Interviews with Rohingyas fleeing from Myanmar since 9 October 2016,” issued on Friday concerning the investigation by the delegation to Bangladesh assigned by the OHCHR.

“The Government of the

State had the investigation commission led by Vice-President U Myint Swe investigate the accusations. As regards other affairs in Rakhine State, security forces have been instructed to perform their duties in the framework of the law in accord with human rights and not to exercise force excessively. If sufficient evidence is found of violating human rights, the Government will take legal actions against anyone. As for the investigation, all the accusations, including accusations on area clearance operations, will be examined, whether they are true or not,” according

The Tatmadaw will form an investigation team to investigate whether there have been unlawful acts including violations of human rights.

to the statement.

“On 9 October 2016, terrorists supported by foreign countries with financial aid made a surprise armed attack at the No. 3 border guard police outpost in northern Rakhine, killing 10 policemen and looting 65 firearms and ammunitions. That event not only harmed the sovereignty of

the State but also threatened the people’s lives and properties, hence the operations to launch area clearance to find out attackers and to bring back firearms and ammunitions looted. The Tatmadaw will form an investigation team to investigate whether there have been unlawful acts including violations of human

rights.” It is learnt that the investigation team will be headed by Lt. General Aye Win of Tatmadaw, investigation chief officer as chairman. Members of the investigation team will be: Brigadier Khun Thant Zaw Htoo, Vice Adjutant-General, No. 9 Tatmadaw; Advanced Training School Principal Brigadier Aung Kyaw Ho and Major Hla Myo Kyaw Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate-General of West Command. Lt Colonel Myo Win Aung, Assistant Judge Advocate-General will serve as secretary, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*



An official from Bayintnaung station area unveils Thandaunggyi Branch of Innwa Bank. PHOTO: MNA

Thandaunggyi Branch of Innwa Bank opened

THANDAUNGGYI branch of Innwa Bank branch held an opening ceremony yesterday in Ward 2, Thandaunggyi town in Kayin State as a gesture of honouring the 70th Anniversary Union Day. Major-General Myat Kyaw, Commander of Southern Command, staff officers from the Command,

officials from Bayintnaung station area, Managing Director of Innwa Bank U Aung Ngwe Oo and bank staff as well as departmental officials from Thandaunggyi Township and locals attended at the opening ceremony.

Commander of the Southern Command Major-General Myat

Kyaw, Managing Director of Innwa Bank U Aung Ngwe Oo and a responsible official from Bayintnaung station area formally opened by unveiling a sign.

The 41st Innwa Bank branch is ready to offer financial services for local people and beyond. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Telecoms networks to be expanded in remote areas

PLANS are underway to extend telecommunications networks across the country, especially in far-flung regions, in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, said U Kyaw Myo, deputy minister for the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

This development was learnt from the fifth day of the Pyithu

Hluttaw session on 2 February.

Depending on the Universal Service Fund (USF) provided by telecoms operators, the development of communication facilities will be installed in target states and regions according to the priority level, said U Kyaw Myo.

U Kyaw Myo replied to the

query raised by MP U Lar Mar Lay from Hsawlaw Constituency that, currently, the ministry has no plans to construct telecommunications towers for the WCDMA-MPT network in Lanse Village-tract, Hankaw Village tract and towers for GSM-MPT network in Sawlaw. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Minbya to have 24-hour electricity in February

THE town of Minbya in Rakhine State will be supplied with electricity 24 hours a day from the national power grid starting in February, according to the township's energy ministry.

"We have already installed the electric wires for five villages including Minbya and constructed 66/11 KVA sub-power stations in Rakhine State. Currently, we are waiting for expert electricians from the ministry of electrical power and energy to deliver electricity from the national power grid," said U Khin Zaw, Minbya township electrical engineer.

"We alone cannot deliver

the electricity. The expert electricians from the head office have to conduct it. We are waiting for them. They said that they will arrive in Minbya in the first week of February. But they informed us again that they will arrive only in the second week of February. As soon as they arrive, they will deliver electricity from the national power grid for a test run. If the testing succeeds, Minbya town will receive 24-hour electricity fixed," he added.

The other five villages have not had digital meters installed yet.

"The local residents are very happy to receive 24-hour

electricity. They are also worried about the outbreak of fire caused by electric short-circuiting. Some houses have improper wiring system, using the flexible wires. I want the expert electricians to check such houses," said a local from Minbya town.

Currently, Minbya town is receiving electricity from 6am to 10pm. There are 1,592 houses out of 32,931 that have digital meters installed in Minbya town.

The remaining villages will be supplied with 24-hour electricity during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

4,000 jobs available at Junction City Shopping Center

JUNCTION City Shopping Center, which will be opened at the corner of Shwedagon Pagoda road and Bogyoke Aung San street, Yangon, will create 4,000 job opportunities, it is learnt.

Those interested can apply for the jobs by bringing a CV to Junction Square in Kamayut between

10am and 5pm on 7 and 8 February.

"The center is expected to open in March, but we are inviting applications starting now. We will hold a job fair and applicants will have job opportunities for hotel and office positions when the centre is opened," said Ma Thwe

Kay Zin, a public relation executive from Junction City. The opening of the Junction City Shopping Center will create positions at jewellery shops, fashion shops, home lifestyle shops, food and beverages shops and the cinema. For further details, please call: 0997830928. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

1,583 fire outbreaks across the country in 2016

THERE were 1,583 cases of fire in 2016 across the country causing losses amounting to Ks44,965,982,795, it is learnt.

The most common causes for the outbreaks of fire were short circuiting, negligence, cooking and arson. The police have taken action against a total of 1,580 offenders. There were 50 outbreaks of fire last year in Nay Pyi Taw with damages amounting to Ks44,532,750, 69 in Kachin state with damages amounting to Ks 2,721,474,000, 13 in Kayar state with damages amounting to Ks 8,389,000, 24 times in Kayin state with damages amounting to Ks 73,230,000, 24 times in Chin state with damages amounting to Ks 75,430,500, 187 times in Sagaing with damages amounting to Ks 91,079,150, 69 times in Tanintha-

ti with damages amounting to Ks 2,721,474,000, 137 times in Bago region with damages amounting to Ks 112,579,250, 128 times in Magwe region with damages amounting to Ks 10,977,000, 193 times in Mandalay region with damages amounting to Ks 1,262,211,320, 59 times in Mon state with damages amounting to Ks 39,514,750, 97 times in Rakhine state with damages amounting to Ks 293,790,955, 221 times in Yangon region with damages amounting to Ks 36,421,416,100, 165 times in Shan state with damages amounting to Ks 517,158,900 and 147 times in Ayeyawady region with damages amounting to Ks 473,932,120.

Yangon region topped the list of the most fires in Myanmar. —*Than Oo (Laymyethna)*

Departmental action taken against over 70 policemen in Ayeyawady

SEVENTY police officers in Ayeyawady region have had departmental action taken against them in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, disclosed Police Col Tun Min from Ayeyawady region police command.

"There are at least 70 or 80 cases of dismissal and imprisonment every year. This year, 70 members of police have had departmental action taken," he added.

"Action has been taken because of complaints from the public about misappropriation,

bribery and unlawful behavior," said a police official from Ayeyawady region.

"Some policemen do not care about the young rape cases. They are standing on the offender's side. The authorities should mete out punishment to such police exercising transparency," said advocate U Robert San Aung.

The Police Code of Conduct is now being enforced and deterrent actions are being taken against corrupt policemen. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Raw opium, stimulant tablets seized in Kalaw

AN anti-narcotics squad from Taunggyi searched a motorcycle ridden by Tan Khan at the Thazi combined inspection gate in Kalaw on 8 February and seized 12 kilos of raw opium from him.

Police also inspected a Swan Group passenger vehicle driven by Kyaw Soe Win with Bo Bo Zin on board. The police searched the vehicle travelling between Namsam, Taunggyi and Yangon

at the Thazi inspection gate and found 8,000 stimulant tablets in a parcel bag in the vehicle.

Interrogation of the two suspects led police to arrest Nyan Myint, the person-in-charge of Ngwe Kyalsin gate, and Moe Kaung Ward in Aung Pan. Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. —*Myanmar Police Force*



Tan Khan with seized raw opium. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

Ywangan in Shan State achieve designation protecting its name

YWANGAN, the township in Shan State that has become known for its quality coffee, has achieved a Geographical Indication (GI), the same designation that protects the Champagne region in France from copycats.

Companies that want to produce and sell coffee products under the name of Ywangan coffee will now be charged a fee, following Ywangan coffee's achievement in gaining GI, which specifies geographical origin and expertise, according to the Myanmar Coffee Association.

Ywangan coffee is expected to get GI designation this year and the association will then proceed to acquire a copyright, it is learnt.

"Ywangan residents should hold a copyright of Ywangan. We will take charges for those companies which will produce the coffee products under the name of Ywangan. If we do not hold a copyright of Ywangan, all varieties of coffee produced from all over Myanmar can be in Ywangan name. We will try to protect the growers with GI so that they can reap the benefits from it," said U Win Aung Kyaw, the vice chairperson of Myanmar Coffee Association.

Concerted efforts were exerted for Ywangan coffee to get GI starting in 2015, it is learnt.

"We have submitted all necessary data they



Workers dry coffee beans under the sun in Ywangan. PHOTO: COMMUNICAFEE INTERNATIONAL

want. We heard that Shwebo Pawsan (high quality rice variety) is in the process of being granted GI. After that, they will continue to carry out Ywangan coffee, said U Win Aung Kyaw.

The facts concerning Ywangan coffee have been jointly researched by the Ministry of Education (Science and Technology), Civil Service Organizations (CSOs) and the experts.

A GI is a specific intellectual property right that designates a product from a specific region and whose characteristics result in both the natural conditions of its origin and the expertise of local producers. Champagne, for instance, is among the oldest GIs, arguably the most famous

and prestigious one.

It is in the Champagne vineyards, a region located 150 kilometres east of Paris, France that Champagne growers have been producing the famous sparkling wine, for more than three centuries under stringent regulations. With 309 million bottles shipped to 180 countries in 2012, Champagne wines are enjoyed by a growing number of consumers worldwide.

The commercial success and fame of Champagne attracted many imitators and copycats. The counterpart to the Myanmar Coffee Association in France is Comité Champagne, which represents the Champagne growers and houses and relentlessly endeavours to protect the name Champagne and en-

sures that only wines that benefit from the geographical indication are called Champagne.

Ywangan coffee beans are of the Costa Rican variety and are grown as a substitute for poppy. The coffee is currently rated at a level of 85 in the global market under the recommendations from American Coffee Specialists. Any grade of 80 or above is considered a specialty coffee.

Over 700 tonnes of coffee are produced from the Green Tea coffee plant located in Ywangan Township in Southern Shan State.

Out of 125 villages in Ywangan Township, about 90 are engaged in coffee plantation, with 7,300 acres of coffee farms, it is learnt.—GNLM

Group from China to inspect, certify rice mills

A certification and inspection group from China will inspect rice mills in Myanmar, which depends heavily on the neighboring country for its rice exports.

Currently, the exportation of rice from Myanmar to China accounts for about 80 per cent of rice exports, according to U Khin Maung Lwin, assistant secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

"Only when the inspection group from China inspects the quality of the rice mills will we know what we should do and how we can adapt to the rice market. And we will accompany them to the rice mills of high-quality owned by private entrepreneurs. Nowadays, we have many high-quality rice mills in our country," U Khin Maung Lwin added.

This year we can export a lower volume

of rice. "The rice export market is dependent on the demand from China. Muse border trade station rejected exported rice because it contained pesticide residue. Although the rice merchants are trying to export the high-quality rice, the farmers still need awareness of the modern cultivation techniques and manufacturing skills," said rice mill owner U Han Tha Myint.

Although there are many rice mills in our country, most of them lack proper techniques. We also need to have access to big rice markets. And we are weak in producing high-quality rice.

So, we need to seek greater assistance from the government to be able to produce high-quality rice. Myanmar Rice Federation has requested the government to lend to rice mill owners short and medium term loans.—200

US exchange rate jumped to over Ks1,369 on 8th Jan

THE US dollar exchange rate that was fluctuating between Ks1,354 and Ks1,362 in recent days jumped to Ks1,369 on 8 February. The purchasing US dollar price is Ks1,367, whereas the selling price is Ks1,371 on 9 February, according to a local private bank.

After the dollar index reached a recorded high of 103.78 point in the global market on the evening of 3 January, the rate dropped slightly. On 7 February, the rate rose to a high of 100.14, then reached the 100.54 point on the afternoon of 8 February.

The dollar price is currently unstable in the global market, which is

directly related to the domestic market. The greenback exchange rate hit a high of Ks1,438 on 16 December, then plunged down to Ks1,346 on 16 January. The rate has varied between Ks1,354 to Ks1,362 from 20 January to 7 February. The exchange rate climbed up to Ks1,369 on 8 February with the rise in global currency market, it is learnt from local currency exchange market. The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) set the exchange rate at Ks1,350 from 31 January to 6 February. The rate on 7 February was at Ks1,355 until CBM increased the rate to Ks1,360 on 8 and 9 January.—Ko Khant

Shareholders of FPB asked to sell stocks due to financial situation

SOME businessmen have been found to manipulate the shares, prompting the First Private Bank to call on its shareholders to sell stocks depending on financial requirements, according to an announcement released by FPB.

In a bid to prevent selling of stocks by illegal or transparent means and

manipulation of the share price, FPB requested its share holders to look for a long-term benefit, instead of selling out the shares with only little profit.

FPB commenced stock trading on 20 January on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), with a base price of Ks39,000 per share. However, FPB's shares fetched

only Ks34,000 and the share trading hit its lowest rate of Ks30,000 on 2 February.

Currently, there are four listed companies at YSX: First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings, Myanmar Citizens Bank and FPB. The share prices on 7 January were

Ks14,000 for FMI, Ks4,100 for MTSH, Ks9,100 for MCB and Ks31,000 for FPB at closing time. A total of 15,919 shares worth Ks 142,316,900 were traded, with share volumes of 2,154 from FMI, 11,634 from MTSH and 2,131 from FPB and no shares traded by MCB.—Mon Mon

Myanmar-China (2+2) high-level consultations held

THE Second Round of Myanmar and China (2+2) High-Level Consultations led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence was held on 7th February 2017 in Kunming, Yunnan Province, China. The meeting was attended by the Myanmar Delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Lt. Gen. Tun Tun Naung, Ministry of Defence and the Chinese Delegation was led by Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Major General Shao Yuanming, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on border related issues focusing on China's constructive support for the peace process of Myanmar, promoting peace and tranquility along Myanmar-China border, stabilization of the situation of Northern Myanmar, confidence-building measures and development of border areas to promote the interests of the population in these areas.



Myanmar and China (2+2) High-Level Consultations in progress. PHOTO: MNA

Moreover, the two sides agreed, among others, to step up collaboration through bilateral mechanisms and cooperation in various areas such as Myanmar-China border management, combating narcotic drugs, and preventing illegal entries and illegal trade; to adhere to the Boundary Treaty in constructing river banks maintenance works to prevent river banks erosion along the Boundary Rivers and to jointly develop guidelines for construction of retaining walls along the

river banks.

On 8th February 2017, the Minister of State called on Mr. Chen Hao, Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province at Haigeng Garden Hotel and discussed in a friendly and cordial manner on various issues including promoting peace and stability along the border areas and strengthening bilateral cooperation for border areas development. Following the meeting, Myanmar Delegation attended the dinner hosted by Mr. Chen Shun, Vice-Governor of

Yunnan Province.

The (2+2) High-Level Consultations Meeting led by Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence at the central level was established aim at strengthening the cooperation in security and management in the Myanmar-China border areas more effectively. The First Myanmar and China (2+2) High-Level Consultations led by Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence was previously held on 25th November 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw.—*MOFA (Minister Office)*

Union Day ceremonies, peace programme to be broadcast live Sunday

The 70th anniversary of Union Day Ceremony (Panglong) and the Panglong Peace Talks programme in which the State Counsellor and ethnic youths will participate in Panglong, Shan State will be broadcast live on MRTV and the Myanmar State Counsellor Office's Facebook Page start at 9:20am on Sunday.

The Panglong Peace

Talks will take place under a banyan tree, the same place where General Aung San read a book while he was attending the original Panglong Conference.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi, who signed Panglong Contract, will attend the 70th anniversary of Union Day Ceremony, according to the state counsellor office's information committee.

—*Myanmar News Agency*

50 more tube-wells to be emerged in Kyaukse Tsp before summer

THE MANDALAY Region government will establish 50 more tube-wells in Kyaukse Township this summer, planning to finalise the programme at the end of March.

With the aim of supplying enough agricultural water for farmers who face shortages yearly, the region authorities will spend part of the government budget to construct those new tube-wells in the current fiscal year.

The irrigation programme targets 20 villages in the township, with plans to build three tube-wells per village, said U Ye Min Tun, an MP from Kyaukse Township Constituency.

Currently, residents in the township have sufficient drinking water but villages located near the bottom of mountain and the edge of the dam have an urgent need for water to irrigate farmlands.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV WINNING ANGEL VOY. NO (T043)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WINNING ANGEL VOY. NO (T043) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAOTONG VOY. NO (186)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONG VOY. NO (186) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Tatmadaw column engages with KIA/TNLA combined troops in Kutkai

A Tatmadaw column performing area security duties engaged with the combined forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) in Kutkai, north-

ern Shan State early yesterday morning.

The Tatmadaw column was engaged with about 20 KIA and TNLA troops at a site 3,000 meters north of NamUn village. The combined ethnic

armed forces withdrew to the north and northeast at 1:35 am.

During the clashes, the Tatmadaw columns captured two KIA guerilla troops, two M-22 guns, three M-22 cartridges, 331

M-22 bullets, five 40mm bombs, two launchers, two TNT cartridges and accessories. The Tatmadaw column is still conducting area clearance operations.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Empowering women through self-reliance groups nationwide

FACILITATED by the United Nations Development Programme, May Dow Kabar, Myanmar Rural Women's Network, continues women-centred development projects across the country, said Daw Cho Aye, chairman of the network.

May Dow Kabar is a network formed with rural women's self-reliance

groups (SRGs), focusing on providing access to credit to rural women and economically empowering them to develop their capacities and enhance their well-being.

The network now has about 22,000 members in 2,000 villages in 31 townships in project areas, including delta and arid regions as well as

Chin, Kayah, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states, Daw Cho Aye said.

The SRGs are joining hands with other local development organisations, authorities and the private sector to raise public awareness on healthcare, education, human trafficking, and various forms of gender-based violence, providing livelihood sup-

port to women in need.

UNDP invested considerable resources into strengthening the capacity of the SRG members, especially women, who have been provided with knowledge and skills development.

There are more than 5,000 SRGs in Myanmar facilitated by UNDP through its projects.—*200*

Two-storey building to be constructed in Kalewa hospital

A TWO-STOREY building will be constructed in the compound of Kalewa township general hospital, Sagaing region with the use of funds from the Union budget. The construction of the new building is expected to be completed at the end of March, it is learnt.

The two-storey build-

ing is being constructed with the aim of upgrading the 25-bed Kalewa hospital.

"Kalewa township general hospital is a 25-bed hospital. Actually, we are using the old building which does not have enough beds for the patients. The government provides enough hospital

equipment. The new hospital will be able to provide better health care," said Dr. Tin Cho Cho, the medical superintendent of Kalewa general hospital.

A ground-breaking ceremony was held at 9am yesterday. Present at the ceremony were U Aung Than Kyaw, Regional Hluttaw represent-

ative, the medical superintendent of the hospital, departmental heads and members of the township NLD.

The government will also construct staff quarters beside the two-storey building in fiscal 2016-2017, also using funds from the Union budget.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Toshiba receives bids as high as \$3.6 billion for chip business stake: source

TOKYO — Toshiba Corp has received bids ranging from 200 billion yen to as much as 400 billion yen (\$1.8-3.6 billion) for a 19.9 per cent stake in its flash memory business, a person directly involved in the deal told Reuters on Thursday.

The Japanese conglomerate is seeking to raise around 300 billion yen from the sale, said the person, who was not authorized to speak with media and so declined to be identified.

A sale at that price would help Toshiba offset a multi-billion dollar writedown on its US nuclear power business, which investors worry could wipe out shareholder equity.

Suitors for the Japanese company's chip unit include rivals SK Hynix Inc and Micron Technology Inc, data storage firm Western Digital Corp and financial investors such as Bain Capital, people told Reuters earlier this week.

Toshiba favors bids from investment funds because it could conclude a deal quicker than with industry peers that may have



Toshiba's used-memory chips are seen at an electronics shop in Tokyo in 2010.
PHOTO: REUTERS

to seek permission from competition regulators before any acquisition, another person close to the matter said earlier.

A Toshiba executive has said the company will consider not just the offer price when selecting a bidder but other conditions as well.

A Toshiba spokeswoman said the company could not comment on spe-

cifics of the sale process.

Shares of Toshiba fell 6.7 per cent in Tokyo trade on Thursday, a day after Mizuho Securities pointed to the possible market impact of Toshiba being demoted to the second section of the Tokyo stock exchange or even delisted.

The Nikkei business daily early on Thursday also reported market concerns that Toshiba could

delay its third-quarter earnings release, without citing sources.

A Toshiba spokesman said the company would announce earnings on 14 February as planned.

On reporting earnings, Toshiba also plans to reveal the writedown on its US nuclear business that people earlier told Reuters could be as much as 700 billion yen.—Reuters

Microsoft offers patent troll defence for cloud customers

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft Corp has thought up another way to attract potential customers to its cloud computing service: deterrent against patent trolls.

Companies new to the cloud are vulnerable to non-practicing entities, which do not make any products themselves but use their arsenal of broad technology patents to sue other firms in order to extract royalties or a cash settlement.

The new offering could appeal to companies new to the cloud arena, needing a service such as Microsoft's Azure to store their data or host their mobile app.

It was not clear that it alone would be enough to draw customers away from the market leader, Amazon.com Inc's Amazon Web Services.

Under a plan unveiled on Wednesday, Microsoft said customers

of its cloud service could rely on any of 10,000 Microsoft patents free of charge to deter legal threats against them.

The Redmond, Washington-based company also said it would extend its existing promise to defend any customers sued over Azure to include the freely available or 'open source' technology incorporated into its cloud service.

The protection is designed to appeal to an automaker, for instance, which may have car-related patents but has no such cover for its mobile apps and other cloud-based products, making it a target.

"They haven't had years to build up that patent portfolio," said Julia White, Microsoft corporate vice president, in an interview. "Cloud innovation is far too important to be stifled by lawsuits." —Reuters

UK plans to remove insurance barriers for self-driving cars

LONDON — Britain plans to introduce new insurance rules to ensure victims of accidents involving self-driving cars are compensated quickly in a bid to remove a major obstacle for the nascent industry.

The introduction of self-driving cars has been hampered by legal hurdles in several countries as insurers and legislators try to establish who would ultimately be responsible in the event of an accident.

"We must ensure the public is protected in the event of an accident and this week we are introducing the framework to allow insurance for these new technol-

ogies," said transport minister Chris Grayling.

A single insurance product will be available to cover a driver when a vehicle is being used conventionally, as well as when the car is being used in autopilot mode, the transport ministry said in a statement.

The British government wants to encourage the development and testing of autonomous driving technology to build an industry to serve a market it reckons could be worth about 900 billion pounds (\$1.1 trillion) worldwide by 2025.

Recent accidents involving a self-driving

Google car and a Tesla model in autopilot mode have raised concerns among some members of the public just as more autonomous cars are being tested on Britain's streets.

Japanese carmaker Nissan is due to test autonomous cars in London later this month after initial tests on public roads in the southern English town of Milton Keynes late last year.

Britain will also set out plans to improve infrastructure such as charging points for electric vehicles, the fastest growing sector for new car sales in the country and key to meeting environmental targets.—Reuters

Takata to set aside \$864 million as part of US DOJ settlement

TOKYO — Japan's Takata Corp (7312.T) said on Thursday it will set aside 96.93 billion yen (\$864.4 million) as part of a \$1 billion settlement with the United States Justice Department over the world's largest ever auto recall.

In a regulatory filing,

the auto parts firm also said it would book and additional 3.5 billion yen special loss over recall-related costs in the third quarter. Takata added that it expects currency related gains of 4.07 billion yen in the April-December period.

Takata has been look-

ing for a sponsor to lead its turnaround, with sources saying Key Safety Systems had been selected, fanning concern that a court-led restructuring was on the cards.

It will report its third quarter earnings on Friday.—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.

Immature but up-and-coming YBS

Khin Maung Oo

IT has been one year since the incumbent government took office after gaining power with the tremendous support of the people. Undeniably, we have already seen considerable amounts of progress in the country. Being aware of this, we should not blame the government for its inability to solve all the legacy problems left by previous successive regimes. It will be endless to name these problems. Each and every one of the Region and State governments have their respective problems. Only in legends and in our imaginations can we find stories where problems like these are solved overnight. We chose our government because we wanted to rely upon it for the benefit of the present generation as well as for future generations. We trust and believe that the government has the capacity to deliver and to build the future that we all

want. There is one condition however. We should have the patience to wait for all good things do not happen overnight. In life things are not as easy as they seem to be.

As the biggest city of the country, it is obvious that the Yangon Region Government is facing more problems than others, especially the ones faced by the residents of Yangon city. However it is heartening to note that the people of Yangon have stepped up to the challenge in bringing practical solutions to the problems faced by commuters.

Now the Yangon Region Government has implemented its historic campaign to introduce a new bus system called the YBS (Yangon Bus System). The previous system had been annoying the public for several decades. It is now nearly one month since the Yangon Region Cabinet has launched the YBS. In fact, the period is still

very short to make any meaningful assessment. Any newborn baby cannot walk just after being born. Even when he changes into a toddler, he still cannot walk. Likewise, the system is just a like toddler.

We all have to face inconveniences, difficulties and problems in the beginning. A very large portion of the Myanmar populace is living in the Yangon Region. About 2.5 million Yangon dwellers are daily relying upon buses for transport. Even in India which is considered to be much more developed than Myanmar is still facing transport problems. We have seen this on TV. There may be some people who suffer much more than before, because of the new YBS. The government will not neglect the feedback given by the people on social networks like Facebook. We need to take time for the result we want to

materialize. Now, we no longer need to worry about buses waiting for passengers at bus stops for long periods of time.. We no longer need to be afraid of hearing the abusive language of bus conductors, over speeding and violent acts on roads. It is heartening to hear that more than 1000 new buses made in Korea and China will replace old vehicles plying currently in Yangon, and all these cars will be equipped with air-conditioners and GPS system. In fact this is a part of the Yangon Region Cabinet's efforts, which will cost K 60 billion.

The Yangon Region Government need to dispose off the backlog of cases that have piled up on our tables over the years. So they need to be dealt with in a speedy and efficient manner. Criticize with positive minds and suggest constructively. Now we are starting to see some progress at last.

The festivals of the month Tabodwe

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu
Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

THE eleventh month of Myanmar Lunar Calendar Tabodwe approximately corresponds with February. Although the tenth month Pyatho [January] is the peak of Myanmar cold season, Tabodwe can beat Pyatho in chilliness depending upon place, climate condition and time. There are old Myanmar sayings regarding the chill of Tabodwe. In Tabodwe, the tips of bullaloes' horns shiver with cold. [တူချီများ အေးတဲ့ တပို့တွဲ] In Tabodwe, we have a running nose [နာရည် ယိုစွဲ တပို့တွဲ]. "In Tabodwe, ripen plum fruits open up" (နွမ်း ဖေါက်ပြဲ တပို့တွဲ). "Kon" or Kumbha [Aquarius] is the astrological name of Tabodwe with a zodiacal symbol of a water bearer. Pauk [Butea] and Lei or Let pan [Silk cotton tree] [Bombex Malabaricum] are the traditionally designated flowers of Tabodwe. Pauk flowers are orange coloured profused on bunches. Lei or Let pan trees are big and tall. The entire tree after shedding all old leaves, produces buds and blooms of scarlet colour from all branches. Against the blue sky on the golden sun lights these pauk and let pan flowers create fantastic natural paintings. Let pan

flowers produce silken cotton wool they are also a good vegetable which Myanmar herbalists recommend for folk dishes because of their curative properties. At night when the sky is clear, Maga asterism of 4 stars and the Mon appear astride.

Philologists give two different meanings of Tabodwe. Tabo and Twe 2 words combined. Tabo means "yoke" and "Twe" means "hung up". In this month, all agricultural activities are over. Farmers and peasants give rest to their agricultural implements including yokes. Yokes are hung up on the walls. So it is the month of "yokes" [Tabo] being hung up [တွဲ]. The month of "yokes being hung up". The second meaning is Tabo is htanbu or spadix of a toddy palm tree from which the sap is tapped. "Twe" means to hung down. It is the month in which toddy palm climbers press spadixes to hung down to tap the sap. After they have consume fresh toddy juice in the morning or fermented juice in the evening, they boil them to get balls of toddy sugar called ဓနိလျှော် [gagary] or toddy chocaret- traditional preserved food used in many ways, medicine, dishes and

even in moon shining country liquor.

Of many festivals held in this month, the one common, wide spread and traditionally designated festival is the bon-fire festival. Bon fire is made by burning sandal or similar fragrant wood in a terra cotta brazier and taken to the Buddhist temple to offer to the Buddha Images. This religious custom of bon fire offering originated in the lifetime of Lord Buddha. While Lord Buddha was residing at the Pubayon monastery in the Kingdom of Savatthi, one Tabodwe evening he happened to be standing on a hill side. It was so cold that Lord Buddha kept his back in the warmth of the sun rays. But as the sun set down, and as it was out in the open, the chill of the night was too much for the Buddha who was wearing one robe. As the night advanced, cold intensified. So Lord Buddha put on the second robe to resist the cold. By midnight he had to wear the third robe. By dawn three robes were not enough to keep the body heat. So the fourth robe was worn over the third. By the rule of Vinaya [Priestly Discipline] only three robes are permitted for each monk. So to silence the criticism of some laymen, the last two robes were stitched to gather to become the third robe called "Dukut". In the extreme

cold of Tabodwe night Lord Buddha made his hands and feet warm by keeping them on a furnace.

In commemoration of that event the Buddhist devotees made offering of bonfire to Buddha images in Tabodwe especially on the full moon night, to gain religious merit. In Loka Byu Har Inyone Sardon [Treatise on Court ceremonies and festivals compiled by Thiri Uzana, minister of Inyone] the festival of bonfire in the time of Myanmar Kings was described as follows:-

"On the 8th waxing day of Tabodwe, a ceremonial procession of gathering fire woods took place. In the front of the procession were the Samyaung [the Officers to announce the impending presence of the King] accompanied by the music of drums, followed by 250 fire wood cutters recruited from Shey Win [East Guard at the Palace]. 250 fire wood cutters from Letya Win [Guard on the right side of the Palace] 250 fire wood cutters from Letwei Win [Guard on the left side of the Palace] and 250 fire wood cutters from Anauk Win [West Guard at the Palace]. Behind them 1000 body guards followed. Behind them 100 equestrian soldiers with helmets followed. Behind them two knights on horseback, wearing helmets and ceremonial gowns of their rank followed.

When the procession reached Maha Myat Muni Temple, music was kept playing. The body guards "and fire wood cutters went into nearby jungles and woods to cut and gather fire wood. The procession returned following the same procedure. When it reached Shey Yone [East Office] the body guards put fire woods on the stands, and bound them into bundle. On the 14th waxing moon day the clerks carried the bundles of fire wood into Shey Yone. The Minister of Royal Treasury brought 1000 braziers".

"At 4 O'clock in the evening, princes, princesses royal grandchildren, ministers and courtiers wearing ceremonial dress and ornaments of their rank came out to attend the ceremony at Shey Yone from 4 O'clock in the evening till 1 O'clock at night. Then they departed". "The minister of Royal Granary took 1000 pots of Yagu [rice porridge], 1000 stands of fire wood, and 1000 braziers borne by Thwethauksu Shwe Pan-pan equestrian soldiers to the pagodas and temples for offering to Buddha images". On pages 544-545 of Konbaung Set Maha Wun Tawkyi [Great Chronicle of the Konbaung Dynasty] volume 3, a graphic account of the bon fire festival held in Konbaung Period is given thus:

(To be continued)

People Democracy Party presents policy and programs



Dr. Than Htike Oo of People Democracy Party.

DR. Than Htike Oo, People Democracy Party presented the policies, attitudes and programmes of his party on 9 February 2017, on Radio and TV programmes.

The full text of his presentation is given below:

Esteemed people,

I wish you physical and mental well-being. May you all be blessed with auspicious events. I wish you all from the political parties treading on the democratic political path of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, public service personnel, Tatmadawmen in the line of national defence duties and police, law officers and judges performing the duties for ensuring security of the public life and the rule of law joining hands in building a new, lawful, genuine democratic state.

I am the founder of People's Democracy Party and have myself formulated the party's policies, attitudes and programmes, and invited those interested in founding a political party. I am Dr Than Htike Oo, the founder.

Esteemed people,

I'd, first of all, present the party's flag, logo and the policy, which have political essence and which are meant for the interests of the people. The background color of red suggests of bravery and decisiveness whereas the blue suggests uprightness and peace. One big white star is surrounded by five smaller white stars. The Union of Myanmar can be likened to the big white star whereas the smaller white stars represent workers, peasants, working intellectual and working intelligentsia and entrepreneurs. The stars signify having own light and travelling straight away. The logo of our party bears hammer, sickle and pinion to represent

workers, peasants and industrial workers from 14 states and regions to effectuate national development.

With this logo of our People's Democracy Party, I'll contest this 1st April by election from Monywa township constituency for Pyithu Hluttaw. I'll accept the people's decision.

The policies of our party in regard to nationalist policy is to effectuate unity among all indigenous races as well as to perpetuate the sovereignty of the union.

Esteemed voters, as my outside Hluttaw political performance, I've exerted my effort for the people's sports ground beside Ayeyawady River in Minyat Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State to be provided with (permanent) grant in 2012. Thanks to my effort, the torn and tattered sports ground could have been turned into a new one vividly illuminated with colour electric lights. This is a milestone in my candidate career.

Concerning the political policy, genuinely united multi-party democratic political system will be pursued.

Despite existence of laws protecting mediamen, concerted effort will be made for emergence of the law protecting the political parties in order that the political parties can be protected for the sake of public interest.

Concerning the economic policy, independent and fair social market economy will be pursued to protect against the danger of flourishing of capitalism.

Esteemed voters,

I've contested 2010 general election and 2012 by election. Since then, I've been engaged in outside Hluttaw political arena. In accord with the policies and pro-

grammes of People's Democracy Party, I've benefitted the people.

I've contributed towards emergence of the law to ensure systematic running of privately owned motor vehicles in Kachin state, Sagaing region, Mandalay region and Shan state. My effort has enabled the transportation businessmen to have legal protection in accordance with the market economic system.

Concerning foreign policy, independent and active foreign policy will be exercised within the framework of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence laid down at Bandaung.

Regarding defence policy, I'll co-operate with the Tatmadaw in its defence against internal and external enemy who infringe on the national sovereignty, for emergence of a modern Tatmadaw so that Tatmadaw can perform its defence duties according to the constitution and for all ethnic races to join the Tatmadaw according to the rules and regulations and for Tatmadaw to become really strong, modern and possessed with full capacity.

Concerning peasants' policy, effort will be exerted to effectuate the socio-economic development of the peasants based on ownership of land.

Esteemed voters,

I've exerted effort for the peasants from Nawngkhio township in Shan State to obtain the confiscated land as outside Hluttaw politics since contesting 2010 general election and 2012 by election.

I was released on January 16, 2016 from the status of political prisoner. Since then, I've put forth effort to enable the farmers from Amarapura and Kyaukse townships in Mandalay region, Pale township in Sagaing region and Nawngkhio township from Shan State to obtain the confiscated land. Furthermore, I've exerted effort to enable the peasants to obtain Form 7 according to 2012 land law.

As regards workers' affairs, effort will be made to enable our workers to enjoy workers' rights as equally as those being enjoyed by the workers from the rest of the world.

In regard to religious faith, our attitude is freedom of choice to profess whatsoever religious the citizens believe in.

Concerning education policy, our education system will be turned into a world class one.

Regarding health policy, the western medicine, homeopathic



Party Logo.

medicine, Ayurveda medicine and alternative medicine which benefit the entire human races for longevity and good health will be promoted in accordance with the laws of the indigenous medicine council and western medicine council. In addition to effectuation of the development of homeopathy, Ayurveda and Alternative medicine, Homeopathic Medical Practitioners and Alternative Medical Practitioners' Social Development Organization (a union-level NGO) has been registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs for bringing about social development of all indigenous people residing within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

As regards cultural policy, national cultural characters will be preserved, and the decadent culture that damages the national pride will be uprooted.

To be able to implement the party's policies, three programmes have been laid down. They are: national cause programme, political programme and defence programme. As the programme to implement the national cause, effort will be made to enable all indigenous races inhabiting the union to enjoy equal rights according to the law. Nationalization of land and businesses will be prevented. And equal development for all indigenous races will be implemented with the use of the revenue earned through the sale of the natural resources owned by the indigenous people.

As a political programme, we will ensure that the power shall come down from the people, who are our voters. I'll also encourage all armed ethnic groups to abandon the armed line and establish legal political parties above ground in order that they can be engaged in politics from within and without the hluttaws. They will be brought to the round table discussions to achieve peace. I'll co-operate with all representatives from Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Re-

gion/State Hluttaws in fulfilling the needs of the people we represent. I mean I'll co-operate with them all for enabling the enactment of the laws of public benefit. As the three organs of power-executive, judicial and legislative pillars – are needed to conduct check and balance between and among them – selves, I'll try my utmost to be able to avoid illegal exertion of pressure. In this juncture, the fourth pillar is needed to be strengthened i.e. I'll bring about the development of media sector.

Esteemed voters,

In regard to national defence programme, I'm in favour of Tatmadaw's being only one defence force, which will not back whatsoever political party according to the constitution.

Esteemed voters,

Concerning the public service personnel, our attitude is for the public service personnel to bring to the fore the interests of the nation and the people and to be law-abiding and well-disciplined.

Esteemed voters,

Our policy is very simple. Even if I am chosen to become a people's representative, I'll continue to be engaged in outside Hluttaw politics.

Should I become a people's representative, I'll submit proposals to the Hluttaw to ensure the rule of law, and if I'm not fortunate enough to be a member of parliament, I'll be contented with the status of ex-hluttaw candidate and will continue to be engaged in outside Hluttaw politics.

May I conclude my speech by making a solemn vow that I'll accept the voters' decision regardless of being elected and otherwise. If elected, I'll be engaged in Hluttaw politics and if not elected, I'll continue to do outside Hluttaw politics. Please think of voting for me. I make my earnest request to all voters from Monywa township constituency to make a wise choice. I wish you all physical and mental well-being.

Mary Chapman to provide free sign language course for locals

THE MARY CHAPMAN School for the Deaf will open its sign language training to locals free of charge this month, aiming to bridge the gap between people with hearing loss and people who can hear, according to the school.

In order to raise sign language awareness among people so they can communicate with

hearing-impaired persons, the 10-day course will start on 13 February at the school on Thantam-an Street in Ahlone Township, Yangon, said Daw Nyunt Nyunt Thein, principal of the school.

She added that the course will be limited to only 20 trainees of all ages.

Five children with hearing

loss studying sign language at Chinese University in Hong Kong plus a hearing-impaired child will teach the sign language, an effective method of communication using a combination of symbols and hand movements that provides a hearing-impaired person with a way to interact with the world.

Learning of sign language is not only for the hearing impaired, it is also for those who are interested in being able to communicate with the people with hearing loss.

According to the 2014 nationwide census, 4.6 per cent of the country's total populations of over 51 million people are people

with disabilities, 1.3 per cent of whom are deaf.

The Mary Chapman School for the Deaf was established in 1920 by Miss Mary Chapman, a British missionary. Its main source of revenue comes from individual donations. The majority of children attending the school are from very poor families.—200

Three-day meeting on combating nuclear terrorism begins in New Delhi

NEW DELHI — An international meeting under the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism began Wednesday in New Delhi, aimed at preventing weapons of mass destruction and related materials from falling into the hands of terrorists.

Around 150 delegates from dozens of countries and several international organisations are participating in the three-day meeting of the Implementation and Assessment Group of the GICNT, which was launched in 2006 jointly by the United States and Russia.

The IAG oversees the work of the three GICNT working groups: the Nuclear Detection Working Group chaired by Finland, the Nuclear Forensics Working Group chaired by Australia and the Response and Mitigation Working Group chaired by Morocco.

In the past 10 years, the GICNT has grown to include 86 partner nations and five official observer organisations.

In announcing the New Delhi meeting last Saturday, India's External

Affairs Ministry warned that the possible use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists "is no longer a theoretical concern."

"A breach of nuclear security may lead to unimaginable consequences. Such an event would have a global impact. It is imperative to strengthen international efforts to combat such threats," it said, adding, "This meeting is therefore timely and important and would further enhance our vigil."

The initiative seeks to improve accounting, control, and protection of nuclear material, to assure denial of safe haven and resources from terrorists seeking to acquire such material, and to promote information sharing to prevent and respond to acts of nuclear terrorism.

Japan, which has actively engaged in discussions on the technical aspects of nuclear forensics and on improving security in the transport of nuclear materials, will in June host the GICNT's annual plenary, co-chaired by the United States and Russia.—*Kyodo News*

Abe sets off on US trip for 1st summit with Trump

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe left Japan for Washington on Thursday to hold his first meeting with US President Donald Trump since the latter's inauguration last month.

"I hope this summit meeting will be a message (to the world) that the Japan-US alliance will be stronger and tougher," Abe told reporters before boarding a government plane at Tokyo's Haneda airport.

Abe will seek to discuss with Trump ways to bolster bilateral trade and investment for the economic benefit of the wider Asia-Pacific region, according to Japanese authorities.

The summit between Abe and Trump will be held on Friday afternoon local time, followed by a joint press conference. They are then expected to



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) and his wife Akie (R) wave before boarding a plane at Tokyo's Haneda airport on 9 February 2017, and leaving for Washington. Abe will hold his first meeting with US President Donald Trump since he took office last month. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

fly to Palm Beach, Florida, where the president has an estate. Trump has said he and Abe will play a round of golf in Palm Beach.

Noting he was look-

ing forward to playing golf and having dinner with the president, Abe said, "Apart from our jobs, I want to build a strong relationship of trust (with Trump)."

Abe and Trump held an unofficial meeting in New York last November, shortly after Trump's victory in the US presidential election. They exchanged golf gifts at that meeting.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso, who doubles as finance minister, are accompanying Abe to Washington.

Kishida and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who talked by phone earlier this week, will hold their first face-to-face talks on Friday, the Foreign Ministry said.

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko said Wednesday he would not be accompanying Abe to the United States because his US counterpart, Commerce Secretary nominee Wilbur Ross, has not yet been confirmed by the Senate.—*Kyodo News*

Indonesia urges airlines to expand routes to new tourism destinations

JAKARTA — Indonesian Transport Ministry has asked airlines to open routes at newly-developed tourism destinations to help lure holidaymakers visiting the areas, a senior official said on Thursday.

The call was made as the tourism ministry has been developing 10 new tourist resorts called "pri-

oritized tourism destination" across the archipelago country.

"I beg the opening of new route is not only prioritized in an area with high passenger rate," said Suprasetyo, director general for Civil Aviation of the Transport Ministry.

"Should an airline submit a request for a li-

cense to open a new route at such area, we will enclose it with a license for opening a route at low passenger rate area so that the number of passengers visiting the site will rise," he said.

The director suggested airlines to apply a cross-subsidy scheme if the opening of a route

in the low-passenger-rate area is not economically beneficial for business.

Indonesia eyes 12 million foreign tourist arrivals this year and last year, and expects it to jump to 20 million in 2019.

In 2015, a total of about 10 million foreign visitors visited Indonesia.—*Xinhua*

Fire under control after China chemical plant explosion, no injuries

BEIJING — A fire after an explosion at a chemical plant in Tongling city in the eastern Chinese province of Anhui was brought under control and no injuries were reported, state media said on Thursday.

The official *Tongling Daily* said on its microblog that the blast happened late on Wednesday evening, sending flames shooting into the sky.

"At present there are no injuries or deaths," it said. "The fire caused by the explosion has been effectively controlled."

Deadly accidents are relatively common at industrial plants in China.

China has vowed to



Rescuers work at the site of an explosion at a chemical plant in Tongling, Anhui province, China, on 8 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

improve safety at such facilities. President Xi Jinping has said authori-

ties would learn the lessons paid for with blood after chemical blasts in

the port city of Tianjin killed 165 people in 2015.—*Reuters*

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

Trump breaks ice with China's Xi in letter seeking 'constructive' ties

BEIJING/WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump has broken the ice with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a letter that said he looked forward to working with him to develop relations, although the pair haven't spoken directly since Trump took office.

The letter thanked Xi for his congratulatory note on Trump's inauguration and wished the Chinese people a prosperous Lunar New Year of the Rooster, the White House said in a statement on Wednesday.

"President Trump stated that he looks forward to working with President Xi to develop a constructive relationship that benefits both the United States and China," it said.

China said on Thursday it attached great importance to China-US ties.

"We highly appreciate President Trump's holiday greetings to President Xi Jinping and the Chinese people," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said at a daily press briefing.

Asked whether it was a snub that Trump had held calls with many other



US President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Chief Executive Officer of Intel Brian Krzanich in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, US, 8 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

world leaders as president, but not Xi, Lu said: "This kind of remark is meaningless."

He reiterated that China and the US had maintained "close communication" since Trump took office and that cooperation was the "only correct choice".

"China is willing to work with the United States in adhering to the principles of non-confron-

tation, mutual respect and mutual benefit to promote cooperation, control disputes, and on a healthy and stable foundation, promote greater development in China-US ties," Lu said.

Trump and Xi have yet to speak directly since Trump took office on 20 January, although they did talk soon after Trump won the US presidential election in November.

Diplomatic sources in

Beijing say China has been nervous about Xi being left humiliated in the event a call with Trump goes wrong and the details are leaked to the US media.

Last week, US ties with staunch ally Australia became strained after the *Washington Post* published details about an acrimonious phone call between Trump and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

"That is the last thing China wants," a source familiar with China's thinking on relations with the United States told Reuters. "It would be incredibly embarrassing for President Xi and for Chinese people, who value the concept of face."

A senior non-US Western diplomat said China was unlikely to be in a rush to set up such a call.

"These things need to happen in a very controlled environment for China, and China can't guarantee that with the unpredictable Trump," the diplomat said.

"Trump also seems too distracted with other issues at the moment to give too much attention to China." —Reuters

Job Vacancies At The Global New Light of Myanmar

The Global New Light of Myanmar, the country's oldest continuously published English-language daily 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, 09-428120086, 09-49445545.

South Korea on high alert as second strain of foot-and-mouth disease confirmed

SEOUL — South Korea raised the country's foot-and-mouth disease alert status to the highest level as a second strain of the disease was confirmed three days after a first outbreak was reported, Seoul's agriculture ministry said on Thursday.

The A-type strain of the disease was discovered at a dairy farm in Yeoncheon, less than 50 miles north of the capital, said Kim Kyeong-kyu, deputy minister for food industry policy. Reacting shortly after an outbreak of the O-type strain was confirmed in southeast Korea, the ministry raised the alert status one notch to the maximum.

"We are raising the alert level as foot-and-mouth cases occurred at different parts of the country and a second type of the disease emerged," Kim said at a briefing. As of Wednesday, 826 cattle had been culled, the ministry said.



A health officer checks a cattle in a farm in Gimje as a preventive measure against foot-and-mouth disease after South Korea on Monday confirmed a case of foot-and-mouth at a dairy farm elsewhere in the country, South Korea, on 6 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

South Korea last raised the country's foot-and-mouth disease alert status to the highest level in 2010, when the country grappled with its worst-ever outbreak.

Since the first outbreak was discovered on Monday, Korea has taken emergency measures including a nationwide vaccination and a movement control order designed to contain

the spread of the virus.

The ministry had re-vaccinated all cattle in the country against the O-type virus, and the country's livestock would need to be inoculated again against the A-type strain, Kim said.

Oh Soon-min, a senior agriculture ministry official in charge of animal health, said the ministry was seeking to import more vaccine

stocks from manufacturers such as Merial as Korea's inventory of "O+A type" vaccines - which allow livestock to be vaccinated for both strains at the same time - was in short supply.

"We first have to check the company's inventory and we are thinking to bring in as many (supplies) as we can," he added.

Korea regularly inoculates its cattle and hogs against three types of foot-and-mouth diseases. It has around 3.14 million cattle and 10 million hogs nationwide.

The agriculture ministry is weighing whether or not to vaccinate hogs again, as cases of infection have so far only been found among cattle, said Park Bong-kyun, commissioner of the Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency.

Korea has also slaughtered 33 million farm birds since late last year as it tries to contain an outbreak of viral bird flu. —Reuters

Exiled Maldives leader to stand for 2018 presidency

COLOMBO — Exiled Maldivian leader Mohamed Nasheed said on Thursday he would return to the troubled Indian Ocean archipelago to contest a 2018 presidential election and called for international pressure on the government to allow him to run.

The Indian Ocean island nation has been mired in political unrest since Nasheed, its first democratically elected leader, was ousted in 2012. He was later sentenced to 13 years in jail on terrorism charges after a widely denounced trial.

Nasheed, who had been released to go to Britain for medical treatment, said the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) had ruled that his detention was unlawful and politically motivated, allowing him

to contest any elections.

"I hope to win the ticket as the party candidate of choice for the Maldives presidential elections," he told reporters in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka that has become a base for the exiled opposition.

"In his fear to contest me, if President Yameen bars me from contesting the elections, then of course his presidency will lack the necessary legitimacy."

Nasheed has to get his sentence for the alleged abduction of a judge in 2011 revoked to be eligible to contest the poll as election laws bar candidacy of those jailed for more than a year for a criminal offence, for three years.

Nasheed, 49, hopes the government will let him contest the 2018 polls in which President

Abdulla Yameen is expected to seek re-election for a second five-year term.

In its September 2015 ruling, UNWGAD urged Yameen's government to take the necessary steps to release Nasheed immediately and accord him an enforceable right to compensation. However, Yameen did not adhere to the rulings.

Nasheed urged the international community to engage more robustly with Yameen's government and said a number of countries were working behind the scenes.

"We will continue to work with our international partners to see how they may be able to impress up on President Yameen the need to have an all inclusive elections," he said.

The Maldives left the Commonwealth in

October, weeks after the organisation warned the tropical island nation, famous for its beaches and coral reefs, could be suspended because of its lack of progress in promoting the rule of law and democracy.

Yameen's administration has arrested most opponents who might challenge him in 2018. The opposition alleges the administration is trying to cover up corruption including money laundering, accusations the government has denied.

The largely Muslim island chain with a population of 400,000 has other looming problems that belie its reputation as a tourist paradise.

Significant numbers of radicalised youths have been enlisting to fight for Islamic State militants in the Middle East.

—Reuters

Polls show French far-right Le Pen winning election first round, but losing knockout

PARIS — Far-right leader Marine Le Pen looks set to win the first round of France's presidential election in April, according to a new survey issued on Thursday, with other polls indicating she will lose the runoff to centrist Emmanuel Macron. Harris Interactive said a poll of voting intentions for the April 23 first round indicated that Le Pen, who heads the anti-immigrant and anti-EU National Front, would get 24 per cent, with Macron taking 21 per cent.

Francois Fillon, a con-

servative who was favourite to win election only two weeks ago but has seen his campaign damaged by scandal, trailed on 19 per cent. Only the top two candidates go through to the 7 May runoff. The poll assumed, however, that centrist Francois Bayrou would run and would pick up 5 per cent in the first round.

Bayrou has not yet officially declared himself a candidate, though. If he does not run, his voters are likely to support either Macron or Fillon.—Reuters



Campaign leaflets for France's far-right National Front (FN) leader Marine Le Pen, candidate in the French 2017 presidential elections, is seen at the National Front local offices in Luce near Chartres, France, on 2 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

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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.

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

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Cleanup crews remove power poles from Chef Menteur highway in New Orleans East after a series of tornadoes tore through the city and other parts of Louisiana, leaving trees, power lines, homes and businesses leveled, in New Orleans, Louisiana, US, on 8 February 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Thirty-one reported injured after tornadoes pummel Louisiana

BATON ROUGE, (La.) — Some 31 people were reported injured after six tornadoes tore through New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana, pounding across highways and streets and leaving trees, power lines and homes leveled by Wednesday morning.

Federal and state damage assessment teams on Wednesday began working to see if Louisiana can qualify for federal assistance, Mike Steele, communications director for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said.

Governor John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency throughout Louisiana, as search and rescue teams scoured the landscape for survivors from Tuesday's tornadoes.

"The width of the devastation was unlike any that I have seen before," Edwards told a news conference on Tuesday. "When you see it from the air you're even more impressed that so few people were injured and that nobody's life was lost."

The storm system battered New Orleans and suburban Baton Rouge, marking the fourth time in a year the state has been jolted by natural disasters.

A string of tornadoes struck in February 2016 and four people died in widespread floods in March. Louisiana was then devastated by major flooding in August, when more than 60,000 homes were

damaged or destroyed in 20 parishes, or territorial districts, marking the state's worst disaster since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

One twister carved out a swath of destruction about two miles (3 km) long and about half a mile (1 km) wide, affecting an area with 5,000 properties, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu said.

"It's devastating and a lot of families have lost everything that they have," Landrieu said.

Thirty-one injuries have been reported, according to the mayor's office.

Six of them were moderate or severe injuries, and there have been no reported fatalities, the office said in a statement.

At least 8,100 customers were without power in the New Orleans area by early Wednesday, according to Entergy New Orleans Inc (EYNOO.PK).

About 150 workers from the energy company assisted in recovery efforts on Wednesday.

Nancy Malone, communications director for the Red Cross of Louisiana, said damage was reported in about six parishes, where the Red Cross was assisting first responders.

"While this was not expected, communities in southeast Louisiana have been affected numerous times in the last 12 months," Malone said. "Here we are again." — Reuters

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Class 30: "Beverages, tea, coffee"

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used in respect of — Int'l Class 5: "Dietetic substances adapted for medical use; food for infants and invalids"

Int'l Class 29: "Milk and milk products; malted milk for food; soya and whey based protein products; dried and cooked fruit and vegetable based products; jellies, jams, compotes, and food preparations prepared from milk"

Int'l Class 30: "Cocoa; preparations made from cereals, including oats, wheat and malted barley; preparations for making food and drinks; cereals, noodles, breads, pastry, biscuits, cakes, snack bars, confectionery, ices, sauces, seasonings"

Int'l Class 32: "Non-alcoholic drinks; fruit drinks and juices; syrups and other preparations for making beverages"

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Yangon. 10th February 2017

Prince, George Michael to get Grammy tributes

LOS ANGELES — Prince and George Michael will be honored at the Grammy Awards on Sunday with separate tributes, but organizers did not say on Wednesday which musicians will perform them.

Recording Academy President Neil Portnow said “Purple Rain” singer Prince, and British star Michael, who both died suddenly in 2016, were “pop icons who showcased rare musical genius and otherworldly charisma.”

“The passings of two such creative innovators were a huge loss for the creative community; The Recording Academy is humbled to pay homage to their tremendous legacies on the Grammy stage,” Portnow added in a statement.

The Recording Academy said it was not announcing details of the tributes and who will participate.

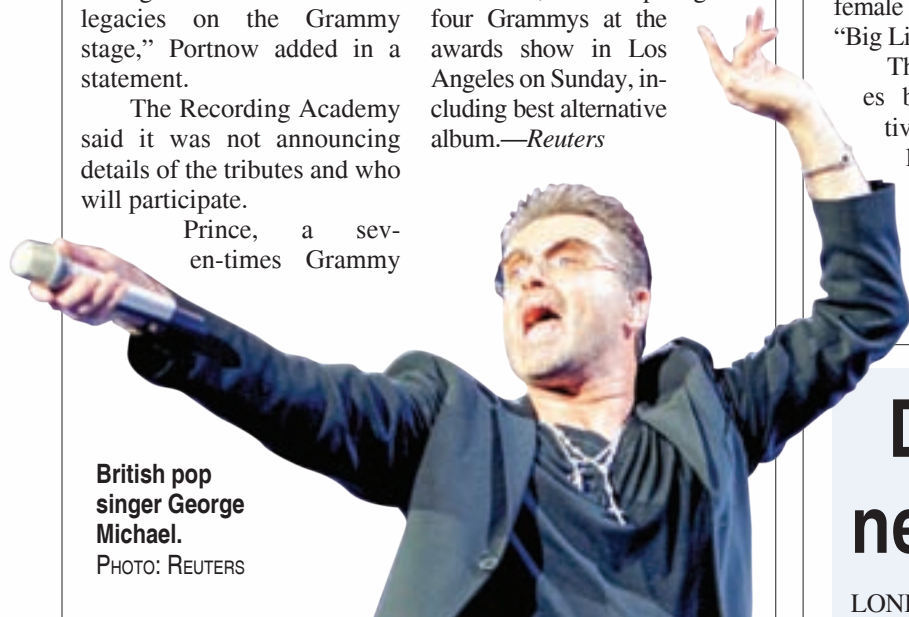
Prince, a seven-times Grammy

winner, was found dead at his Minneapolis studio complex in April. An autopsy revealed the 57 year-old died of an accidental overdose of the pain-killer fentanyl.

Michael, 53, known for songs like “Last Christmas” and “Freedom,” was found dead at his British home on Christmas Day. The double Grammy winner’s manager said the singer died of heart failure, but the official cause is still being investigated.

David Bowie, who died in January 2016, was honored at last year’s Grammys in a tribute performed by Lady Gaga.

Bowie’s final release, “Blackstar,” is competing for four Grammys at the awards show in Los Angeles on Sunday, including best alternative album.—*Reuters*



British pop singer George Michael.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Priyanka lends voice to neglected dogs with Tom Hardy

LOS ANGELES — Actress Priyanka Chopra has joined actors like Tom Hardy and Casey Affleck to voice her concern for the ill-treatment of dogs around the world.

The 34-year-old actress is one of the celebrity narrators in the video by PETA fieldworkers, which shows the life of canines when they are left fend for themselves and neglected by their owners, from their own perspective.

“Did you know that as I got old and stiff and achy, and I couldn’t get comfortable no matter how hard I tried... you would let me suffer, alone and in pain?” narrates Priyanka.

The video begins with a shot of a chained dog sitting in the snow, alone when Hardy’s voice over floats in, “When you first got me, did you know that you were going to chain me up and leave

me outside? Even in the cold and snow?” Towards the end, the 39-year-old actor said, “... If you did then why did you get me at all?” with Casey Affleck and Priyanka joining in, saying, “Why did you get me at all?”

Other celebrities Bill Maher, Edie Falco, Kate del Castillo, DRAM and Courtney Stodden have also lent their voices to the cause.—*PTI*



Actress Priyanka Chopra. PHOTO: REUTERS



(L-R) Laura Dern, Nicole Kidman, Shailene Woodley, Zoe Kravitz and Reese Witherspoon. PHOTO: REUTERS

Witherspoon, Kidman debut female-centric ‘Big Little Lies’

LOS ANGELES — Two of film’s biggest names, Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon, have come together on screen to champion female empowerment in HBO’s “Big Little Lies.”

The Oscar-winning actresses both star in and executive-produce the seven-part limited TV series, based on the 2014 novel of the same name, after seeing the opportunity to put diverse women on the screen.

“It’s powerful, you know, when you actually connect with women and reflect back to them their lives and they see themselves on film,” Witherspoon, 40, told Reuters at the show’s Hollywood premiere this week.

Kidman, 49, currently Oscar-nominated for “Lion,” said she was “committed” to supporting female talent and young actors.

“It’s a lovely place in the world right now to be able to throw whatever power, whatever support

I can be behind that,” she said.

“Big Little Lies,” debuting on HBO on Sunday, sees Witherspoon, Kidman and Shailene Woodley playing three mothers and also stars Zoe Kravitz, Laura Dern, Adam Scott and Alexander Skarsgard.

Set in the tranquil California seaside town of Monterey, the series explores society’s myth of perfection and the contradictions that exist beneath the idealized facade of marriage, sex, parenting and friendship.—*Reuters*

Daniel Radcliffe talks comedy, nerves in return to London stage

LONDON — “Harry Potter” star Daniel Radcliffe has plenty of stage experience -- even famously appearing nude in “Equus” -- but the British actor still gets nervous before each performance.

“ [I] get a bit twitchy and nerv-



PHOTO: REUTERS

bratory production of Tom Stoppard’s “Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead” later this month.

The play is a mind-bending situation comedy in which two minor characters, Rosencrantz (Radcliffe) and Guildenstern (Joshua McGuire), stumble in and out of the action of Shakespeare’s iconic drama, all while having an identity crisis.

“They don’t know who they are, where they are, why they’re there, what they’re meant to be doing,” McGuire said in an interview with Reuters about the two characters. “They know something is going on with Hamlet and they don’t want to die.”

“It is like this incredible canvas for amazing ideas to be discussed - ideas about fate and chance and do we control our own fate or is it all just chaos,” Radcliffe said.

“Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead” opens at the Old Vic Theatre in London on 25 February and runs until 29 April.—*Reuters*

ous,” Radcliffe said. “You need nerves, you need that. If you don’t feel that then why are you here? That’s exciting. That’s fun.”

Taking inspiration from “Hamlet,” Radcliffe, 27, will return to the London stage in a 50th anniversary cele-

German right-wingers angry about Syria monument in Dresden

BERLIN — Right-wing activists in the eastern German city of Dresden have protested against a work by a Syrian artist designed to show solidarity with the people of Aleppo, saying it belittles the memory of the city's own bombing in World War II.

The installation, consisting of three buses standing on end, was placed in a square in front of the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), destroyed by British and US bombers in World War II and rebuilt as a symbol of reconciliation.

The work evokes a scene from 2015 when rebels in the Syrian city stood three buses on end to shield a street from government snipers.

It is part of commemorations for the 72nd anniversary of the obliteration of much of Dresden with firebombs in February 1945, three months before the end of the war in Europe. The raids killed 25,000 people and destroyed historic Baroque churches and palaces, and continue to evoke resentment in Dresden, cradle of the anti-Muslim PEGIDA movement, which drew



People walk next to the art instalation 'Monument' by Syrian artist Manaf Halbouni, made from three passenger busses in Dresden, Germany, on 8 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

some 20,000 supporters to weekly marches in 2015.

Right-wing campaigners booed Dresden mayor Dirk Hilbert at the opening ceremony on Tuesday and shouted "Garbage!", "Get out!", "Shame on you!" and "Traitor!". He has also received death threats, German media say.

Artist Manaf Halbouni, a German-Syrian, told Reuters TV he was shocked by the protest: "The aim of this installa-

tion was to foster dialogue between people so that we can all discuss things together and try to solve problems together." On his website, he says his work links the suffering of people in Syria and Europe "but also the hope for reconstruction and peace". After decades as a ruin, the Frauenkirche was reconsecrated in 2005.

The Dresden branch of the anti-immigrant AfD, which has enjoyed a surge

in popularity since an influx of over a million refugees, many from Syria, in the last two years, called the installation "an insult to the citizens of Dresden".

Last month, a senior member of the AfD caused an outcry in Dresden by saying that a memorial to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust in Berlin was a scandal, and that history books should be rewritten to focus on German victims.—Reuters

Manchester airport, Chinese airlines launch Chinese film festival across Britain

LONDON — A Chinese film festival that will travel the length and breadth of Britain was announced Wednesday in Manchester.

Manchester Airport, along with Chinese company Hainan Airlines, is launching the festival to celebrate movies and culture from China.

Each event is free of charge, and everyone that attends will go into a competition to win a pair of flights to Beijing direct with Hainan Airlines.

Starting in Manchester on 22 February, the Chinese film festival will run until 11 April and take place in 12 British cities.

Films being shown include "Hero", "Operation Mekong" and "Call of Heroes."

A spokesman at Manchester Airport said "Hainan Airlines started its direct service from Manchester to Beijing four times a week in June last year, and the festival has been arranged to showcase the vibrant culture of China, which thanks to the route, is much closer and accessible for British residents." The route makes Manchester the only airport outside of London with a direct service to the Chinese mainland, taking just 10 hours.—Xinhua

'Alice in Wonderland' collection fetches 88,000 dollars at auction

LONDON — One of the world's largest collections of "Alice in Wonderland" memorabilia, featuring over 3,000 items, was sold at an Oxford auction house on Wednesday for around 70,000 pounds (\$88,000).

The collection, which features memorabilia of the fantasy novel by Lewis Carroll - also known as Charles Lutwidge Dodgson - was owned by late antiquarian book and prints dealer Thomas Schuster and his wife Greta.

The couple built the collection over 25 years, buying at auctions, antique

fairs, and through specialist dealers. Among the items on sale were a first edition of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" published by Macmillan in 1866, stamp cases, statuettes of characters from the novel and a rare 1920s calendar stand of the Mad Hatter.

The collection was sold in 360 lots, Mallams auction house said.

"What attracted my husband and I to the work of Charles Dodgson is the sheer magic of the stories and the extraordinary intelligence behind them," said Greta Schuster.—Reuters

Sheep shearers race to be fastest at world championships

WELLINGTON — The World Shearing and Wool-handling Championships kicked off in New Zealand on Wednesday with hundreds of competitors from around the world.

Held for the first time on the country's South Island in Invercargill, the championships see people competing in six categories

including traditional blade shearing, machine shearing and wool handling.

"Never before have we had a venue like this with so much seating, so big with the facilities around it, with corporate boxes and it's pretty, pretty amazing," said New Zealand shearer David Fagan. New Zealand are the favourite in many of

the events, with nations like Japan trying to get on the scoreboard.

"We have only ten thousand, fifteen thousand sheep, but we still have to shear them, so we started running shearing courses," said Japanese competitor Shun Oishi.

On the second day of this year's competition,

Scottish contestant Gavin Mutch was one of four to shear five sheep under six minutes, maintaining his number one seeding ahead of the second round on Friday.

Shearers work on a points system where speed and the state of the sheep after shearing go towards the final score.—Reuters

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(10-2-2017, Friday)

6:00 Am
♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 Am
♦ Breakfast News

7:30 Am
♦ People Talks

8:30 Am
♦ Current Affairs

9:30 Am
♦ Weekly Entertainment News

10:30 Am
♦ Weekly Sport Info

11:35 Pm
♦ MRTV Worker Programme

12:35 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series

2:15 Pm
♦ Talk On Old Film

2:45 Pm
♦ Applied Financial Knowledge

3:15 Pm
♦ Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competition

3:35 Pm
♦ Teleplay

4:35 Pm
♦ 70th Anniversary Union

Day Programme

4:45 Pm
♦ Documentary (February For Monthly Weather Forecast)

5:15 Pm
♦ 70th Anniversary Union Day Programme

5:35 Pm
♦ Hyper Sport

6:20 Pm
♦ HUMAN DIGNITY FILM INSTITUTE "Scros the Riverwind, An Island"

7:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series

7:45 Pm
♦ Documentary (Union Day)

8:00 Pm
♦ News/International News/ Weather Report

8:35 Pm
♦ Political Parties Campaign Speeches

9:00 Pm
♦ News/ Weather Report

♦ Teleplay

♦ Songs In Myanmar Movies (Par-28)

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

mitv

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(10-2-2017 07:00am ~ 11-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "A stir about of Rainbows"
07:49	Am	A Way of Life: Aikido
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	"Myanmar's Beauty and Nature" Beach
08:50	Am	Sai Ye Kwan
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Caves of Myanmar
09:52	Am	Sagaing: Gold Leaf
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Green Corner (Epi-12) Paper Mache Bird

10:35 Am Coconut Shell Artist

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:25	Pm	Wonderful Indonesia
07:51	Pm	Lines & Wash Painting
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	ThAn Aficionado of Alluring Antiques
08:56	Pm	Nang

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

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

Pyeongchang marks one-year countdown to Winter Games

GANGNEUNG, (South Korea) — Pyeongchang has waited a long time to host the Winter Olympics, suffering two failed bids before securing success, but on Thursday the South Korean alpine town's dream came a step closer with the one-year countdown to the 2018 Games.

Located in the mountainous Gangwon Province, some 180 kilometres east of Seoul, Pyeongchang will host Asia's first Winter Games outside Japan and kick off an Asian Olympic cycle that reflects the region's growing influence on world sport.

With Tokyo hosting the 2020 Summer Games and Beijing staging the 2022 Winter Olympics, Pyeongchang organising chief Lee Hee-beom said Asia's strength was evident.

"We can say the era of Asia in sport is taking place," said Lee at a news conference in the coastal town of Gangneung, which will stage the ice hockey, curling, figure skating, speed and short track skating events.

"It's Pyeongchang's vision to open a new horizon of winter sports in North East Asia and the world."

The build up to the Games has been anything but plain sailing



Women wearing Korean traditional costume Hanbok perform during an unveiling ceremony of the Olympic countdown clock to mark a year to the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, on 8 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

with organizers forced to overcome initial reluctance from corporate sponsors as well as a political influence peddling scandal that threatened to taint the Games. Concerns from the international community about the se-

curity threat posed by North Korea were also raised at the news conference, but POCOG chief Lee sought to ease concerns.

"Any athlete from any country is allowed to participate in the 2018 (Games) as long as they

promote peace," he said. "North Korea is no exception."

"I don't believe tensions have been rising on the Korean peninsula. North Korea has a right and a responsibility to participate in the Games - if they love peace."

Lee also conceded that while the ongoing political crisis involving President Park Geun-hye had had some negative impact he said preparations had not been hindered.

Park was impeached over accusations she colluded with long-time friend Choi Soon-sil to pressure big businesses to donate to two foundations set up to back the president's policy initiatives.

Reports in local media suggested contracts for the Pyeongchang Games had been tainted by the scandal but Lee rejected the accusation.

"I know people expressed some concerns about the current political situation and how it might affect the Olympics," Lee said. "But it hasn't had an impact on our preparations."

Lee added that Korea's National Assembly has passed resolutions in November to encourage government bodies to do their utmost to support the Games.

Taking place 30 years after Seoul claimed its place on the global sporting stage with the 1988 Summer Games, the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics will see South Korea join an elite group of countries to complete the 'hosting grand slam'. —Reuters

Sharapova handed Madrid Open wildcard

BARCELONA — Former world number one Maria Sharapova has been invited to play at the Madrid Open in May, which takes place less than two weeks after her 15-month doping ban expires, tournament organisers said on Wednesday.

The five-time grand slam winner has been given a wildcard for the event, which begins on 5 May.

It is scheduled to be her second comeback tournament after her suspension for doping, with the Russian set to return to action at the Stuttgart Grand Prix in April.

"Sharapova requested an invitation to play... (She) is one of the best players of the last 15 years and also a past winner of our tournament," said event director Manolo Santana.

"In Madrid she always plays well and I'm sure she will come back to the courts highly motivated and hoping to do well."

Following a positive test for the drug meldonium at the 2016

Australian Open, the Russian was suspended for two years by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) cut the ban by nine months last October, allowing her to return from 26 April.

Her case divided opinion in the sport.

The Florida-based Sharapova, who turns 30 on 19 April, had called the ITF's original ruling "unfairly harsh" because she had not intentionally violated anti-doping rules.

Meldonium was only added to the World Anti-Doping Agency list of banned substances at the start of 2016 after mounting evidence it boosted blood flow and enhanced performance.

CAS cut Sharapova's suspension but said she "bore some degree of fault" by relying on agent Max Eisenbud to check the banned list for changes and failing to ensure he had done so. —Reuters

I will never feel great again, says Woods

NEW YORK — Former world number one Tiger Woods has accepted that he will "never feel great" again after suffering a number of back and knee injuries in recent years.

The 14-times major champion returned to action in December following a 15-month layoff but was forced to pull out of the Dubai Desert Classic last week after the first round due to a back spasm.

"There were a lot of times I didn't think I was going to make it back. It was tough, it was more than brutal," Woods told Dubai magazine Vision.

The 41-year-old American has racked up 79 PGA Tour victories in his career but has not won a major championship since 2008.

"There have been plenty of times when I thought I would never play the game again at the elite level," Woods, ranked 674th in the world, said.

"It was tough, it was more than brutal. There were times I

needed help just to get out of bed.

"I feel good, not great. I don't

think I will ever feel

great because it's three back surgeries, four knee operations," he added. Woods is hoping to play in the US Masters in April, the first major of the year. "I'm always going to be a little bit sore. As long as I can function, I'm fine with that," he said. —Reuters



Tiger Woods tees off the 5th hole during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course, La Jolla, CA, USA, on 26 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS