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President U Htin Kyaw, left, helps light a bonfire in Haka City, Chin State, as part of the celebration of Chin National Day. PHOTO: MNA

Ks120 Billion in special commercial taxes collected as of December

AT the meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held yesterday, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, replied to the question raised by Daw Khin San Hlaing, the Hluttaw representative, as to the discussion that tax rates fixed for raw jade, rubies, sapphires, diamonds, emeralds and other precious stones should be re-fixed according to the tax rates included in the law of tax 2016.

“The Ministry has collected a total amount of tax Ks120.594 billion as the special commercial tax and commercial tax over raw jade and fine jewelries in the fiscal year 2016-2017. In financial year 2014-2015, only Ks73.725 billion was collected as only a category of tax on fine jewelries was collected.”

The deputy minister said, “At the present time, gems and jewel entrepreneurs are paying taxes on jewels according to the Myanma Gems and Jewelries Act, as well as a special commercial tax and a commercial tax according to special commercial tax law and commercial tax law. Reducing tax over entrepreneurs paying too much tax, so as to lessen the great burden of paying too much tax, can alleviate illegal sales of gems in black-markets.”

On the discussion to cancel the exemption, presented by U Win Htut, of Phyarbon constituency, U Maung Maung Win said that it should not be cancelled because it is intended to develop the practice of selling and purchasing at official emporiums, instead of selling gems at unofficial markets.—
Thura Zaw, Htan Phone (MNA)

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady attend celebration of 69th Chin National Day

THE 69th Chin National Day which falls on this 20 February, was celebrated in Falam yesterday and was attended by President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin.

The President and First Lady, together with Union Ministers Lt-General Sein Win, Lt-General Ye Aung, Dr. Aung Thu, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Win Khaing, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo and Brig-Gen Toe Yi arrived at the Falam’s Sports Ground at 8

in the morning and were greeted by Chin ethnic people dressed in traditional clothing.

The President together with the Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai and Chin State Hluttaw Chairman U Zoe Bwe cut the ribbons for the 69th Chin National Day. The President and his entourage were warmly received by State Government members, Hluttaw Representatives, Ethnic Culture Groups, and Chin residents.

The President and those in

attendance began the celebration by saluting the National Flag.

Falam resident U Haram Lawm Tan acted as chairperson and delivered the opening speech.

Afterwards, the President in his speech expressed his gratitude in being able to celebrate the 69th Chin National Day with all the esteemed Chin national brothers and sisters and citizens of the Union in attendance.

In his address the President remarked about the improvements made in the Chin State.

“We have made electricity available to all places in the Chin State from the main electrical grid, improved road transport networks, built long-distance roads linking with the central plains and new roads within the State, initiated work on Kaladan River Basin development and built the Paletwa Port to provide access to the sea from Chin State, built the first airport in Chin State at Falam, and worked on urban development projects in Haka, Falam and Paletwa. **SEE PAGE 3 >>**



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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th regular session holds its 8th day meeting

U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance replied to the suggestions as to the Bill on Tax Law of the Union, 2017 presented by Hluttaw representatives at the 8th day meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th regular session held yesterday, "Collective discussions over Bill on Tax Law which must be used as a Manual, in making an effort to collect much more taxes which will help mainly support the State's income for the fiscal year 2017-2018 will be able to increase the income of the State and it will help the practice of paying tax among the public develop."

And, the deputy minister said, "As regards the Bill on Tax Law of the Union 2017, the report of the Joint Bill Committee concerning the bill on the tax of the Union 2017 and constructive criticism and suggestions made by Hluttaw representatives indicate that it is targeted to help collect more taxes for the State and for all the public to accept



U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance. PHOTO: MNA

the collection of tax in broader assessment areas willingly. Annual tax law of the Union is a law prescribed for one year period of the financial year concerning paying taxes, tax exemption, reducing taxes, commodities and services to pay tax and those exempted from paying taxes, based on the prescription described in the income tax, commercial tax, special commercial tax, and



Dr Myat Nyana Soe, secretary of Joint Bill Committee. PHOTO: MNA

stamp acts—the original laws on tax. The law is the one to be taken into consideration over previous laws and various economic situations of the State. Compared to those of other countries, ratio of tax collection and GDP is very low.

The accomplishment of public-orientated transparent collection of tax, conducting arrangements to promote staff's skills

for making tax-payers pay taxes in rightful ways and arrangements for tax payers to pay taxes by themselves instead of being assessed by the income-tax officers are being made."

Dr Myat Nyana Soe, secretary of Joint Bill Committee, discussed, "The system of income declaration is exercised international sphere without changing tax rates for two or three years, though Tax Law of the Union was promulgated for the annual collection rates in accord with the prescription of the Constitution. For this, tax payers cannot be under the burden of paying taxes, being able to run their businesses on the same level. It is urgently needed for the culture of paying tax develop in the country and for the tax rates to be stable."

As regards the bill, Speaker of the Hluttaw announced that approving the suggestions of Hluttaw representatives will be made in the meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to be held on 22nd February, based on the sub-

missions of the Joint Bill Committee on the bills.

Then, U Kyaw Soe Lin of Pyigy Tagun constituency, secretary of Joint Bill Committee read out the report of findings and comments of the Joint Bill Committee.

Afterward Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, announced that parliamentarians could put their names to the Hluttaw, if interested in taking part in the debate, concerning projects including policy and principles of the bill.

At today's meeting, putting the message sent by the President of the State on record, clarification of the bill on tax law from member of the Union Government and Joint Bill Committee on bills and reading the report of the Joint Bill Committee on national planning bill were made.

9th day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th regular session will be held on 22nd February, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency

69th Chin National Day celebrated in Yangon

CHIN ethnic people in Yangon celebrated 69th National Chin Day with great joy in Farim Hall in Ahlone Township, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The celebration was divided into two parts with Yangon Festival Committee Chairman Salai Htun Hlaing delivering the opening speech and Committee General Secretary Mai Sui Hlei Zing reading the reports and expressing gratitude. Next the annual homage paying ceremony to Chin National Leaders was carried out and testimonials to Chin National day were read.

In the second part of the programme Chin ethnic brethren performed traditional dances, showcased their traditional clothing, and celebrated with modern dances and songs sung by Chin ethnic artists.

"Today Chin nationals, young and old, were able to reunite and our traditional attire and culture was available for all to see. By showcasing out culture

we received recognition among each other and managed to unite all Chin nationals of different ethnics," said Vice-Chairman (1) U Pachhunga of the 69th Chin National Day Festival Committee.

On display at the festival were exhibitions on typical lifestyles of the Chin people, as well as stalls selling traditional Chin clothing, traditional cuisine and souvenirs, to which citizens actively flocked and supported.

"I was able to represent my ethnicity in the welcoming address and take pride in being able to display our culture and dress in our traditional attire. I also gained a lot of knowledge on the various different Chin ethnic groups," said Beauty Lalzahawmi, a festival participant.

The 1st Chin National Day was celebrated on February 20 1951 in Mindat. From that day forth Chin National Day has been celebrated annually by all Chin brethren, both at home and abroad.—Zaw Gyi (Panita)



Chin ethnic dancers perform traditional dance at a ceremony to mark the 69th Chin National Day in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Investigation Commission on Maungtau, Rakhine State, issues statement

(20th February 2017)

1. The Investigation Commission on Maungtau, Rakhine State, had visited Maungtau from 10th to 17th February to probe into alleged accusations in Maungtau in the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights-OHCHR issued on 3rd February.
2. The Investigation Commission visited 20 villages mentioned in the OHCHR's report where alleged accusations occurred and conducted

investigations furtively and with the use of methods based on international rules and collected detailed information.

3. At the request of the commission, the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs have formed investigation commissions respectively with appropriate persons and also conducted investigation in conflict areas in Maungtau. The Chairman of the Investigation Commission on Maungtau, Rakhine State,

also held talks with leaders of the investigation commissions of the ministries and discussed matters related to the tasks of the commissions.

4. The Investigation Commission on Maungtau, Rakhine State, carried out not only the probes but also coordinated with communities in Maungtau Township for development of peace and stability, economy, social and religious affairs.

(Unofficial Translation)

Women's Week-Myanmar to kick off on 6th March in Nay Pyi Taw

As a way of acknowledging International Women's Day on 8th March, Women's Week-Myanmar will be organised by Kanbawza Group of companies joining hands with Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Yangon Region Government.

The joint effort comes as the drive for equal rights for men and women reflects the need to make the best use of human resources of our developing country, said Daw Nang Lang Kham, Executive Director of the Kanbawza Bank.

She also called for promoting the role of women in the country, pointing out harassment and violence against women still regularly occurs in Myanmar.

She also alerted all private

businesses, and NGOs that are playing a role in the women's rights drive in accordance with the guidance by the government, to actively participate in eliminating discrimination and any form of harassment and violence against women from the workplace.

She also stressed the need for promoting the human resource of Myanmar women and for assisting in improving their professional skills so that they can achieve success in the business sector.

Women's Week-Myanmar will be opened in Nay Pyi Taw along with the Creating Inclusive Growth forum on 6th March, attracting dignitaries from all walks of life and will discuss the role of women in the development of My-

anmar. Embassies and NGOs will join Women's Week-Myanmar along with the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs, the Gender Equality Network, the UN Global Compact Myanmar, UN Women, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Action Aid, Global Shapers, Australia-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce, British Chamber of Commerce, Professional Women's Network, KBZ Group of Companies, Myanmar Football Federation, City Mart Holdings, Akhaya Women, Forever Group, Irrawaddy Publishing Group and Yangon Bake House.

Women's Week-Myanmar also includes sports activities and literary talks. —Thura Lwin-Eco

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady attend celebration of 69th Chin National Day

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As a result we may see visible and significant developments in each sector. In undertaking these regional development works, it is important for the ethnic national races to join hands with the Union Government and the State Government," President U Htin Kyaw said.

"Chin State has high mountains and mountain ridges, making travel difficult. Although we have to face difficulties while undertaking developmental works, nevertheless the Union Government is making concerted efforts to fulfil the developmental needs of Chin State. Therefore the ethnic nationals living in the State should also participate and coop-

erate as much as possible in these efforts."

"We will be conducting national-level political dialogues for national races where different strata of society and different groups will get the chance to participate; for this I wish to express my pleasure in advance. From the National-level political dialogues to the successful conclusion of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong; for the emergence of a Federal System that could give assurances for equality and self-determination, which is the aspiration of ethnic nationals; and for the success and fulfillment of Union goals; in working for all these, I wish

to urge all ethnic national races and Union citizens living in Chin State to come together in unity and work. I therefore make this very solemn exhortation and send this message of greetings."

Next Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai gave his address, followed by Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zoe Bwe reading a memorandum sent by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than expressing his wishes and gratitude for the 69th Chin National Day.

This was concluded by Chairperson U Haram Lawm Tan reading memorandums sent by various groups celebrating the 69th Chin National Day.

After the opening ceremony, the President observed exhibitions on the 69th Chin National Day and visited Chin Traditional houses.

At midday, the President and entourage visited the construction site of Falam airport and were briefed in the project meeting hall by Transport and Communications Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo on the progress of the construction in accord with the allotted budget, working with the quality control department to ensure the highest standards at the airport, and on remaining procedures.

Union Minister U Win Khaing and Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai reported on pos-

sible considerations for regional development to which the President replied that the Union government will support in the development process with regard to the national budget.

Afterwards the President observed the progress of Falam airport construction from the observation deck.

Next a visit was made to the Laibar Dam and careful observations on the condition of the dam and the status of water flow were made.

The day was concluded with the President and entourage attending a bonfire celebration in Haka city's Haka Union Hall.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor, addresses 69th Anniversary of Chin National Day Ceremony

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gave a speech at the 69th Anniversary of Chin National Ceremony held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw at 6 pm yesterday.

At the ceremony, U Sein Aung, Hluttaw representative of Paletwa constituency read out the Message of Greetings on the 69th Anniversary of Chin National Day Ceremony sent by the President, followed by reading a brief history of the origin of Chin National Day.

In her speech, State Counsellor said that she had attended the Chin National Days for consecutive years since 2012 after she became a member of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw except one time when she was not in Nay Pyi Taw. She said she was very pleased and honoured to have an opportunity to attend the Chin National Days. Much had been heard about the beauty of Chin State, hospitality of Chin nationals, and many other pleasant things. Especially, she had heard that Chin nationals laid stress on education and Union Spirit. She took pleasure and honour in presenting awards of honour to outstanding Chin youths whenever she was present at the ceremonies. She has heard that activities for the emergence of the Chin National Day and for all Chin nationals to get education had been launched since 1912 with strong spirit. Chin nationals asked for help on education when she visited Chin State in 2013-2014, when asked of what they needed. Daw Khin Kyi Foundation that State Counsellor herself had setup, had provided assistance as much as it could, in Chin State.

She expressed that she was very pleased to have seen children sitting in the first row in making a speech at the ceremony in 2001, when she arrived there for the first time. Chin children are eager to know like adults. The adults willingly accepted the fact that the children were in the front rows. She emphatically stressed the need for all nationals to be broad-mind-



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presents honorary prize to a China ethnic woman at 69th Anniversary of Chin National Day. PHOTO: MNA

ed for the prosperity and development of the nation. Being equipped with education is the basis of being broadminded. Here education is not academic schooling, just judgement and reasonability based on eagerness to know about the world we live, so that we can build a genuine and strengthened Union. Chin nationals fought for the Independence without discrimination between Chin and Myanmar. Chin Nationals took part in the First Panglong Conference in 1947. Now at the time when 2nd Panglong Conference is being implemented, Chin nationals helped actively for gaining internal peace. She said that she was very happy for the fact that national level political dialogues will be held in Chin States very soon.

Only the Union spirit can guarantee the future of the country, said the State Counsellor, adding that no laws nor political system could guarantee the future of the country.

She also expressed thanks to Chin ethnic people for their contribution to the upcoming Panglong Conference which originated from

the first Panglong Conference in 1947.

Following the address, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint presented honorary prizes to outstanding Chin sports men and women who took part in the national-level sports competitions in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

The State Counsellor also presented honorary prizes to Chin ethnic men and women who achieved PhD degrees in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Following the presentation, Chin dancers performed the Chin traditional dance.

Among the congregation were Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Ti Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Thar Aung, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Union ministers and MPs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee issued Notification 3/2017 yesterday. Following is an unofficial translation of the full text of the announcement.—Ed

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee
Notification 3/2017
9th Waning of Tabodwe 1378 ME
20th February 2017**

Formation of Supervision Committees for Political Dialogues at the National-Level for Chin State

- In accordance with the guidance for working process of political dialogues at the national level and principles on political dialogue included in the framework of political dialogue, race-orientated political dialogue at the national level will be held in Chin State and the supervision committee at the national level for Chin State have been formed as follows:
 - (1) Dr Hla Aung (Government)
 - (2) Col Than Naing (Tatmadaw)
 - (3) Daw Ni Shwe Lyan (Hluttaw)
 - (4) Salai Hta La Hae (Ethnic armed group)
 - (5) Salai Htet Ni (Ethnic armed group)
 - (6) Pu Ra Nin (Ethnic armed group)
 - (7) U Zoe Bwe (Political party)
 - (8) Dr Mu Htan (Political party)
 - (9) U Khant Bon (Political party)
- The supervision committees for political dialogues at the national-level are obliged to make efforts for the successful and systematic holding of the political dialogues at the national-level in line with the provisions and respective directives approved by the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee.

*Sd/Aung San Suu Kyi
Chairperson
Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee*

Cruise Ship M.S World Odyssey docks in Myanmar

OFFICIALS welcomed the cruise ship M.S World Odyssey as it docked in Yangon's Thilawa port on its world voyage. The cruise ship had sailed from Vietnam's Ho Chi Min port and carries 706 passengers and 173 cabin crew.

"We are taking care of the security details for the globetrotters and other services required. Today they are visiting Yangon

and will travel to Mandalay tomorrow," said an official from Yangon Word Voyage Security Force.

The globetrotters are scheduled to visit Yangon, Bagan and Mandalay while the cruise ship docks in Myanmar and on February 25 will set sail from Thilawa port to Kochin Port in India.—*Zaw Gyi (PaNaTa)*



Tourists listen to a guide at the history of Shwedagon Pagoda on 29 January. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Registered outbound tour operators reach over 400 in Myanmar

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has permitted over 400 outbound tour licenses to operators since its initiation in late 2015, according to the ministry.

Tourism in Myanmar is growing rapidly and has received increased interest from investors thanks to the country's sweeping reforms. International tourist arrivals increase significantly year by year, while some local people are now travelling abroad for

holidays, exploration, healthcare, business and cultural exchanges.

To promote living standards and boost the socio-economic status of rural communities, the ministry put forth continuous efforts to implement marine tourism along the Myeik Archipelago in southern Myanmar as well as community-based tourism in other parts of the country, in close collaboration with relevant bodies.

Many international countries depend on tourism, the world's largest service industry, to raise their income. The number of international travellers has steadily increased on a global scale. According to a survey, 1.2 billion people travel worldwide each year.

The number of world travellers has increased by nearly four per cent in 2016. Myanmar hosted about 2.9 million international visitors last year.—*Chan Nyein*

ILO shares management techniques to 8,000 SME operators under three-year plan

MORE THAN 8,000 entrepreneurs from small-and-medium sized enterprises have participated in the business management trainings provided by the International Labour Organisation under its three-year plan.

The three-year project was initiated in 2014 and will last until 2017.

The ILO turned out over 700 trainers for the project. Those trainers continue to spread business management techniques to people wishing to start a business.

Based on techniques currently practiced in over 110 countries, the project offers General Your Business Idea (GYB), a training programme for people wishing to develop a feasible business idea, Start Your Business (SYB), a training course for potential entrepreneurs with a business idea

who want to proceed and start their own business, and Improve Your Business (IYB), a course for those who want to improve the management processes of their business.

Saw Mon Aye, an owner of a rice-curry shop, said that she learned a lot from the business courses of the ILO and has seen increased success of her shop. Thanks to the course, she has now opened a new branch based on her own fresh idea.

The ILO targets to spend US\$6 million for the three-year programme, planning to review the plan to know what was successful and what was not.

The ILO has further plan to conduct trainings for retail shop operators in cooperation with Coca Cola Co. The programme is targeted to launch this year.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Amphetamine tablets seized in Maungtaw



Ma Yaw Gyi Yar Bay Gaung. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE



El-Sud. PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

A local anti-narcotics squad discovered stimulant tablets in Pe Zi village on Sunday in Maungtaw.

The squad searched Mohammad El-Sud's house at 10 am and seized 62 stimulant tablets worth Ks124,000 in Pe Zi village, Maungtaw.

Interrogation of Mohammad El-Sud led police to search Yarmauk Dula's house at Ward 2, where police found 975 yaba pills worth Ks1,950,000 in an iron box belonging to Ma Yaw Gyi Yar Bay Gaung, the mother of suspect Yarmauk Dula. Police have taken action against Mohammad El-Sud, Ma Yaw Gyi Yar Bay Gaung and are still in pursuit of Yarmauk Dula.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Stolen gold found from teenagers in Tachilek

MINORS under 18 years of age on Sunday evening have been arrested by police after they failed to show documents relating to the ownerships of a wide variety of gold jewellery, which were found from them, police reported yesterday.

Police Sub-inspector Ko Ko Oo said that those five suspects — Thura Aung, 16, Myo Oo, 17, Eike Haung, 14, Hein Win Tun, 17, and Oaktala, 16, — were found in Hsaykham

Ward in Tachilek in eastern Shan State while they stood near diesel selling shop. The suspected children admitted that they sent the gold jewellery, including necklace, bangles, chains and earrings weighting over 170 grams, to the 17-year-old Tin Moe Lin, who resides in the same ward, with the purpose of selling them on black market. Police filed lawsuits against them under Section 380/54 of the Penal Code.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Yaba tablets seized in Lashio

ANTI-NARCOTICS squad No. 24 from Lashio stopped and searched a vehicle the entrance of Ho Pate village in Lashio on Sunday driven by Kyin Hton en route from Muse and found 195,000

yaba tablets.

Police filed charges against Kyin Hton, 42, under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Two killed, five injured in car-motorbike crash in Thaton

TWO people were killed and five others sustained injuries in a horror crash between a three-wheel motorbike and a car in Thaton, a township in Mon State, on Sunday.

According to investigators, a Hilux car being driven by unidentified person, hit the three-wheeler carrying five people, including the 40-year-

old driver named Kyaw Kyaw Tun, from back, because of loss of control of the car.

Two female victims—Ma Aye Aye Khaing and Daw Tin Tin—died on way to hospital. They were on the back of the motorbike before collision.

The collision injured the driver of the bike and two female passengers, as well as oth-

er two persons on the car. They are now treating at nearest hospital as emergency patients.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the car driver who fled the scene after the crash.

Both drivers have been charged under sections 304 (a)/338/337 of the Penal Code.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Yaba tablets and confiscated vehicle. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

India looks to expand energy ties with Myanmar

NEW DELHI — India plans to sell refined crude oil products to Myanmar as part of New Delhi's efforts to deepen ties with its eastern neighbour, which is expected to see strong demand for fuels as it builds new roads, factories, utilities and airports.

Indian oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan began a five-day trip to Myanmar on Monday, scouting for opportunities in oil exploration, refining and products retailing.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to expand ties with the country's eastern neighbours including Myanmar to develop its landlocked north-eastern states.

Pradhan is also expected to discuss laying fuel and gas pipelines linking India's north-eastern states with Myanmar.

The Indian oil minister's trip comes months after Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi visited New Delhi, courting investments in sectors left in disarray under nearly 50 years of a military dictatorship.

A sweeping electoral victory for Suu Kyi's party in 2015 paved the way for the lifting of US sanctions against her country last year. Numaligarh refinery Ltd (NRL), a unit of India's state-run Bharat Petroleum Corp, is looking at selling gas-oil into northwest Myanmar, its

managing director said.

"Initially it will be a small quantity. We will look for a long-term contract for diesel exports after expansion of our refinery," Padmanabhan told Reuters.

NRL plans to treble its refining capacity to 180,000 barrels per day in four to five years.

Myanmar's refined fuels consumption is estimated to rise at an average annual rate of 6 percent over the next 10 years to 2026, BMI Research, a unit of credit ratings agency Fitch Group, said last month.

"Demand for automotive fuels (gasoline, diesel) will grow particularly strongly, as rising consumer wealth and car ownership combine to rapidly expand the size of Myanmar's vehicle fleet at a healthy clip of 18.6 percent per annum over the next five years," it said.

B. Ashok, chairman of India's top refiner Indian Oil Corp earlier this month said his firm was looking for downstream opportunities and the sale of refined fuels to Myanmar.

ONGC Videsh Ltd, a unit of Oil and Natural Gas Corp last year said his firm was in exploratory talks with Gazprom for the supply of natural gas through a complex swap involving Russia, China and Myanmar.—Reuters

Three-year project drawn up to expand market and produce value-added watermelon and muskmelon products

A three-year project has been recently drawn up so as to expand export market and boost the production of value-added watermelon and muskmelon, according to Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetables Producer and Exporter Association.

Currently, China is the sole market of Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon, resulted in lower than actual market price offered. Additionally, the delay in transportation causes the wastages, said U Kyaw Thu, the secretary of this association.

According to this project, Myanmar's watermelon and muskmelon are planned to penetrate more international markets. We have also a plan to expand our market to Dubai and Russia. We will exhibit our watermelon

and muskmelon in an international event which will be held in Dubai next year since we failed to manage this year, he added.

Currently, concerted efforts are being made in order to establish a public company and the detailed plans, the Memorandum of Association and volume of outstanding shares are still under discussion with local and foreign economic experts, it is learnt.

The watermelon and muskmelon are grown in Shan State, Sagaing and Mandalay regions. About 250 truckloads of watermelon and muskmelon enters the Muse border trade camps per day, with a prevailing price of 3 yuan per kilo, according to Muse commodity depot.—Phyo Lwin Aung (AMIA)



A farmer harvests rice from a paddy field in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Rice exports plunged by about 400,000 tonnes than last year

THE volume of rice exports during this Fiscal Year was down by about 400,000 tonnes when compared to that of last FY, said U Aung Myint, the secretary of Myanmar Rice Traders Association.

The rice export in this FY to the Chinese and European markets declined. About 900,000 tonnes of rice have been exported to abroad and a total of about 1 million tonnes of rice are expected to be exported by the end of this FY, it is learnt.

The drop in export volume is due to merchants earning little profits between the market price

of rice in the domestic market and the purchase price, plus the transportation cost. In addition, the confiscation of the product by China authorities resulted in the decrease in rice exports to China, he added.

The low-quality rice that flowed into Europe and China through normal trade was offered at US\$315 per tonne in 2015 and this year, the export price was around US\$280 to 300 per tonne. The quality rice fetched about US\$345 per tonne, it is learnt.

Previously, Myanmar's rice export market was solely de-

pendent on China but it has now attained new market destinations in Africa. However, the businessmen cannot export larger volumes if they are making only a low profit, U Aung Myint continued.

Myanmar exported 1.4million tonnes of rice in 2012-2013 FY, 1.2million tonnes in 2013-2014 FY, 1.8million tonnes in 2014-2015 FY and about 1.4million tonnes in 2015-2016 FY, according to an announcement released by the Ministry of Commerce.—Phyo Lwin Aung (AMIA)

Border trade value down by over US\$47million

THE value of border trade with the neighbouring countries of India, China, Thailand and Bangladesh from 1st April to 10th Feb in this Fiscal Year 2016-2017 was down by US\$47.042million when compared to that in the similar period of last FY, according to the official figures of the Commerce Ministry.

The border trade as of 10th Feb in this FY fetched US\$6.16 billion, which was down from \$6212.973mil in the last FY, whereas the value of normal trade in the similar period amounted to \$17.35bil, which is \$108.637mil higher than that of last FY, with a total external trade value of

\$23.52bil.

During 1st April to 10th Feb in this FY, the value of export through border trade camps declined by \$137.328mil against that in last FY whereas the import value increased by \$90.286mil.

The decline in border trade value is attributed to the drop of trade value over \$500mil in Muse border trade camps which performed the largest trade, it is learnt.

Out of sixteen border trade camps, Muse, Kanpikete, Keng Tung, Kawthaung, Htee Khee and Sittwe showed a decrease in trade value compared to those

in last FY, with trade values of \$4.23bil in Muse, \$80.440mil in Kanpikete, \$4.27mil in Keng Tung, \$100.98mil in Kawthaung, \$11mil in Htee Khee and \$3.8mil in Sittwe. Other border trade camps have managed to bolster up trade, with trade values of \$58.046mil in Lweje, \$494.59mil in Chin Shwe Haw, \$77.19mil in Tachilek, \$744.51mil in Myawady, \$170.2mil in Myeik, \$2.5mil in Maw Taung, \$288,000 in Maese, \$4.894mil in Mauntaw, \$44.582mil in Tamu and \$31.668mil in Reed, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.—Mon Mon

Airport killing seen on CCTV, probe strains Malaysia-North Korea ties

KUALA LUMPUR — Footage from airport cameras purportedly showing the assault on the half-brother of the North Korean leader emerged on Monday as a row between Malaysia and North Korea escalated over the handling of the investigation into the killing of Kim Jong Nam.

Malaysia recalled its envoy from Pyongyang and summoned North Korea's ambassador in Kuala Lumpur, who again cast doubt on the impartiality of the Malaysian investigation and said the victim was not Kim Jong Nam.

Malaysian police are hunting four North Koreans who fled from the country on the day of the attack, having already detained one North Korean man, a Vietnamese woman, an Indonesian woman, and a Malaysian man.

At least three of the wanted North Koreans caught an Emirates flight to Dubai from Jakarta late

on the same day of the attack, on Monday last week, an immigration office official in the Indonesian capital told Reuters.

Malaysia's Star newspaper reported that all four had returned to the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

South Korean and US officials have said the killing of Kim Jong Nam was probably carried out by North Korean agents.

CCTV footage, released by Japanese broadcaster Fuji TV, purportedly showed Kim Jong Nam being assaulted in Kuala Lumpur International Airport by a woman, who is believed to have wiped a fast-acting poison on his face.

Reuters could not independently verify the authenticity of the video, and police officials were not immediately available for comment.

North Korea has sought to prevent Malaysia



Members of the media chase a North Korean official car to ask questions at the Foreign Ministry in Putrajaya, Malaysia on 20 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

from conducting an autopsy, insisting the body be handed over directly.

Its envoy in Kuala Lumpur accused Malaysian authorities of "delaying" the release of the body. "It has been seven days since the incident but

there is no clear evidence on the cause of death and at the moment we cannot trust the investigation by the Malaysian police," ambassador Kang Chol told reporters after talks at the foreign ministry.

He said the embassy

had only identified the victim as Kim Chol based on the passport found on the dead man, and suggested a joint investigation with Malaysian authorities. Kim Jong Nam had been caught using fake travel documents in the past.

Malaysia's foreign ministry announced the withdrawal "for consultations" of its ambassador in North Korea and said the body would be handed over to the next of kin, although none had come forward.

Malaysia's health minister said autopsy results could be released by Wednesday.

Acutely sensitive to events in its unpredictable and volatile neighbor, South Korea convened a meeting of its National Security Council on Monday.

Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn told the meeting that it was nearly certain that North Korea was behind the killing.

Kim Jong Nam, 46, who has been living in the Chinese territory of Macau under Beijing's protection, had spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic control of isolated, nuclear-armed North Korea.—Reuters

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Cambodia parliament backs change that bars leader's rival

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's parliament amended a law on Monday to stop anyone convicted of an offence from running for office, effectively barring long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen's main rival.

The US embassy said it was deeply concerned about that and the other changes adopted. Some critics said they were a step to turning the Southeast Asian country of 16 million into a de facto one-party state.

Opponents accuse Hun Sen, a former Khmer Rouge guerrilla, of unfair maneuvering to try to keep his three-decade grip on power at local elections in June and a general election next year. The ruling Cambodian People's Party voted to change the 1998 election law to ban parties that engage in activities that include incitement, promoting secession or anything that could harm national security.

Politicians convicted by a court are banned from standing for election and their parties can be dissolved. That would exclude veteran opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who has been convicted of a series of defamation charges and has lived in exile in France



Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy. PHOTO: REUTERS

since 2015 to avoid them.

He resigned from the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) this month, saying he wanted to save his party in the face of the potential ban. He rejects the charges against him as politically motivated.

In comments emailed to Reuters, Rainsy said the passage of the bill marked one of Cambodia's darkest days since 1991 peace accords, which drew a line under decades of conflict that had left Cambodia a failed state. "The international community must address the fact that they have funded a democratic system which is now lurching dan-

gerously towards a one-party state," he said.

The CNRP's 55 lawmakers boycotted the National Assembly vote on Monday, saying it had targeted them. But Hun Sen's party has a slim majority in parliament, so it was able to pass the change.

Welcoming the change to the election rules, ruling party lawmaker Chheang Vun said it would allow the interior ministry to start closing some of Cambodia's 76 political parties. He said only 45 were properly registered. The US embassy in Phnom Penh said it was concerned at amendments passed with little consul-

tation or public debate and called on the government to ensure fair elections.

"The amendments give the government broad authority to restrict freedom of expression and the legitimate activities of political parties and, under vaguely defined circumstances, to dissolve them," it said. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations Parliamentarians for Human Rights group called the measure the "death knell for democracy" in Cambodia. New York-based advocacy group Human Rights Watch said it marked the consolidation of absolute power.—Reuters

Chinese news agency warns South Korea's Lotte over THAAD

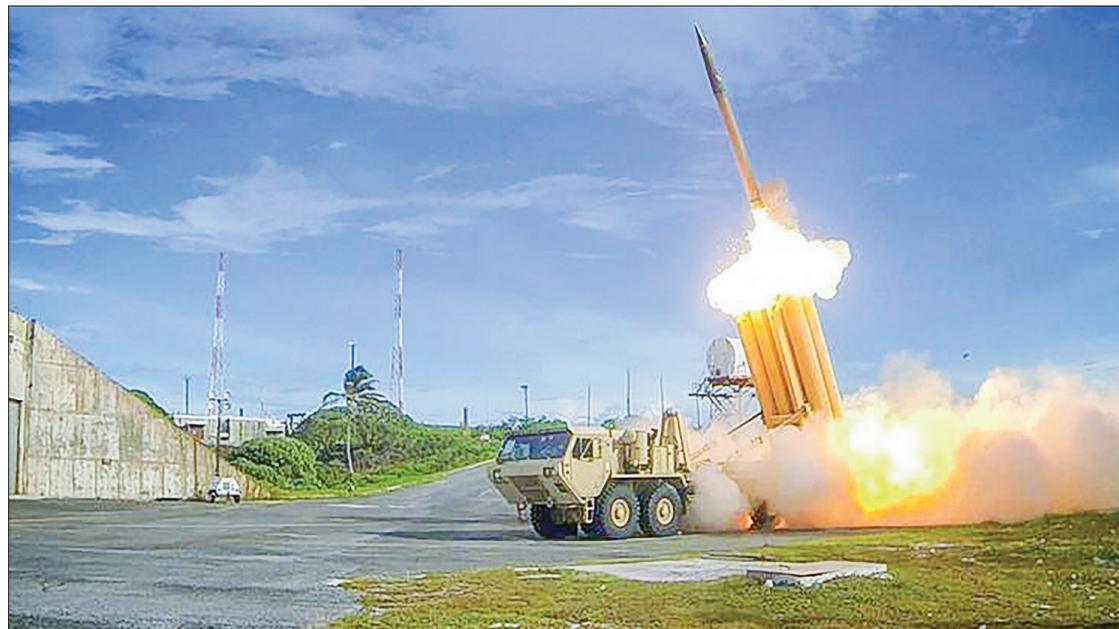
BEIJING — South Korea's Lotte Group will face severe consequences if it allows the South Korean government to deploy a US anti-missile system on land that now forms part of a golf course it owns, China's state-run Xinhua news agency has warned.

The comments come soon after Lotte said this month that Chinese authorities had halted work at a multi-billion-dollar real estate project following a fire inspection, amid South Korea's worries that Beijing is retaliating for its plans to host the system.

China has repeatedly expressed opposition to South Korea's planned deployment later this year of the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system, which Seoul and Washington say is needed to defend against North Korea. China worries the system's powerful radar can penetrate its territory.

THAAD is a threat to regional security and stability, Xinhua said in an English-language commentary, adding that Lotte was "one decision away from becoming an accessory to the act".

If Lotte, South Korea's fifth-largest conglomerate, agrees to the deal, the South Korean and the US governments will hasten the planned deployment, Xinhua said late Sunday afternoon.



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency. PHOTO: REUTERS

"By association, Lotte will hurt the Chinese people and the consequences could be severe," it added. "The Chinese people will not support a company complicit in damaging China's interests."

Such commentaries are not government statements, but can be read as a reflection of official thinking.

Lotte should defer or reject the deal, forcing the South Korean government to review the

feasibility of the deployment, Xinhua added.

"One misjudged step could have severe consequences."

Beijing is widely believed in South Korea to be discriminating against some of its companies and cancelling performances by Korean artists without explanation.

China understands South Korea's need to protect its security but Seoul still needs to respect

Beijing's concerns about the deployment of THAAD, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his South Korean counterpart over the weekend.

North Korea's most recent test firing of a ballistic missile on 12 February drew condemnation from the United States, South Korea and Japan, which urged an "even stronger" international response to Pyongyang's violations of UN resolutions. —Reuters

Thai junta puts coal-fired power plant plan on hold

BANGKOK — Thailand's military government has put on hold plans for a coal-fired power plant in a region known for its pristine tourist beaches after protests by residents and activists, Thai media said on Monday.

The delay to the plant while an Environmental and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) is carried out marked a rare decision by the junta to bow to protesters, who have largely been silenced since a 2014 coup.

The 800-megawatt power plant in Krabi had been given the go-ahead on Friday, with construction set to begin as early as next year.

However, after the brief detention of five protest leaders at the weekend, the government said it had understood their worries over a lack of public participation in studies on the impact the plant would have.

"We informed the prime minister and he ordered the entire EHIA process to be improved and the public participation to be reset," government spokesman Sansern Kaewkammerd was quoted as saying in The Nation newspaper. The protesters had welcomed the news, the Nation and other publications said. —Reuters

Indonesia Islamists urge ouster of Jakarta governor, plan more protests

JAKARTA — Indonesian Islamist groups on Monday called on the government to suspend the Christian governor of the capital and for the courts to convict him of blasphemy, demands they will make again at a rally outside parliament on Tuesday.

Islamist groups have held two big rallies since November against the governor of Jakarta, Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, who is on trial for insulting the Koran, and in the midst of an election in which he hopes to win a second term.

"Our demands to parliament are that they urge the government to suspend Purnama ... and urge the Supreme Court and judges to detain him and impose the maximum sentence," said Muhammad al Khaththath of the Islamic People's Forum.

The forum is one of the groups organising the Tuesday rally.

Previous rallies drew hundreds of thousands of people and raised concern about the erosion of religious tolerance in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country.

Purnama, Jakarta's first ethnic Chinese and Christian leader, denies insulting the Koran.

He has been allowed to re-



Governor of Indonesia's capital Basuki Tjahaja Purnama shows his ballot during an election for Jakarta's governor in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 15 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

main in office while the court case is going on but faces up to four years in prison if found guilty of blasphemy.

His supporters say the charge against him is politically motivated. Last Wednesday, he stood against two Muslim candidates in a city governor election but none of them got enough votes to win outright.

A second round is due in mid-April with Purnama competing against a former education minister, Anies Baswedan, who has appealed to the Muslim vote in the city of more than 10 million.

Jakarta police have stepped

up security ahead of Tuesday's demonstration which up to 10,000 people are expected to join, said police spokesman Argo Yuwono.

The Jakarta election is widely seen as a proxy battle for the next presidential election in 2019.

Purnama is a former deputy of President Joko Widodo, when Widodo was Jakarta governor, and he is being backed by the president's party.

Baswedan is backed by a retired general, Prabowo Subianto, who Widodo defeated in the last presidential election, in 2014, and who is promising a political comeback. —Reuters

S Korean acting president has yet to respond to special prosecutors' call for extended probe

SEOUL — South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn has yet to respond to the calls by special prosecutors to extend their investigation into a corruption scandal that led to the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye.

Lee Kyu-chul, spokesman of the independent counsel team which kicked off their investigation on 21 December, told a press briefing Monday that it had yet to get a response from Prime Minister Hwang who is serving as an acting president following President Park's impeachment in early December.

Under a special law, the independent investigation is scheduled to end this month. With Hwang's acceptance, the probe can be extended for up to 30 days.

In the absence of the interim president's response, the special prosecutors officially called for the extension once again in an apparent part of

efforts to pressure Hwang into making a rapid decision on it.

The independent counsel team sent a letter to Hwang last Thursday to ask for the extension, but the caretaker leader has not replied yet though only eight days are left for the termination of the investigation.

The spokesman said that if Hwang gives a reply as rapidly as possible, it will help conduct an effective probe for the rest of the days allowed.

Hwang is widely forecast to refuse the prolonged probe as he is one of closest aides to the impeached president. The ruling Liberty Korea Party adopted the rejection on the lengthened one as its party line earlier in the day.

The main opposition Minjoo Party had submitted the revision of the law to the parliamentary judiciary committee to enable the special prosecutors to look into the influence-peddling scandal for 50 more days. —Xinhua

Opinion

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Peace is in the air

Kyaw Myaing

NO less a person than Albert Einstein once said "Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order—in short, of government."

Our Union citizens have witnessed the successful conclusion of the first Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong which was held from 31 August to 3 September 2016. At this historic conference, Union Foreign Minister and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told the delegates thus: "So long as we are unable to achieve national reconciliation and national unity, we will never be able to establish a sustainable and durable peaceful union,"

As the Union Government prepares to convene the second Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong on the 28th of February this year, there are certain points worth pondering.

First of all, let us take a brief moment to discuss the meaning of each word in the quote made by Albert Einstein. He has emphasized the words "justice", "law" and "order". As we all know we have the

three branches of government namely, the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch. Without each of these three branches of government functioning properly we can neither hope to have "justice" nor "law and order"; in other words, we cannot have a strong and effective government.

Let us now look at the peace equation and see who the important players are in the "peace process" to get a clearer understanding of the stakes involved. The government, the Tatmadaw, the People, the ethnic armies and the political parties are certainly in the list of the key players.

From this list, let us first look at what the people can do to support the peace process. The writer is of the opinion that there are many important things that the people can do. For example they can read the newspapers and journals regularly to understand what is happening in the peace process. These days the people have many sources of news, namely radio, TV and of course the

very popular Facebook which is part of the internet. In a sense the Myanmar people are very lucky because they can use their smart phones to access their favourite websites and Youtube videos which provide high quality news and interviews round the clock. This is how they can keep up-to-date and understand what is going on. This is called being actively engaged.

Let us now look at what the Tatmadaw and the Ethnic armies and the political parties can do. All of these three stakeholders need to understand the importance of peace and also how much the country and the people can benefit once peace is achieved. This is what they call the "Peace dividend". Once the fighting stops, all the killing and destruction will end and the internally displaced persons will be able to return to their native villages and begin the process of resettlement. Looking at this problem from a top-level view, a great deal of loss in terms of money, property and lives can be prevented once we have peace. Thus all the Union citizens will be able to enjoy the

benefits of peace. Once peace is achieved development will follow. As we achieve further development, peace and prosperity will obviously follow.

There is one important thing that the members of different religious groups could do to support the "Peace process". For attaining peace, praying for peace is one good option. It would be really wonderful if the spiritual leaders, preachers and reverend Sayadaws could lead their brethren in "peace prayers" in every town and village. Peace should live in the hearts of all our Union citizens and once the respective religious communities pray for peace in accordance with their traditions and rituals, we can be sure that the good vibrations and thoughts will spread in all directions all across this land of ours. Once the vibrations of Metta or "Loving Kindness" echo in our Dhamma prayer halls, churches, temples and mosques, we can be sure that to that extent we will all be nearer to our goal of peace. At this moment, Peace will surely be in the air.

Migration is at an alarming rate across the world

Tommy Pauk

NOWADAYS, the movement of the people from some nations away from their own countries to live and work in other countries is extremely alarming. Poverty, violence, civil war and injustice are the major causes for them to leave their countries of origin indeed. As the chaos and devastation have been occurring in their countries of origin they cannot even expect for their survival and safety. They take their families and move to explore the better and safer place to live in. Actually, they intend to live and work in the other countries which are better than their own countries such as safety, earning and human rights. Nevertheless, they are at the risk to enter the prosperous countries illegally. Unfortunately, some became the victims of human traffickers on the way to their desired destination. Instead of reaching the desired destination, they were trafficked to the third world. The young and old folks from war-torn countries are emigrating en

massee. The migrants aim to enter the Europe countries and they are from Syria, Iran and Afghanistan. The migrants those who fled their motherland encounter hopeless future for their survival in their countries. Some big nation leaders pity them and allow them to stay in the countries. Even then the migrants are given temporary stay permit and jobs on conditions that they ought not to disturb or make any violent crimes while staying in the host countries. The governments of the respective host countries issue documents of stay permit for the migrants on humanitarian ground. The documented migrants can work in the host countries legally. On the other hand, the host countries get some manpower from the group of migrants entered their countries. To some degree, the host countries gain benefits by utilizing the manpower of migrants in the productivity and workforce. If there is a constant harmonious relationship between the host countries and the migrant workers, both can enjoy the mutual bene-

fit indeed. Otherwise, there may be disruption and chaos in these host countries. It is important that the migrants should be grateful and loyal to the peoples of the host countries. In addition, the documented migrant workers always need to be harmonious with the native people or local people. Actually, the migrants or refugees are the ones those who are in great trouble seeking haven and humanitarian contributions across the world. Nobody can deny that the host countries show mercy and kindness toward the refugees or migrants. Therefore, any country which accepts the refugees or migrants must be honored for their humanity and compassion. If they do not accept the multinational refugees or migrants, these man-made-disaster-stricken humans will be helpless in hellish life.

The problem of alarming migration rate in the world should be solved by means of cooperation or discussions among nations across the world regardless of poor or rich nations. Prehistoric man traveled

and explored the greener pasture for their survival on this planet independently. In modern age or computer age, man cannot move easily from one place to another for seeking better life or creature comforts due to man-made territory or boundary of different races on earth. Nevertheless, the compassionate people never ever ignore the other people who are in despair and trouble for survival and help with aids and assistance willingly. Each and every nation must help the real migrants who obey and abide by the rules and regulations of the host countries. The migrants owe the host countries for saving their lives and allowing them to do some livelihood legally. Moreover, the migrants owe loyalty to the governments of the host countries. The human migration may go on through ages because no place on earth is perfect or safe for human settlement due to unforeseen circumstances or all sorts of disasters. For example; natural disaster, man-made disaster and civil war etc. Since we gained the achievement of

IT, the world has turned to a global village. Then all the issues become global concern and we humans work together in solving them with common agreement. To tackle the issue of migration across the world, we must focus on the root causes and humanity. We may see or hear that each country make efforts for socio-economic development, depending on their human resources and natural resources. Some are lagging behind others and some are advancing. In this regard, the people from un-prosperous countries move to prosperous countries for better life and earnings. This is their basic intention why they migrate to prosperous countries. Furthermore, they want to become documented migrant workers in the prosperous countries. To sum up, we live in a global village and we ought to help each other humanely and compassionately in the harmonious way. The migrants owe the host countries a debt of gratitude for what they have done!

National Development Party presents policy and programmes



Dr Ne Zin Latt, Chairman of National Development Party.

DR NE ZIN LATT, Chairman of National Development Party, presented policies, attitudes and programmes of his party on 20 February 2017, on radio and TV programmes. The translation of his presentation is given below:

Esteemed voters,

I wish all the people health and happiness. The by-election is drawing near.

During the second term of Myanmar's reform, all of you have come to know the fact that how important the decision made by voters and how it reflects the future of the country. All the countries mainly focus on their own interests and in the same vein, you have vividly seen that among Myanmar's political parties which party stands for national interest and how and how much they can make legislative affairs. Today:

- (1) We are under the great international pressure.
- (2) We see all the three classes become victims of economic decline.
- (3) We see the lowest class facing extreme hardships.
- (4) We haven't seen making any great change.
- (5) We feel that people including media are again far from democracy due to Paragraph 66 (d) which still doesn't have bylaw regarding freedom of expression.
- (6) We see the lowest class is suffering from economic and social hardships as a result of mismanagement.
- (7) We see rising crimes due to lack of ability to amend the laws of crimes and punishments as well as weakness in taking actions of the executive sector.
- (8) We see influx of illegal Bengali, weapons and drugs, almost all of them enter into the country without obstruction.
- (9) We see people are helpless for the skyrocketing prices of consumer goods due to money inflation.

The candidates of our party who will compete the by-election are well-trained in the fields of political management, economic management and public management which are of utmost importance for a country. And our party is the only party which is formed with intellectual and intelligentsia.

As we have said during the canvassing for 2015 election, "Power" is not our objective. We will hand down good practices of political, economic and public management to generations to come and this is the significant feature of our party.

The Right to Recall, when people feel dissatisfaction with the representative whom they elected, is neglected till now.

We would like to inform you and vow that if candidates from our party are elected we will submit laws which will benefit to the people.

We will, in series, submit laws which will stand by the side of people; encourage the country's economic, educational and social reforms; protect the race, religion and Sasana; contribute to reforms. Let the candidates of National Development Party participate in Hluttaws. It is sure that Hluttaw, unlike the previous one, will be alive and kicking awakening from the daydream.

Basic principle and policy of the party

- We will decisively serve the national interests of the 135 ethnic groups and all the citizens
- We will cooperate with any political parties or any organizations whose policy and basic principle are common to us
- We will focus on equal rights among nationalities; practicing genuine federal union system; and ending political, military and social conflicts

Nationalities affairs

The National Development Party pays great attention to the

affairs of nationalities. We are aiming at emergence of the sole nation with sole objective of all the 135 ethnic groups; equal development; mutual respect and friendship; and reaching a peaceful situation free from doubts, the cult of ethnicity and regionalism.

Economic sector

Economic downturn will automatically cause impact on other sectors of the country. Economic progress is the cause of all the three classes especially special attention should be paid on fulfilling of food, clothing and shelter needs of the lowest class which constitutes 70 % of the population. Therefore:

- Prosperity of the lowest class must be prioritized and then their income must be generated.
- For the middle class people job opportunities are to be created; market should be established; and technologies are to be provided in the first step and in the second step they will prosper.
- For the entrepreneurs of the upper class, they must have a chance to expand their business as the first step and in the step they are to be encouraged to become businessmen engaged in international business.

Farmers and Workers

The affairs of the farmers and workers which constitute 70 % of the population are of utmost importance.

According to surveys, farmers have gotten into debts. Providing capitals and technologies, creating real markets, doing research on what product is the best beneficial to farmers and making arrangements are some agenda of the National Development Party aiming at farmers.

The life of workers are to be promoted by sharing skills and technologies to become skilled labours from ordinary general labour with low wages. It is needed to inform them to know themselves about their lost guarantee for life.

Education and health

Reforms needed to be made starting from preprimary and kindergarten in the education and health sector to be able to keep abreast with ASEAN countries. Therefore, reforms are to be made in the whole sector including subjects, curriculum and teaching aids while promoting teachers' skill.

In the health sector also, giving treatment, taking preventive measures and providing care services are to be considered. To ensure Myanmar's sustainable development, long term plans are to be made in the education and health sector.



Party Logo.

Executive affairs

We witness some reforms carried out by the government. But the government should be a strong government formed with those who are skilled both in theory and practice; they should knowledgeable persons on international affairs; and should be management experts. The government must be well-versed one on the subject of running the mechanism of bureaucracy and must be a government of good management. Decision makers and leaders should be daring in solving problems who can lay down the right policy.

It is needed to organize the central government as well as the state and region government with men of high caliber.

Legislation and judiciary

We haven't seen significant reforms with regard to legislation and judiciary. There are many laws to be amended. Much remains to be done for emergence of laws which will contribute to national development and laws with the system of practicing fairness on crimes and its punishment that will help reduce crimes. These activities should be people-based activities and they are to contribute to national economy.

If our candidates are elected, we will declare the assets of the winning candidates. We will strive for emergence of such Declaration of Asset Act. We will submit proposals for acting of bylaw of the Right to Recall.

International relation

Although Myanmar's location shows strategically importance, now is an urgent time for her in international affairs than other countries because her weak economy. Especially, the affairs in Rakhine state, conflicts in the north eastern part of the country and international pressures pose great pressure on the country, and I think all or you have a considerable knowledge that acting without shrewdness they will cause great harm to the future of the country.

The National Development Party will inherit the "Neutral Policy" which was practiced by the successive governments in international relations and it will realize shrewd foreign policy

into actions. The National Development Party well understands the fact that gaining peace in the country and easing international pressures are closely related to international relations.

New generation youths

Future of the country is also the future of the new generation youths. Well-versed new generation youth equipped with experience and endowed with global outlook have been organized. The party produced post-graduate and master degree holders in economy and public management totaling about 4000 and is nurturing nine in the first batch for doctorate degree and five in the second batch.

Conclusion

Electing a government or a representative is tantamount to assigning him a duty to serve for the people. Without national spirit national interest cannot be served. In this regard, the national spirit doesn't mean radical nationalism. It is just like the spirit of General Aung San, the spirit of giving priority to own nation and race. To borrow the speech of US President Donald Trump, it is the spirit of "America First".

I would like to inform you that the National Development Party is formed based on "Myanmar First" policy with educated persons of doctorate degree holders who are experienced both in theory and practice in economic, political and public management affairs.

The party will pay attention to national interest and religion and Sasana. If the candidates of the National Development Party will be elected they will be active in the legislative affairs and it will be sure that they will much contribute to the executive sector through legislation.

Therefore,

- Look at the leader
- Look at the party
- Observe the candidates.

By keeping the interest of own region and own race in your mind, you should cast your vote in favour of the candidates of the National Development Party for the real change of a system.

May health and wealth always be your friends.

(Unofficial Translation)

Pence in Brussels, seeking “deeper” ties with EU



US Vice President Mike Pence and European Council President Donald Tusk hold a joint news conference in Brussels, Belgium on 20 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — US Vice President Mike Pence told senior European Union officials in Brussels on Monday that the Trump administration was looking at ways to “deepen our relationship” with the EU.

President Donald Trump alarmed EU leaders by endorsing Britain’s decision to leave the bloc and by suggesting last month that other states might follow. Pence spent the week-end in Germany seeking to reassure Europeans that Trump was committed to the NATO defence pact, but left some unconvinced.

Speaking to EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini before meetings with the heads

of the European Council, European Commission and NATO, Pence said he was “very grateful to have the opportunity to visit with you and explore ways that we can deepen our relationship with the European Union”.

He met Mogherini at the US mission to the EU. The last US ambassador, who was dismissed by Trump as he took office, warned the new administration against reversing decades of postwar US encouragement of European integration and said supporting Brexit was “the height of folly”.

Mogherini told Pence that Europeans and the United States had much to work on and that

discussions were already under way.

In a statement, she later said she and Pence had “an open and warm conversation” in which she “reaffirmed a strong willingness of the EU to continue building a strong EU-US partnership on the basis of clear values and interests”.

She said they discussed Syria, Ukraine, Libya, the Middle East, Afghanistan and North Korea among other topics. Mogherini stressed “the need to preserve and fully implement the Iran deal” on controlling Iran’s nuclear developments. Trump has called Iran the “number one terrorist state”.—Reuters

Kremlin says Ukraine peace plan mooted by lawmaker ‘absurd’

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said on Monday it had no prior knowledge of a Ukrainian lawmaker’s peace plan for his country, which was detailed in the New York Times newspaper, and called it absurd anyway.

The US newspaper reported that Andrii Artemenko, a Ukrainian lawmaker, had sent a proposal to associates of US President Donald Trump that was designed to end a simmering conflict in eastern Ukraine between pro-Russian separa-

tists and government forces.

According to the New York Times, the mooted plan would entail Russian forces withdrawing from eastern Ukraine and Ukrainian voters deciding in a referendum whether Crimea, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014, would be leased to Russia for a term of 50 or 100 years.

Moscow denies it has any troops in Ukraine and has repeatedly said it will not even discuss the status of Crimea.

When asked about the New

York Times report, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call on Monday that Artemenko’s proposal had not previously been known to the Kremlin and that it was absurd.

“There’s nothing to talk about. How can Russia rent its own region from itself?” said Peskov.

The only way the Ukraine crisis could be resolved was through the Minsk peace accords, said Peskov.—Reuters

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2. Payment will be conferred to the original writer, a representative of the original writer holding legal representative documents, through postal services, or through bank accounts. However, due to a lack of signatures on representative documents, incomplete address information and a lack of bank account information there have been cases where payment has been delayed or unsettled.

This being the case, we would like to ensure the designated payments are received swiftly and smoothly. We request that original writers send complete information on how to contact them, whether this is a street address, bank account, or a representative holding legal power. The information can be sent to tognlmaccountant2016@gmail.com or dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com or by calling

Ph: 01-8604529, 01-8604530

NEWS IN BRIEF

N Korean envoy says cannot trust Malaysian probe

KUALA LUMPUR — North Korea’s envoy to Malaysia on Monday said the police investigation into last week’s murder at Kuala Lumpur’s main airport could not be trusted, and insisted the victim was not Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Whereas Malaysian authorities have identified the victim as Kim Jong Nam, North Korean ambassador Kang Chol told reporters the embassy had only ever identified the victim as Kim Chol, based on passport carried by the dead man.

“It has been seven days since the incident but there is no clear evidence on the cause of death and at the moment we cannot trust the investigation by the Malaysian police,” said the ambassador, who had earlier been summoned by the Malaysian foreign ministry to explain other remarks doubting the probe’s impartiality.—Reuters

Indonesia says at least 3 N Korean murder suspects went to Dubai

JAKARTA — At least three of four North Korean men wanted in connection with the murder of President Kim Jong Un’s estranged half-brother caught a flight from Jakarta to Dubai on the evening of the attack, an Indonesian immigration official said on Monday.

Suspects Ri Jae Nam, Hong Song Hac, and Ri Ji Hyon flew from Jakarta to Dubai on Emirates flight EK0359 at 10.20 pm local time last Monday, immigration office spokesman Agung Sampurno told Reuters by text message. The details of the fourth suspect were unclear.—Reuters

Philippine panel says review of decision to shut mines may take three months

MANILA — A Philippine panel tasked to review the environment minister’s decision to shut more than half of the country’s mines could take three months to complete it, a member of the committee said on Monday. “Three months is probably reasonable,” Finance Undersecretary Bayani Agabin told reporters. “It will merely be a fact-finding body, it should be unbiased.”

The government’s Mining Industry Coordinating Council will review Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez’s order earlier this month to close 23 of the country’s 41 operating mines for environmental violations including damaging watershed areas. Another five mines were suspended.—Reuters

PM May to meet Peugeot head, determined to protect UK car industry

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May will have a private conversation with the chief executive of Peugeot Carlos Tavares this week and is determined to protect Britain’s car industry, her spokesman said on Monday

“It’s going to be a private conversation. There’s been a request for a meeting and we will try to make that meeting happen, but I am not going to go into what the nature of that conversation will be,” the spokesman told reporters, adding that the timing of the meeting depended on “diary compatibility”.

“What we have been clear on is our determination to see Britain’s important automotive industry to continue to flourish,” he said.—Reuters

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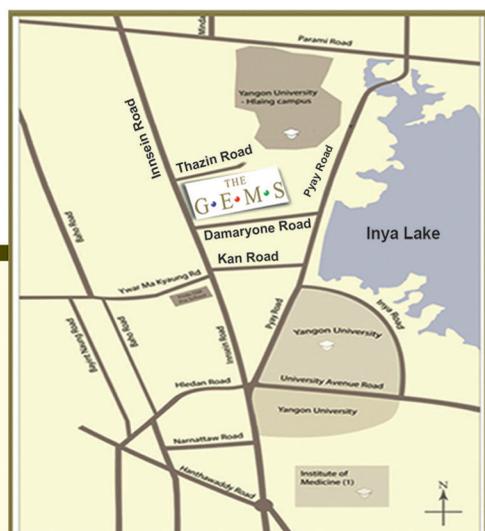
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Turkish soldiers accused of Erdogan assassination attempt go on trial

MUGLA (Turkey) — The trial of more than 40 Turkish soldiers accused of attempting to assassinate President Tayyip Erdogan during last year's failed coup started on Monday, with prosecutors seeking life sentences, according to the indictment obtained by Reuters.

Under tight security, the defendants were bussed in to a courthouse in the southwestern city of Mugla, not far from the luxury resort where Erdogan and his family narrowly escaped the soldiers, fleeing in a helicopter shortly before their hotel was attacked.

More than 240 people were killed during the 15 July failed coup, when a group of rogue soldiers commandeered tanks, warplanes and helicopters, attacking parliament and attempting to overthrow the government.

On Monday, prosecutors in Mugla charged 47 suspects, almost all of them soldiers, with multiple charges including attempting to assassinate the president, breaching the constitution and membership of an armed terrorist organisation, according to the indictment.

Turkey says the coup



Members of police special forces stand guard during the first hearing of the trial for Turkish soldiers accused of attempting to assassinate Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan on the night of the failed last year's 15 July coup, in Mugla, Turkey, on 20 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

was orchestrated by a US-based Muslim cleric, Fethullah Gulen. The cleric, who has lived in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania since 1999, has denied the charges and condemned the coup.

Since the failed coup, more than 40,000 people have been arrested and more than 100,000 have been sacked or suspended from the military, civil service and private sector.

Turkey launched its first criminal trial related to the coup in December and more trials are expected.

It was not immediately clear how the suspects would plead in the case. One of the lawyers said they were due to begin their testimony later in the day.

The suspects, who include Erdogan's former aide-de-camp, were wearing suits when they were

brought from prison to the courthouse. They were met by a crowd of some 200 people waving flags and calling for their execution.

"We want the death penalty. Let the hand that tried to harm our chief be broken," said one of the protesters, 61-year-old Zuhul Ayhan, referring to Erdogan. "I'd give my life for him."

Turkey formally abandoned the death penalty as

part of its 2002 European Union accession talks. Since the coup, crowds have repeatedly called for it to be restored, a move that would likely spell the end of Turkey's bid to join the EU.

The area around the courthouse was cordoned off and patrolled by dozens of security force members, including police and special forces. Snipers stood on nearby rooftops.

The courthouse in Mugla was too small to handle the number of defendants and authorities said the trial was being heard at the conference room of the chamber of commerce next door.

According to the indictment, some 37 soldiers were charged with having a direct role in the storming of the luxury Grand Yazici Club Turban, others are those who provided assistance to the operation.

The soldiers in helicopters descended on the hotel in Marmaris, on ropes, shooting, just after Erdogan had left. In an interview with Reuters after the coup, Erdogan said his faith as a Muslim helped him and his family escape unscathed.—*Reuters*

Nashar named Saudi Arabia's first female commercial bank CEO

DUBAI — Rania Nashar was named chief executive of Samba Financial Group on Monday, becoming the first female CEO of a listed Saudi commercial bank in line with the government's economic and social reforms.

Nashar is a board member of Samba's global markets subsidiary and a Pakistani unit, and has nearly 20 years of experience in banking.

Women, banned from driving in Saudi Arabia and subject to a system of male guardianship, hold few top posts in the financial sector.

But reforms which Saudi Arabia launched last year to make the economy more efficient and less reliant on oil exports include boosting the role of women in the economy.

The Saudi Stock Exchange last week appointed its first female chair, Sarah al-Suhaimi, who became the first female chief executive of a Saudi investment bank when she took the helm of NCB Capital in 2014.—*Reuters*

Marriage Announcement

Ms. Zar Hnin Ei

daughter of U Thein Lwin and Daw Lon Lon Myint of Dagon Thiri Road, Kyaukmyaunggyi Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region and

Mr. Than Phe

eldest son of U Than Tun Aye and Daw Kyawt Khaing of 4967, Auburn Dr APT2, San Diego, CA92105 USA

are pleased to announce their marriage on Wednesday, 25th January, 2017, at Yangon Western District Court in the presence of the district court's judge.

Mr. Than Phe and Ms. Zar Hnin Ei

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SIGAP VOY. NO (01)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIGAP VOY. NO (01) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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Iraqi forces battle their way toward Mosul airport

SOUTH OF MOSUL/BAGHDAD, Iraq — US-backed Iraqi forces fought Islamic State fighters on Monday to clear the way to Mosul's airport, on the second day of a ground offensive on the jihadists' remaining stronghold in the western side of the city.

Federal police and elite interior ministry units known as Rapid Response are leading the charge toward the airport, located on the southern limit of the Mosul, trying to dislodge the militants from a nearby hill known as Albu Saif.

The Iraqi forces plan is to turn the airport into a close support base for the onslaught into western Mosul itself.

Islamic State militants are essentially under siege in western Mosul, along with an estimated 650,000 civilians, after they were forced out of the eastern part of the city in the first phase of an offensive that concluded last month, after 100 days of fighting.

"They are striking and engaging our forces and pulling back towards Mosul," Major Mortada Ali Abd of the Rapid Response units told a Reuters correspondent south of Mosul. "God willing Albu Saif will be fully liberated today."

Helicopters were strafing the Albu Saif hill to clear it of snipers, while machine gun fire and rocket propelled grenades could be heard. The advancing forces also disabled a car bomb - used by the militants to obstruct attacking forces.

The Iraqi forces have been advancing so far in sparsely populated areas. The fighting will get tougher as they get nearer to the city itself and the risk greater for the civilians.

Up to 400,000 civilians could be displaced by the offensive as residents of western Mosul suffer food and fuel shortages and markets are closed, United Nations Humanitarian



Smoke rises after members of the Iraqi rapid response forces fired a missile towards Islamic State militants during a battle in the south of Mosul, Iraq on 19 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Coordinator for Iraq Lise Grande told Reuters on Saturday.

Commanders expect the battle to be more difficult than in the east of the city, which Iraqi forces have taken control of last month after three months of fighting, because tanks and armoured vehicles cannot pass through its narrow alleyways.

The militants have developed a network of passageways and tunnels to en-

able them to hide and fight among civilians, disappear after hit-and-run operations and track government troop movements, according to residents.

Western Mosul contains the old city centre, with its ancient souks, government administrative buildings, and the mosque from which Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared his self-styled caliphate over parts of Syria and Iraq in 2014.—*Reuters*



Photo taken on 20 February, 2017 shows the winding mountain road in Taiyanghe Township of Enshi City, central China's Hubei Province. The road, as a section of the highway linking Baiyangping Township of Hubei and Fengjie County of Chongqing, looks like a jade belt around the mountain with ten corners. PHOTO: XINHUA

Egypt's top court upholds 10 death sentences over football violence

CAIRO — Egypt's top court upheld death sentences for 10 men on Tuesday for their part in Egypt's worst violence at a football stadium, in which more than 70 fans were killed in February 2012.

Many of the dead were crushed when panicked fans tried to escape from the Port Said stadium after a post-match pitch invasion by supporters of the local side al-Masry. Others fell or were thrown from terraces, witnesses said at the time.

The verdict from the Court of Cassation, which also upheld a lower court's sentencing of 10 men to 15 years in jail, 14 men to 10 years, and 15 men to five years, is final and cannot

be appealed. The charges included murder and attempted murder. Among those who received a five-year sentence was the former Port Said police chief.

Football matches are often a flashpoint for violence in Egypt. The teams in the Port Said incident - al-Masry and Cairo's al-Ahli - are longtime rivals. Witnesses said the rioting broke out after Cairo fans unfurled banners insulting the local team, which had won the match 3-1.

Since then Egypt has curbed the number of people allowed to attend matches and supporters have often tried to storm stadiums they are banned from entering.

In February 2015, at least 22 people were killed outside an stadium when security forces barred fans from entering.

Most of the casualties suffocated when the crowd stampeded after police used teargas to clear the fans trying to force their way into a league match between two Cairo clubs, Zamalek and Enppi, doctors and witnesses said.

Fan clubs known as "Ultras" were outlawed in May 2015. Relations between the Ultras and security forces have been tense for four years after the fans played a key role in the 18 days of street protests that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak.—Reuters

UK's Gemfields says India's demonetisation drive to hurt FY results

LONDON — British precious stone miner Gemfields plc said on Monday India's move to scrap higher value banknotes forced the company to delay an emerald auction and would hurt its full-year revenue and core earnings.

Shares in the company fell as much as 7.9 per cent to 46.50 pence in morning trading before recovering to 48.6 pence by 0832 GMT.

The auction, which was pushed to February from December, sold about 84 percent of the total emeralds on sale by weight, and generated \$22.3 million in revenue, the company said in a statement on Monday.

The sale yielded the

third highest value per carat to date for the company, with an average price of \$63.61 per carat and total volume of 349,935 carats, Gemfields said.

"A normal high quality auction delivers revenue normally of \$32-\$35 million on 500,000-600,000 carats of sales. Today they delivered very good pricing... but it was only on 350,000 carats sold, so a significantly smaller auction," analyst Michael Stoner at brokerage Peel Hunt told Reuters.

"We would like to see that kind of strength to pricing on higher volumes," he said.

The company, which mines for emeralds and amethysts in Zambia and

for ruby and corundum in Mozambique, reported a loss of \$4.3 million for the half year ended 31 December. Revenue fell 45.7 per cent to 51 million pounds.

The company rescheduled the auction for higher quality rough emeralds due to India's demonetisation programme and had cancelled another higher quality emerald auction, Chief Executive Ian Harebottle said in a statement.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi scrapped 500-rupee and 1,000-rupee banknotes in November in a bid to flush out cash earned through illegal activities, or earned legally but never disclosed.—Reuters

Japan-US ties seen stronger after Trump and Abe golf: US congressman

TOKYO — The relationship between the United States and Japan will only get stronger after US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe forged a good rapport on the golf course, a US congressman said on Monday.

"(Abe) seems to have a good rapport with President Trump," Billy Long, a Republican and a co-chairman of the Congressional Study Group on Japan, told reporters after meeting Abe in Tokyo.

"They really built a good relationship on the golf course so I think you'll see a trade deal coming."

Abe visited Trump in the United States this

month where they reaffirmed their commitment to use fiscal, monetary and structural policies to strengthen domestic and global demand.

Soon after taking office Trump pulled the United States out of the planned Trans-Pacific Partnership multilateral trade accord that Japan backed as a bulwark against a rising China.

After his talks with Trump, Abe said Japan and the United States had agreed on a new framework for economic dialogue.

Key decisions on economic policy will likely be made at a bilateral economic dialogue, to be

led by US Vice President Mike Pence and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso, who is also finance minister.

Trump also set aside campaign pledges to force Japan to pay more for US defence aid.

The two leaders also played golf.

Long, who visited Tokyo with more than a dozen American politicians and aides, said he was optimistic about relations between Japan and the United States.

"We just want to continue the strong relationship we have with Japan," he said

"I think it's only going to get stronger." —Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (4 / 2017)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-100(16-17)	Telecommunication Equipments (2) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-101(16-17)	Marine VHF FM Transceiver (Synthesized) (25 W) (10) Sets	US\$
(3)	IFB-102(16-17)	Hydraulic Jack 100 Ton (1) Set	US\$
(4)	IFB-103(16-17)	Air Compressor Engine Driven with Skid 100 CFM, 150 PSI, (40-60) HP (1) Set	US\$
(5)	IFB-104(16-17)	185 KW, 3300 V Induction Motor (1) No	US\$
(6)	IFB-105(16-17)	7 Ton Fork Lift (82.4 KW @ 2000 rpm) (1) Unit	US\$
(7)	IFB-106(16-17)	Excavator (25) Ton (Bucket Capacity-1.2m ³) (1) Unit	US\$
(8)	IFB-107(16-17)	4" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade X-42 (16.75) Miles	US\$
(9)	IFB-108(16-17)	10" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade X-42 (10) Miles	US\$
(10)	IFB-109(16-17)	4" Steel Ball Valve (1) Item	US\$
(11)	IFB-110(16-17)	Assorted Sizes of Pipe Fittings (5) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB-111(16-17)	Welding Electrode E-6011 (5) Ton	US\$
(13)	IFB-112(16-17)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeves and Closure Patches (3) Items	US\$
(14)	IFB-113(16-17)	Data Acquisition, Interpretation Work Station and Data Processing Center (10) Items	US\$
(15)	IFB-114(16-17)	Spares Parts and Maintenance for PLC (Daw Nyein) (1) Lot	US\$
(16)	IFB-115(16-17)	Spares Parts and Maintenance for GDS (Ywama) (1) Lot	US\$
(17)	IFB-116(16-17)	Spersene (100) MT	US\$
(18)	IFB-117(16-17)	Chrome lignite (XP-20) (200) MT	US\$
(19)	IFB-118(16-17)	Spares for Oxygen Plant (12) Items	Ks
(20)	DMP/L-031(16-17)	Portable Fire Pump 200 GPM, Single Stage with Engine & Assembly (1) Item	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-032(16-17)	18 R 22.5 x 18PR Tyre Tubeless (1) Lot	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-033(16-17)	SAE 15 W 40 Diesel Engine Oil (1) Lot	Ks
(23)	DMP/L-034(16-17)	Gear Oil (PGO-140 EP) (GL-5) (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 20-3-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 20TH February, 2017 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
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We're a family and we'll always be a family: Jolie on split

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star couple Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt may have parted ways last year but the actress says that they will always be a family.

The 41-year-old star opened up about her highly-publicised split from Pitt, 53, for the first time since filing for divorce in September 2016, reported People magazine.

"I don't want to say very much about that, except to say it was a very difficult time... And we are a family and we will always be a family, and we will get through this time and hopefully be a stronger family for it," Jolie told BBC World News' Yalda Hakim in Cambodia.

The actress was in Cambodia to promote her new film "First They Killed My Father".

It is a project close to Jolie's heart, as the actress adopted her first child, son Maddox, now 15, from a Cambodian orphanage in 2002.

The mother-of-six further said that she was coping by maintaining a focus on her children, Maddox, Pax, 13, Zahara, 11, Shiloh, 10, and twins Knox and Vivienne, 8.

"Many, many people find themselves in this situation. My whole, my family... We've all been through a difficult time. My focus is my children, our children... And my focus is finding this way through.

"We are and forever will be a family. I am coping with finding a way through to make sure that this somehow makes us stronger and closer.—PTI



Actors Angelina Jolie (R) and Brad Pitt. Photo: Reuters

Box Office: 'Lego Batman' flies high over 'Great Wall,' 'Fist Fight'

LOS ANGELES — "The Lego Batman Movie" is dominating the North American box office with an estimated \$44 million this President's Day weekend -- nearly matching the combined haul of "Fifty Shades Darker" and "The Great Wall."

Universal's second weekend of "Fifty Shades" is heading for \$24 million at 3,714 sites and its action-fantasy "The Great Wall" was projected to wind up with \$21 million at 3,325 locations for the Friday-Monday period. Lionsgate's second weekend of "John Wick: Chapter 2" is finishing in a solid fourth place with \$19.5 million at 3,113 venues as holdovers propped up the holiday weekend business.

New Line's opening of high school comedy "Fist Fight" showed only a modest punch in fifth with around \$14 million at 3,185 locations. And Fox's horror-thriller "A Cure for Wellness" was scaring up a modest \$4.9 million at 2,704 screens as it was projected to finish 11th.

"Lego Batman," Warner Bros.' spinoff of 2014's "The

Lego Movie," is playing at 4,088 sites and will wind up the weekend with more than \$108 million in its first 11 days. It opened with \$53 million on the 10-12 February weekend, so it's declined by only 35 per cent in the second Friday-Sunday period.

Will Arnett returns as the voice of Batman, along with Zach Galifianakis, Michael Cera, Rosario Dawson, and Ralph Fiennes. "Lego Batman" scored strong critical support with a 91 per cent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

"Fifty Shades Darker" declined about 55 per cent from its opening weekend and should finish the weekend with an 11-day total of \$93 million.

Universal's "The Great Wall" is performing above recent forecasts, which had pegged the film to finish in the \$17 million range. Still, the number isn't particularly impressive, given the \$150 million budget for the Legendary production — the most expensive movie ever shot in China.—Reuters



Cast members Michael Cera and Rosario Dawson pose with Lego characters at the premiere of the movie 'The LEGO Batman Movie' in Los Angeles, California, US, on 4 February, 2017. Photo: Reuters

'I Am Not Your Negro' explores America's civil rights struggle

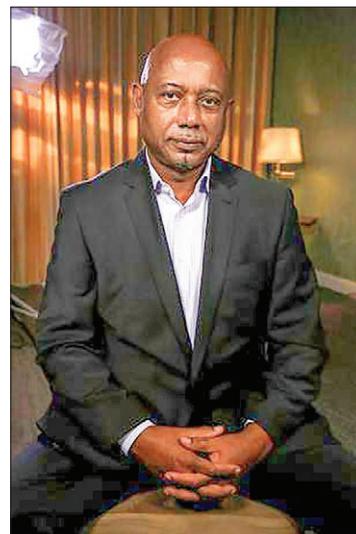
LOS ANGELES — As author, poet and essayist James Baldwin started writing a book in the late 1960s exploring the lives of three black civil rights activists, little did he realize his examination of race relations would resonate so deeply in present day America.

"I Am Not Your Negro," the Oscar-nominated documentary now in limited US theaters, takes Baldwin's 30-page unfinished manuscript on the racial divide during the civil rights era and places it against current racial tensions and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Baldwin's words "feel as if just this morning he wrote them down," said director Raoul Peck, who spent ten years making the film.

"His analysis of this country, the description, his knowledge of this country is rooted in something very fundamental," Peck told Reuters.

Baldwin died in 1987 at the age of 63. In the years before his death, he had begun crafting a book about three of his friends — Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr and Medgar Evers — all of whom were assassinated in the 1960s, cutting short their pursuit of justice and equality for the black



Haitian filmmaker Raoul Peck, director of Oscar-nominated documentary 'I Am Not Your Negro,' poses for a portrait at the 89th Oscars Nominee Luncheon in Beverly Hills, California, US, on 6 February, 2017. Photo: Reuters

community in the United States.

"I Am Not Your Negro" has received strong critical praise and has already grossed \$2 million at the US box office since its limited 3 February release.

In the film, Baldwin's words, read by actor Samuel L Jackson, are heard as voiceover on

scenes from Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014, during protests over the shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed black man, at the hands of a white police officer. The demonstrations helped to coalesce the Black Lives Matter movement nationally.

Baldwin also ponders how black men and women are perceived within America.

"He tried to explain this so-called 'dream' that is not a dream for everybody," Peck said.

The documentary includes clips of Hollywood movies in which actors like John Wayne and Doris Day appear in leading roles as the hero, while black actors often played slaves, maids or sidekicks.

The Haiti-born Peck included the scenes in a "critical way because it's about this image that Hollywood has been propagating, and it's not really the reality."

Hollywood still needs to be more inclusive of diverse filmmakers, he added.

"We cannot keep wishing every year if there are going to be more women's films, more gay films, more black films, because ultimately we're going to continue to make our films, whether it's hard or easy."—Reuters

'Moonlight', 'Arrival' writers win top Writers Guild of America awards

NEW YORK — Writers for the films "Moonlight" and "Arrival" won top Writers Guild of America awards on Sunday, boosting the films' chances in the upcoming Academy Awards, Hollywood's biggest honours.

Barry Jenkins and Tarell Mc-Craney won the original screenplay award for "Moonlight," a drama about a young black Miami man's life and struggle to forge an identity. Eric Heisserer took the

Writers Guild of America's prize for adapted screenplay for the science fiction film "Arrival," based on a short story by Ted Chiang.

Both films are nominated for the best picture Oscar, which will be handed out at a gala ceremony in Hollywood on 26 February. The writers for both films are also Oscar-nominated, but will compete against each other in the adapted screenplay category after the Oscars decided the "Moonlight"

script was an adaptation of a Mc-Craney play.

"Command and Control" won for best documentary screenplay.

Among television honors, "The Americans" won the Writers Guild prize for drama series, while "Atlanta" took the award for best comedy series as well as for best new series. The Writers Guild is an industry group representing film, television, radio and other media writers.—Reuters

Designers offer winter romance, trip to the country at London Fashion Week

LONDON — British designer labels took fashionistas on dream-like escapes, to snowy mountain peaks and the English countryside at London Fashion Week on Sunday, presenting luxurious embellished looks for women's wardrobes.

Anya Hindmarch kicked off the day's autumn/winter 2017 catwalk shows with a Scandinavian-inspired collection of women's satchels, handbags, outerwear and shoes.

On a catwalk made to look like a snow-covered mountain, models in furry hats and goggle-like glasses descended from a peak carrying bags with colourful handwoven leather straps, structured backpacks and small purses, all adorned with clipped-on garlands, sparkly butterflies and layered hearts.

Hindmarch used suede, vegetable tanned leathers and long-haired shearling for her creations, which came in pinks, blues, mustard yellow, browns and grey.

Models wore knits over shorts or wool and felt coats and capes with colourful furry collars or panels. Furry shawls were tied on top. Footwear included embellished clogs with furry insides, slippers, sandals and

creeper shoes.

"Autumn Winter 2017 explores the contrast between the romanticised notions of winter and wanderlust and the darker motifs found in Old Norse folklore," Hindmarch said in shownotes.

"This has been explored through modern interpretations of traditional leather craft techniques, including Scandinavian Kurbits and complex hand-woven leatherwork."

At Mulberry, creative director Johnny Coca took inspiration from the British aristocracy's life in the countryside, showcasing tweeds, lace and embroidery in his designs.

He presented equestrian-inspired quilted capes, blouses with knotted neck scarves or cuffs and asymmetric skirts.

Models wore crochet and ruffle dresses made to look like old heirlooms. Floral embroidery decorated oversized tweed jackets and skirts suits as well as tiered dresses. "It's about making something traditional feel new," Coca said in a statement. "Taking these archetypal British styles, and making them feel right for today."

Vintage-like jewellery accessorised the looks in



Models present creations at the Anya Hindmarch catwalk show during London Fashion Week in London, Britain on 19 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

oxblood, ginger, green, purple, yellow, lavender and blue. A modern touch came in knit socks worn with sturdy heeled boots and loafers dressed with jewellery. Handbags nodded to travel luggage. At a catwalk show held in the financial Bank area, Temperley London took fashionistas onto a dreamy, romantic escapade

with models wearing soft dresses in pale blues, lilacs and pinks. Designer Alice Temperley kicked off her "Painted Dreams" presentation with peasant-like shirts with puffed up sleeves, tops with high regal collars and black neck bows, high waisted trousers and embroidered tops and skirts combinations in mainly

dark colours.

Then followed plenty of dresses, some see-through, with prints and intricate embroidery of florals or lips, worn with backless loafers. For the evening, models showcased richly-embellished shimmering gowns, light quilted-like skirts and dresses and luxurious silky jumpsuits. High-

neck knits were worn with sequined skirts.

"I am selling very beautiful clothes and they have to be...dream-like," Temperley told Reuters when asked about her inspiration. "And in a climate like today...it's about creating something that...celebrates diversity and celebrates individuality."—Reuters

Texas lawmaker wants to end emoji mix-ups with Chilean flag

AUSTIN, Texas — A state lawmaker filed a resolution this week urging people to think before they text and stop using an emoji of the Chilean flag, which resembles the Lone Star State flag, as a symbol of Texas pride.

State Representative Tom Oliverson described the resolution as a light-hearted but serious civics lesson for the social

media age. More than a few people have garnished their tweets and text messages about Texas with a Chilean flag, he said. "I designed it be educational, kind of like a public service announcement," Oliverson, a Republican, told Reuters on Saturday. His resolution does not carry the force of law.

It calls on lawmakers: "to reject the notion that the

Chilean flag, although it is a nice flag, can in any way compare to or be substituted for the official state flag of Texas and urge all Texans not to use the Republic of Chile flag emoji in digital forums when referring to the Lone Star Flag of the great State of Texas." The Chilean flag is available on the standard set of emojis while the Texas flag is not.

Both flags have a single white star on a blue field on the left with a horizontal white stripe on top of a red stripe. On the Texas flag, the blue goes from top to bottom while on the Chilean flag, the red horizontal stripe stretches across the bottom.

The resolution generated statewide news on Friday with many offering their views on Twitter.—Reuters

Saudi gamers get together at kingdom's first-ever Comic Con

JEDDAH — In a country where the use of magic is a crime punishable by beheading, it's not every day that young Saudis wander down the street dressed as the Hulk or Doctor Doom.

But for three days over the weekend, some 20,000 Saudis decked out in costumes and face paint queued to get into Saudi Arabia's first-ever Comic Con, where robots, video games and giant anime figures filled a tent in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

The global comics expo was held under the auspices of the Saudi General Entertainment Authority, which has bucked some of the austere Islamic kingdom's strict social codes to host a series of festivals, comedy shows and concerts this year.

Saudi Arabia is trying to boost its entertainment sector as part of an economic and social reform drive aimed at creating jobs and weaning the

country off its dependence on oil. "The level of entertainment has risen so much from previous years. There used to be no public places like this for families, there was no gender mixing, there was no entertainment, there were no shows," said Modah Al-Bakheet, a Jeddah resident. Comic Con started in 1970 when a group of about 100 science fiction fans in San Diego got together to swap comic books. It has since grown into a globally recognized set of fantasy celebrations, drawing over 130,000 fans to events in London, Moscow, Delhi, Sydney and Dubai.

The Jeddah version still had some distinctly Saudi quirks: men and women queued in separate lines outside the venue, guarded by a heavy police presence, and the show ground to a halt each time the call to prayer was heard.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule			
(21-2-2017 07:00am ~ 22-2-2017 07:00am) MST			
07:03	Am	News	10:03 Am News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Game Changers (Ep-1)	10:26 Am A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift
07:52	Am	Great Minds Of Myanmar - U Kyaw Win (Anthropologist)	10:52 Am Attractions around Hopong Hill Station
08:03	Am	News	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
08:26	Am	Halin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City	(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
08:51	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"	Prime Time
09:03	Am	News	07:03 Pm New
09:26	Am	International Dances in Myanmar	07:26 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
09:45	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Muun Traditional Dance"	07:54 Pm Now in Yangon
09:50	Am	Today Myanmar "Sim Card Registering"	08:03 Pm New
			08:26 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Shan - Flat-Rice-Noodle Soup)
			08:43 Pm A Life In The Ring
			(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday 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)

AFC Cup 2017 to be shown live on MRTV

THE AFC Cup 2017 and Myanmar Club competitions beginning on February 21 will be showcased as live events on Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV). Schedule for the AFC Cup displayed below. — Myanmar News Agency

AFC Cup 2017, Myanmar Club Matches						
No	Date	Match	Time	Group	Week	Venus
1.	21.2.2017	Global vs Magwe	6:00 PM	Group F	Week 1	Rizal Memorial Stadium, Manila
2.	22.2.2017	Yadanarbon vs Home United	5:00 PM	Group H	Week 1	Mandalay Thiri Stadium, Mandalay
3.	7.3.2017	Magwe vs Johor Darul Ta'zim	3:30 PM	Group F	Week 2	Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon
4.	8.3.2017	Than Quang Ninh vs Yadanarbon	5:30 PM	Group H	Week 2	My Dinh National Stadium, Hanoi
5.	14.3.2017	Boeung Ket vs Magwe	5:30 PM	Group F	Week 3	Olympic Stadium, Phnom Penh
6.	5.4.2017	Magwe vs Boeung Ket	3:30 PM	Group F	Week 4	Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon
7.	18.4.2017	Home United vs Yadanarbon	5:00 PM	Group H	Week 5	Jalan Besar Stadium, Singapore
8.	19.4.2017	Magwe vs Global	3:30 PM	Group F	Week 5	Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon
9.	2.5.2017	Yadanarbon vs Than Quang Ninh	5:00 PM	Group H	Week 6	Mandalay Thiri Stadium, Mandalay
10.	3.5.2017	Johor Darul Ta'zim vs Magwe	7:05 PM	Group F	Week 6	Tan Sri Dato Haji Hassan Yunus Stadium, Johor Bahru

High flying Sevilla to offer little respite to struggling Leicester

BARCELONA — Embattled Leicester City turn their attentions to the one competition they have had success in during a nightmarish season for the English champions when they visit high-flying Sevilla on Wednesday for their Champions League last 16 first leg. Europe's elite competition has been a welcome distraction for Claudio Ranieri's side, which has come crashing back down to earth after last year's logic-defying title win but keeps defying the odds in Europe.

Leicester finished top of

their group and conceded just one goal in their first five games, and a brief escape is just what they need as their domestic woes show no sign of easing.

A winless start to 2017 in the league has left the club one point and a single place above the drop zone, and in danger of becoming the first team since Manchester City in 1938 to be relegated the season after winning the English championship. On Saturday they endured an embarrassing exit from the FA Cup at the hands of League One side Millwall despite playing most of the second

half with an extra man.

They will get little respite from a transformed Sevilla side, however, which is enjoying its most exciting season in a decade as it chases Real Madrid and Barcelona in La Liga and mounts a serious challenge in the Champions League after winning the Europa League three times in a row. Argentine coach Jorge Sampaoli has brought a new speed and intensity to the Andalusian side's possession play that yielded its biggest ever points total in the first half of a season.—Reuters

Monaco look to Bernardo Silva in Man City clash

PARIS — Monaco lose some of their best players every season but they keep attracting top youngsters like Bernardo Silva who they will be relying on when they visit Manchester City in their Champions League last 16, first leg clash on Tuesday.

The Portugal offensive midfielder, 22, has been nicknamed "Messizinho" (the Little Messi) by team mate Joao Moutinho and according to media reports Manchester United and Chelsea have already tried to secure his services for next season.

Silva, who joined the principality club from Benfica in 2014, has amazing dribbling skills and the excellent vision that could make him an old-school playmaker, although he has developed a roaming role and likes to push wide. "When Bernardo arrived, I straight away said he was a good player but that he needed to keep working," said Moutinho. "And that's what he's done this year. He had two fine seasons but this year he's really been a revelation. "Messi, Eusebio, Cris-

tiano Ronaldo, Maradona, Pele... They're players who are and will remain in football history. I hope and believe that Bernardo has the quality to get close to that level."

With six goals and five assists in 25 Ligue 1 appearances, Silva has been instrumental in Monaco's rise to the top of the table in a team who have scored 76 goals in 26 matches. City, on the other hand, have conceded 29 in 25 Premier League games, making former England striker Michael Owen's assumption that Monaco were a "good draw" a bold assessment. Monaco geared up for the clash with a disappointing 1-1 draw at lowly Bastia in Ligue 1 on Friday but City have no reason for over-confidence after being held to a 0-0 stalemate at second-tier Huddersfield Town in the FA Cup fifth round on Sunday. The Citizens will be without Brazilian prodigy Gabriel Jesus, who has had foot surgery and will be out of action for at least two months after a promising start at the club.—Reuters



AS Monaco's Bernardo Silva. PHOTO: REUTERS

Everton have adapted to Koeman's demands, says Baines

LONDON — Everton are finally playing in the manner that manager Ronald Koeman wants and the progress has been reflected in their climb to seventh in the Premier League table, according to left-back Leighton Baines.

Koeman inherited a team with a poor defensive record when he took over in June, but Everton got off to a good start to the season under their new manager, getting through their first five league games without defeat before losing momentum.

A run of two wins in 12 league games followed, culminating in a 1-0 loss to Liverpool in the Merseyside derby on Dec. 19, before Everton turned the corner, going on an eight-game unbeaten run to challenge for a Europa League spot.

"What we've shown comes from the manager," Baines told the club website (www.evertonfc.com).

"Of course, it takes time but the team starts to reflect the manager out on the pitch. The manager wants intensity, a bit of aggression and good football as well. "We can improve in all of those departments — you always can — but I think he has been more pleased in what he is seeing in that respect."

Everton host basement side Sunderland in the league on Saturday, and Baines said the team was keen to keep the momentum going.

"We're on a good run at the moment and, obviously, we've been working hard this week to extend that," he added.

"At this level, there are fine lines at times. We work hard every week, we've been on a good run, a bad run and now we're back on another good run — but, generally, the work we've done has been the same." —Reuters

Messi penalty rescues win for Barca

BARCELONA — Lionel Messi's late penalty saw bedraggled Barcelona scrape a 2-1 victory over Leganes on Sunday at a divided Nou Camp as the La Liga champions looked as if they had still not recovered from their harrowing midweek defeat to Paris St Germain.

Messi scored both Barca goals, slotting home the crucial 90th minute spot kick to earn an undistinguished victory that keeps their title hopes flickering but it was another tough night for coach Luis Enrique, who was booed by some of the home fans.

Messi, anonymous in the 4-0 Champions League defeat

at PSG, put Barca ahead in the fourth minute but Leganes were rewarded for a bold approach which saw them create numerous chances when Unai Lopez levelled in the 71st minute after a huge error from Sergi Roberto.

Neymar won a penalty late on which Messi converted to steal the win for Barca, keeping them within reach of leaders Real Madrid and temporarily easing the pressure on Luis Enrique.

He was jeered by a large number of the home supporters but received roaring approval from the most vocal section.—Reuters



Barcelona's Lionel Messi scores a penalty against Leganes at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain on 19 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS