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President U Htin Kyaw, right, and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin comfort a patient receiving treatment at Htantalan Hospital. PHOTO: MNA

President and First Lady visit erosion-damaged areas in Haka

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and officials observed the regional development tasks in Haka and Htantalan and had warm conversations with local residents.

The President and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin together with Union Ministers and Chin State Chief Minister also went to observe the Yone Mountain that collapsed from erosion from heavy rain during the rainy season of July and August in 2015.

Officials presented explanations on the completion of re-

building local dwellings and the Tawlanyay Lake destroyed by the collapse, preventive measures from natural disasters installed, and work done for long-term security in case of a natural disaster to prevent as much damage as possible.

In line with the presentation, the President stressed the necessity of utilising the allotted national budget to effectively address the requirements of local residents and regional development and planting of appropriate

plants to combat soil erosion.

Later on, a visit was made to the Zaytawun monastic school in Haka, the President and the First Lady reverently observed young monks in the care of Chin monastic Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Tejosara. Donations of charitable gifts were made.

Afterwards the President travelled to Haka's Christian Church and was welcomed by Reverend Dr. Steven Lian Hom Lain. Reverend Paul Thom Kye'O then conferred blessings

and wishes on the President and entourage and the President gave gifts to Haka's various Christian sect's 10 reverends.

Afterwards they visited the general hospital in Haka and consoled the patients and gave cash donations, and observed the construction of new hospital wards.

Next, the President met with local residents in Botaikchun Hall and urged them to transparently report about their needs in a frank and open manner.

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8,000 low-cost apartments to be built

Ko Moe

WITH low-income residents in mind, the Ministry of Construction is planning an affordable housing project with apartments that will sell for less than Ks100 lakh, according to the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

"As housing project is meant for low-income people, we will reduce the price at which the low-income person can buy a home," said U Min Aung Aye, Deputy Director for the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. "We must do this because the low-income residents should be cared for."

Many housing projects are being implemented by the public and private sector, but the Ministry has decided to implement low cost housing projects in Yangon Region as most of the other projects are selling for more than Ks 100 lakh.

The ministry is seeking the required land, which is the most important part of its four-year project to build 8,000 apartments.

Construction and Housing Development Bank, under the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development and in cooperation with construction companies, have already sold more than 2,000 low-cost apartments including: section 1 and 2 of the Shwe Lin Pan Housing project in Hlaing Tharyar township; Kanaug low-cost housing in Dagon Seikkan township and Section 1 and 2 of the YuzaNa low-cost housing project.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th regular session lays stress on education matters

EDUCATION matters were discussed at the 11th meeting of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 4th regular session held in the meeting room of the Hluttaw yesterday morning.

U Win Maw Tun, deputy minister for Education, replied to the question raised by Dr U Min Thein of Ye-U constituency as to whether there were any arrangements for opening basic training courses based on health, agriculture, art and sports for youths to be able to effectively spend the summer vacation.

“For youths to spend the summer vacation in basic education schools, the ministry of education is conducting Red Cross courses, summer sports trainings, Myanmar basic dance, courses for playing the violin, flute, drums and fife in cooperation with the ministries of health and education, religion and culture. Also there will be a basic computer training course and basic training courses for Buddhism in cooperation with school executive committees and PTAs at the township and district level in Regions and States.

“Starting from 2006, in basic education schools, soccer, volleyball, sepak takraw, karate, athletics, wushu, Myanmar martial arts, and tae kwon do were conducted starting the first week of March annually. In 2016, 4,682 trainees attended. In Yangon, 33 kinds of

sport training courses are offered during summer vacation months every year. In 2016, 52,621 trainees were present at the training courses. And, in cooperation with the ministry of agriculture, courses on livestock breeding and irrigation, nutritious vegetable plantation courses and knowledge on Myanmar traditional medicine and ways of living on a healthy diet were offered in cooperation with the ministry of health and sport.”

In replying to the question raised by Daw Tin Tin Yi of Kyunsu constituency, U Win Maw Tun, deputy minister said, “Myanmar Board of Examinations under the Ministry of Education submitted to the management committee, the Ministry of Education, to open 142 examination assessment centres for the matriculation exam on 27 December 2016. Among 142 centres, 65 were not eligible to be designated as exam assessment centres, with 77 centres recommended to be eligible to be designated as the exam assessment centres. After scrutiny of 77 centres, 3 were cancelled for lack of recommendation of their respective Region Cabinet, from the list of centres to be designated as assessment centres. So, 74 new exam assessment centres will be opened in the academic year 2016-2017. Nyaungbee village basic education high school was included



U Win Maw Tun, deputy minister for Education PHOTO: MNA

in 15 centres that lack security requirements, so it was not allowed to have it enlisted in the matriculation assessment centres list in the academic year 2016-2017. If one centre's security was broken, it will harm nearly 700,000 candidates.”

Similarly, U Win Maw Tun replied to the questions of U Saw Tun of Mudon constituency and U Htay Min Thein of Gyobingauk constituency. Following that, five Hluttaw representatives discussed the motion urging the Union Government to systematically make educative programmes with separate budgets targeted, raised by Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency. Concerning the motion, U Sai Oo Kham of Theinni constituency discussed the



Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information. PHOTO: MNA

motion in support.

U Thaug Htay Lin of Patheingyi constituency put forward the motion of support to the Hluttaw that educative programmes are greatly needed to be extended more than now, to protect increasing rates of drug-abuse, and to present drug-related crimes and knowledge on traffic rules through social websites mostly used by today's youths. Over the motion, Dr U Aung Khin of PyinOoLwin constituency, U Kyaw Min Hlaing of Ottarathiri constituency and Daw Wint War Tun of Shartaw constituency seconded.

In replying to the motion, Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information said, “In performing the tasks of launching educative campaigns to inform necessary matters

to the public, all the ministries are implementing the plans under the category of educative programmes with the targeted budget. In some cases, they were not listed under the particular category, but funds were being used according to each programme. Concerning these, it needs to be presented about the performances of the Ministry of Information. There is no particular targeted budget for the ministry to spend under the category of educative work. But, the duty of the ministry is to inform, to educate and to entertain. Accordingly, though spending for educative programmes was not included in the category of a separate budget, performing educative programmes can be said to have been included in the whole budget of the Ministry. As regards the educative performances of the Ministry, they are being implemented according to the ratios. For example, in the sector of TV, 45 per cent are for informing, 25 per cent for educating and 30 per cent for entertaining. In the sector of radio, 40 per cent are for informing, 30 per cent for educating and 30 per cent for entertaining,” followed by submission to the Speaker of the Hluttaw, to put it in record.

Speaker of the Hluttaw announced that the motion was put in record with the approval of Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Railway project, Criminal Act 144 and 2nd Election Commission Amendment Law discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

HOME Affairs Deputy Minister Major-General Aung Soe has stated that a monastery clearing in Yogo Village, Mawlamyine is to be upgraded to a train station and marked for future project plans.

Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon constituency (2) raised the question of the plans for the site during the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 4th regular meeting yesterday.

“The 33.70 acres of land in Mon State, Mawlamyine township, Yogo Village, area (813), plot (703), which was previously approved to be used for construction of a train station and residential buildings for civil staff under the Ministry of Rail Transport, has been neglected for a long time and is approval for the plot of land to be used under Yogo Village authorisation for a sports stadium and construction of a fire engine department for storing fire fighters being considered or not,” Daw Nwe Nwe Aung said.

The Deputy Minister explained that construction of the railway station and residential buildings for railway staff and families have not begun yet due

to lack of budget approval.

“Construction will begin immediately after budget approval and the railway station will be a centre point for rail transport as well a site for future projects in store and therefore the project will not be relinquished,” the deputy minister said.

U Tin Aung Htun of Magway constituency (5) raised the question of laws concerning theft in oil refineries.

“Is there any consideration for ceasing declaration of criminal act 144 in Minbu Township, Magway,” U Tin Aung asked.

Deputy Minister Major-General Aung Soe said the purpose of introducing criminal act 144 was due to requirements in the administration department in the seven areas of oil refineries starting in 1977. Even after the legislation of the criminal act, thefts have occurred on the oil pipe lines incurring losses in the national budget and livelihoods of the citizens, therefore until an alternative law is legislated criminal act 144 will continue to be in effect in Minbu District, Minbu township Mann Oil refinery and oil refineries from Taukshar-



Deputy Minister Major-General Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

in-Kanniyay.

Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon constituency (9) raised the question concerning illegal transport of cows.

“How will the Ministry of Home Affairs handle the illegal trafficking of bovines in Moekau Village, Thaton township?” Dr. Zaw Lin Htut asked.

Deputy Minister Major-General Aung Soe replied that Mon State is comprised of Thaton District and Mawlamyine District and is bordered by Bago Region, Tanintharyi Region, Kayin State and is accessible by both land and sea. Those suspect-



Dr. Zaw Lin Htut of Mon constituency (9). PHOTO: MNA

ed of illegal trafficking of work cows and other bovines have been apprehended, resulting in eight cases with 30 perpetrators and 83 cows in 2014, 11 cases with 30 perpetrators and 30 cows and 68 buffalo in 2015 and eight cases with 33 perpetrators and 43 cows and 56 buffalo in 2016.

To combat the illegal trafficking of bovines in Thaton, the Myanmar Police Force collaborated with Mon State Government, Pa'O Ethnic Affairs Minister, State Hluttaw Representatives from Thaton constituency (2) and commenced an investigation on 8 October 2016.

The Myanmar Police force is also working with administrative departments to monitor and apprehend those involved in the illegal trafficking of bovines.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister Major-General Aung Soe responded to questions posed by U Pe Tin of Mon constituency (6), “Is there consideration to permit grant of land to Mon's Mudon township's ward (1), ward (2), ward (3) and ward (4),” U Min Naing of Sagaing constituency (12), “Will there be stipends for civil staff members working in regions under Naga Self-Administered Zone,” U Aye Min Han of Mon constituency (1), “What methods have been planned for fire prevention techniques in the national context and is there consideration to appoint/hire more members in the fire department and acquire more fire engines so as to extinguish emergency fires in a timely manner.”

Lastly, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker read the Pyithu Hluttaw's amended “2nd Bill to amend the Union Election Commission Law” and verified it after acquiring approval from the Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency

President and First Lady visit erosion-damaged areas in Haka

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In the meeting, U Shan Man reported on upgrading the Haka-Tupi-Palatwa road to a cement road, upgrading streets and roads in Haka to asphalt roads, constructing a sawmill and timber sales office, constructing a hydroelectric power station in Haka, opening a technological university in Haka, and upgrading the general hospital in Haka to a 500-bed hospital. Also Chin Regional Government Secretary U Pyone Cho reported on developmental concerns in Tonzan, Tiddim, Falam, Haka, Tantalán, Mindat, Matupi, Kanpatlat, Palatwa towns, and in Rikawda, Lainlinwe, Rayzwa and Sa-me.

Union Ministers U Win Khaing, Dr. Myint Htwe, Dr. Aung Thu, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo, Permanent Secretary U Soe Aung explained plans to handle the aforementioned issues.

The President then observed the completed construction of buildings in Haka College.

At midday they visited the general hospital in Tantalán and consoled the patients and gave



President U Htin Kyaw (second from right) inspects Razagyo dam in Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MNA

cash donations.

Afterwards the President met with local residents in Tantalán City Hall and City Development Committee Chairman U Ram Ka reported the need to connect Tantalán to the main power grid, elevating No. 2 Basic Primary Schools to Middle School, constructing a central of-

fice for all departments, opening two government departments, constructing a reservoir for clean water, paving the Haka-Tantalán-Sar-se road and constructing Bwenuu bridge, paving the Haka-Tantalán cement road to a width of 18 feet, upgrading the 25-bed hospital to a 50-bed hospital, and building of hostels

and halls to which Union Ministers U Win Khaing, Dr. Myint Htwe and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi explained and discussed on the strategies being implemented.

The President then commented on how Chin State is being given precedence in development programmes and that local residents should take active

participation in the development process, and the need to creatively showcase traditional handicraft for preservation purposes and new ideas to promote the tourism sector, with the government supporting them to the best of their ability.

Later the President and entourage travelled by helicopter to the construction site of Razagyo Reservoir in Kalay, Sagaing Region and were debriefed in the planning hall by Irrigation and Water Resources Utilization Department U Kyaw Myint Hlaing on facts and figures on the construction process, spilling of rain water into the reservoir during the heavy rains in July 2015, construction of loam dams to protect from landslides, sifting loam and removing logs from the pumping area, the construction process of Manipura reservoir, and building of irrigation canals and waterways to sift water from flooded farmlands in Kalay.

Later the President and entourage inspected around the Razagyo reservoir and hydroelectric station and gave presents to overseas experts on duty at the station.—*Myanmar News Agency*

More fire engines, lease grant and allowance in remote area were raised in the Amyotha Hluttaw

THE Ministry of Home Affairs will purchase 62 fire engines under the union budget fund and 145 fire engines under the region and state budget fund, said Major General Aung Soe, the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The explanation by the Deputy Minister on the 11th day of 4th regular session of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw was in response to a question by U Aye Min Han, MP for constituency 1 in Mon State whether would be a plan to supply enough firefighters and fire engines to control fires and manage a fire prevention system across the country.

The Deputy Minister clarified the visions of the Fire Department for public services, rescues, and natural disaster preparedness.

The department under the Ministry of Home Affairs is coordinating with related departments and organisations to promote broader awareness on fire preven-

tion, build the capacity of firemen to have more efficient in prevention, organise firemen to have enough resources in Regions and States, and supply more fire engines in line with procedures every fiscal year.

A question by U Pe Tin, MP for constituency 6 in Mon State, about land grants was answered by Deputy Minister Major General Aung Soe.

The deputy minister said that the Mon State government is highlighting the issue to release grants and has appointed a Mudon township official as territorial officer, and a land management and statistics officer as territorial supervisor since January 18, 2017. They will continue to oversee ownership documents for land.

The state government will continue its official procedures to enable to transform farmland to urban lands and a least grant can be applied for by showing the ownership documents to the township administration depart-

ment after the land is transformed to urban land.

Under the programme by the Mon State government, applicants who have applied with form 105 and 106 for lease grants to the land management and statistics department will receive the lease grant under rules and regulation enacted in 1898.

Another question by U Min Naing, MP for Constituency 12 in Saging Region, asked about a plan to provide a living allowance to civil servants in the Naga Self-Administered Region.

The Deputy Minister said all civil servants serving in remote areas, including eight townships and 116 villages in the Naga Self-Administered Region, will be entitled to allowances in accordance with the order issued on 16 February 2016 that defined 98 towns and 2,856 villages as remote areas at where civil servants are entitled to living allowance set by the government.—*Myanmar News Agency*

8,000 low-cost apartments to be built

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Although the low-cost housing is available, the prices of the apartments are still too high for some low-income residents. The Construction and Housing Development Bank will open accounts for the people who want to save and buy low-cost apartments.

Moreover, the Bank has provided a loan of Ks97 billion to construction companies and to those who want to buy apartments. The bank's loan payment term for borrowers is eight years, though it has plan to increase the payment period to 15 years, according to the Construction and Housing Development Bank.

Digging shallow creek and ditch in Yangon region

Soe Win (MLA)

Irrigation and Water Resources Utilisation Department has been dredging the shallow creeks and ditches flooding in the raining season.

"Till last year, our Thongwa township experienced flooding of salt-water. But the Irrigation department built the dykes to prevent inflow of salt-water. Our township's agriculture sector is developed since then. Our township creeks and ditches become silt up with different way. So, said U Han Thin from Thongwa township.

"There have between 2,800 and 3,000 acre of farmland in our village. But we don't have the drain. The farmers suffered from flooding when torrential rainfall for three days. The

farmlands were destroyed by the floods. But, we are very happy for this year because the Irrigation Department is digging the drains and creeks in our township," said Administrator U Thet Lwin from Sitgontawzun village.

Every year, over 600 acres of farmland from Kyar Bo, Tawzun, Thu Myaung and Thit Win Seik villages are flooded.

The Irrigation and Water Utilisation Department is digging a creek which is 59.97 miles long, with 15 drains in Thongwa township. Moreover, the department will dig a creek which is 164.72 miles long passing through Thenlyin, Kyaunktan, Kayan, Kungyan-gon, Kawhmu and Dala and 59 drains in the flood prone areas before the fiscal 2016-2017.

YCDC to choose new Mingalar Market design

YANGON City Development Committee (YCDC) will choose from three architectural designs to rebuild the Mingalar Market, which was destroyed by fire last year, said Myanmar Architecture Association vice-chairman U Maw Lin.

To rebuild the Mingalar Market, an architectural design contest was held with the assis-

tance of the Myanmar Architecture Association. At the contest, the experienced licensed local architects are participated.

Eikari Phoo Company won the tender to demolish the Mingalar market destroyed by the fire. The demolition work started on 24 October, 2016 and the razing has been completed.

Three out of 12 designs were

chosen to rebuild the new Mingalar Market. The YCDC will now decide which design will be used. The Architecture Association and Yangon region government will help choose the design. The shop owners of the market will also have input into the choice of design.

A market representative team has been formed and will coordinate with the market.—200

Tourists visit elephant camp in Bago Region

IT is a bit hard to find, but foreign visitors are discovering the Pho Kyar Elephant Camp situated at the foothills of the Bago Yoma mountain range in the Saing Ya tropical reserved forest, 10 miles away from west of Thargaya near the Yoma crossing road.

The Pho Kyar elephant camp was opened in 2005 after elephants were employed due to suspension of timber extraction, said U Ye Myint, an in-charge of the elephant camp.

"Last year, over 1,000 local and over 100 tourists visited to the Pho Kyar elephant camp. Some of the local people visited to the elephant camp mostly on Saturdays and Sundays," he added.

The Phoe Kyar elephant camp is 173 miles from the Yan-



A man takes photo of a young elephant and women. PHOTO: THE MIRROR

gon-Mandalay highway. The admission fees are Ks 1,000 for local people and Ks 20,000 for foreigners.

Tourists can take an elephant ride from 8-11am and from

3-5pm daily. The elephant riding fee is Ks 5,000 for local people and Ks 20,000 for foreigner.

Currently, 12 elephants are living in the Pho Kyar elephant camp.—*The Mirror*

Over 60,000 children in Yangon to be vaccinated

YANGON Region Public Health Department will vaccinate more than 60,000 children this year who are under 15 years of age from orphanages and philanthropies, including novices and nuns studying in school.

"The vaccination program will be conducted only in Yangon region. The department will provide vaccines against diphtheria, measles and German measles to 60,000 children

from the every township of the Yangon region," said an official from Yangon region public health department.

"We already identified over 60,000 children from orphanages, nuns and novices studying in schools, etc. Our vaccines project will start this year. Those under 15 years old in Yangon region will receive four types of vaccinations, including pentavalent vaccine," he added. The Pentavalent vac-

cine is a combined vaccination that provides protection to a child from five life-threatening diseases – Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus influenzae type b.

The Nay Pyi Taw Public health department said that the children studying at schools, orphanages and migrant communities are at risk of becoming infected with the diseases because they have not yet received full vaccinations.—200

Senior General receives JPN-MYN Friendly Association Chairman

DEFENCE SERVICES Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr. Hideo Watanabe, Chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association, at 5 pm at Bayintnaung guest house yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two

representatives discussed matters related to enhancing cooperation for Karatedo and martial art sport competition, training courses of domestic industries and engineering field for retired Tatmadaw members and cooperative measuring for Myanmar's reformation and achieving peace process.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Chief Justice of the Union urges courts to resolve cases in timely manner

U HTUN HTUN OO, Chief Justice of the Union, addressed the 12th judicial coordination meeting where chief judges of high court of the region and the state and judges were in attendance and said that judicial discretion given to the courts were conferred in order to allow independent judgments according to the doctrine of separation of powers, to gear up rule of law and public trust on courts and to provide fairness to the public.

He said no one can practice their given mandate beyond to the law, and regulation, honesty and truthfulness are absolutely necessary in rendering judgment. The behavior of a judge can mir-

ror the public trust on justice.

Chief Justice of the Union urged all courts to solve cases in a timely manner and in accordance with rules and regulations.

Delays should be minimises to avoid backlogs, as the statistics of The Supreme Court of the Union of Myanmar showed that the number of newly filed criminal and civil cases in 2016 sharply increased compared to 2015.

There were a total 364,975 criminal cases, 42,789 civil suit, 303 juvenile cases, 32,233 municipal cases and 134,447 traffic cases solved in 2016, though a few remained unsolved.—*GNLM*

Crime NEWS

Motorboat seized, 11 arrested in Naf River, Rakhine State



Left: The arrested motorboat. Right: The 11 people suspected of illegally crossing countries. PHOTO: MNA

TATMADAW (Navy) seized an illegal motor-boat in the Naf River as it was heading to Bangladesh Monday evening.

The security forces found the boat during routine patrol at about 4:40 pm and arrested the 11 men on board who were believed to be going to a neighbouring country illegally.

They are Ko Ni Mula, 35, from Apaukwa village in Kyauktaw Township; Armin Nu Hauk, 18, from Khaung Toke village; Sidi Armauk, 40, and Akiyar, 35, from Phatkon;

Nay Nasae, 57, from Wakan village; Yark Mina, 16, and Nu Yar Sizar, 2, from Hla Saung Kauk village; Marmuk Nu Lan, 31, from The' Chaung village in Sittway Township; La Luu, 26, from Pauktaw Township; Gum Hu Saung, 42, from Than Tat Khali village in Punnagyun Township and Hadi Nula, 32, from Thati village.

Security forces have arranged to hand over the 11 suspects to Myoma Police Station in Sittway.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Yaba and raw opium seized in PyinOoLwin and Nawngkhio

AN anti-narcotics squad from PyinOoLwin searched a house owned by Ma Sanda at Kyar-TwinYay village in PyinOoLwin Township on Monday and arrested Ma Sanda and Ma Mya Win Shwe, who were in possession of

7,646 yaba pills and 250 grams of raw opium.

Similarly, Nawngkhio Police stopped and searched a vehicle driven by Law Ka near Sinsargon village in Nawngkhio on 19 February. The police found

2,660 yaba pills in the vehicle. The illegal drugs were confiscated. Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Passenger vehicle collides with motorbike

TWO died in a head-on collision between a car and a motorcycle on Yangon-Pathein Road at 10 am on Monday.

Aung Tharapu, a passenger in a vehicle driven by U Soe Win, 55, collided head on

with the motorbike driven by Aung Kyaw Moe, 40, with his mother Daw Pu Sein, 60, on board between mileposts 7/0 and 7/1.

The motorcycle crashed into the passenger vehicle, kill-

ing Aung Kyaw Moe and Daw Pu Sein.

The Kangyidaung Myoma Police has taken action against U Soe Win under section 304 (A)/279 of the Penal Code.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Four bodies found in Maungtaw

A local police force on 16 February discovered four dead bodies buried in a field near a village in Maungtaw Township, according a police report yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off given by Asu Bawbi, 55, of Luphanpyin Village that bodies were buried in the place about 300 yards south of the village, local police unearthed the bodies of one man and three women.

Police found that the body

of the man had one gunshot wound that entered under his left arm and ended in his head. Two of the three women were found with gunshot wounds in the backbone and suffered fractured spines. The third woman had no visible injuries.

Ngakuya Township Police has opened a file on the case under section 302 of the Penal Code and are investigating. — *Myanmar News Agency*

LOCAL Business

Currency fluctuations in India affect price of exported peas

THE decrease in the price of peas exported to India this year has resulted from currency fluctuations in India, said U Soe Win Myint from Mandalay commodity depot.

Currently, the mung bean prices are around Ks92,000 per three-basket bag at the Mandalay commodity depot, whereas the pigeon peas price is around Ks71,500 a bag. A bag of white chick pea sells for around Ks112,000. The peanut price ranges from Ks2,000 to 2,700 per viss depending on quality. The prices of pigeon peas and mung beans this year dropped nearly by half when compared to the same period in the previous year, it is learnt.

Pigeon peas, mung beans and chick peas are mainly purchased by

India. The peanuts are mostly exported to China.

According to current market conditions, the pea price is likely not to turn upward until Thingyan Festival, said U Soe Win Myint, a depot owner in Mandalay.

The cultivation of pigeon peas costs about Ks60,000 an acre. With the heavy rain and prevailing market price this year, only two to three baskets are produced per acre, causing financial hardship for the farmers, said U Tin Win, a pigeon pea grower.

However, the cultivation of mung beans and chick peas flourished with a high yield, allowing the growers to make a profit, said U Zaw Myo, a mung bean grower.—*Zin Oo (Myanma Alin)*

Trade with ITC hit over Ks11billion as of 10th Feb in this FY

TRADE value with the Individual Trading Card (ITC) reached over Ks11billion as of 10th Feb in the current fiscal year 2016-2017, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Export value with the ITC was over Ks968million, whereas import value with ITC hit over Ks10billion, according to statistics released by the commerce ministry.

Myawady and Kan Pike Tee border trade camps are found to have the largest trade value using the ITC. The border trade values with ITC as of 10th Feb in this FY are over Ks717million in Tamu, over Ks747million in Muse, over Ks1.78billion in Kan Pike Tee, over Ks603million in Tachilek, over Ks21million in Lweje, over Ks344million in

Kawthoung, over Ks577million in Reed, over Ks870million in Maw Taung, over Ks24million in Kengtung and over Ks29million in Maese and over Ks6.2billion in Myawady, it is learnt.

The Trade Department issued a total of 1,161 individual trading cards; with 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016 and 171 cards as of 10th Feb in this FY, according to an announcement released by the Commerce Ministry.

A businessman can trade Ks3million a day with an ITC, and later on, the trade department allowed them to trade up to Ks15million at the same time, which amounted to a five-day trade value.—*Ko Khant*

SMIDB to be under Planning and Finance Ministry

SMALL and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) which focuses on the development of small and medium sized enterprises, will be under the purview of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, said U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance at a meeting with the local businessmen held at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Yangon.

SMIDB is currently providing SME loans with reasonable interest rates to SME businessmen and will assist in the needs

of SMEs to effectuate their developments.

Placing SMIDB under the Ministry of Planning and Finance will be more effective for SMEs, which helps promote innovation and make progress in the business.

Additionally, the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank will be managed by the Planning and Finance Ministry commencing from 1st April. The private banks are also allowed to participate in agricultural loan plans to enhance the agricultural sector, it is learnt.—*200*

PHOTO: RAILWAY GAZETTE INTERNATIONAL



Bo-Bo-Bo locomotives shipped to Myanmar

CRRC Dalian has shipped a further pair of locomotives to Myanmar Railways, and has now supplied the national railway with more than 50 locomotives ordered in five batches.

The metre-gauge Type

CKD7B design is customised for local conditions in Myanmar. The 100 km/h locomotives have three two-axle bogies, with the Bo-Bo-Bo arrangement designed to cope with poor track conditions, steep gradients and

tight curves down to 62 m radius.

The appearance of the locomotives is 'graceful and solemn, full of retro style', according to the manufacturer.—*Railway Gazette International*

Japanese farm equipment manufacturer Yanmar opens facility in Myanmar

JAPAN's farm equipment manufacturer Yanmar Co. said Tuesday it has opened a new import and sales facility in Myanmar in cooperation with trading company Mitsui & Co., vowing to contribute to the modernization of the country's agriculture practices.

Yanmar's new facility, in which Mitsui holds a 40 per cent minority stake, is located on a 10,000-square-meter site in Japanese-backed Thilawa Special Economic Zone on the outskirts of the commercial capital Yangon.

Rival Japanese manufacturer Kubota Corp. opened similar fa-

cility at the same area of Yangon earlier this month.

Yanmar Myanmar Co. was established in March last year with paid-up capital of \$6 million. It now employs about 20 people with a plan to add up to 80 more within five years.

Through its new facility, which includes a warehouse, a dealer service and training centre and a showroom, the company will distribute farming machines including tractors, power tillers and combine harvesters, while offering service and sales support to its dealers, according to its Man-

aging Director Takeshi Terada.

Terada said he expects annual sales to reach up to 2 billion yen in fiscal 2017, beginning 1 April, and as much as 10 billion within five years.

"Myanmar is the most important market in the region as the country has huge potential for agricultural machinery," he said.

He noted that mechanization has been increasing in the country, which is the world's seventh largest rice producer, as the number of farm workers shrinks gradually due to urbanization.—*Kyodo News*

Fuel oil produced by MPE to sell at a flexible price

THE price of fuel oil produced by Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) are opted to change every month, said an official from MPE.

The fuel oil will sell at a fixed price. Diesel and CGO (Coker gas oil) produced by Mann Thanpayarkan refinery and blue oil produced by Chauk factory are being distributed on the basis of MOPS pricing this month. About 8 million gallons

of CGO and about 6 million gallons of petrol have been sold out so far. The state-owned enterprise is selling the fuel oil with an aim to reduce the increase in price in the domestic market.

With an appreciation of the greenback at the end of 2016, the domestic fuel oil price rose. The domestic fuel oil price is on the rise despite the decline in international petroleum price. The Ministries concerned are mak-

ing efforts to control the fuel oil price in the domestic market, it is learnt. The prices of petroleum per liter were Ks710 for diesel, Ks750/760 for Octane 95, Ks720/730 for Octane 92 and Ks730 for premium diesel in Yangon market on 20th Feb whereas the wholesale prices were Ks644 for diesel, Ks686 for premium diesel and Ks675 for Octane 92, according to the official figures.—*Ko Khant*

Malaysia says still to establish what killed North Korean

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian authorities said on Tuesday they had still to establish what was used to kill the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and the body had not been formally identified as no next of kin have come forward.

Kim Jong Nam was killed at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on 13 February with what police believe was a fast-acting poison. Malaysia's deputy prime minister has previously named the victim as Kim Jong Nam, though authorities have been unable to conduct DNA tests.

"The cause of death and identity are still pending," Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, director general of health at Malaysia's health ministry, told reporters.

The health ministry official said no DNA samples had been received from the next of kin.

South Korean and U.S. officials have said they believe North Korean agents assassinated Kim Jong Nam, who had been living in the Chinese territory of Macau under Beijing's protection.

Malaysia has urged Kim Jong Nam's next-of-kin to claim the body and help with the inquiry, which has sparked a diplomatic row with North Korea, whose officials want the body handed over directly.

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

North Korean ambassador Kang Chol said on Monday that his country "cannot trust" Malaysia's handling of the probe into the killing.

Responding on Tues-



Malaysia's ambassador to North Korea Mohamad Nizan Mohamad (C) is surrounded by media upon his arrival from Pyongyang, after being recalled by Malaysian government, at Beijing airport in Beijing, China, in this photo taken by Kyodo on 21 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

day, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak denounced the ambassador's comments and reiterated that the investigation would be fair.

"The statement by the ambassador was totally un-

called for. It was diplomatically rude. But Malaysia will stand firm," Najib told reporters.

Authorities have still to release an autopsy report. But, the health ministry official said a post mor-

tem examination carried out two days after the death found no evidence of a heart attack or of any puncture wounds on the body.

Malaysian police have arrested a North Korean suspect, and say that four other North Koreans fled the country later on the day of the attack.

Two women from Vietnam and Indonesia have also been arrested on suspicion of carrying out the assault on Kim Jong Nam. There is speculation that they administered a poison by wiping it or spraying it on his face.

Airport camera footage released on Monday by Japanese broadcaster Fuji TV shows the moment the women appeared to assault Kim Jong Nam, who is later seen asking airport officials for medical help.

Reuters could not independently verify the authenticity of that footage.—Reuters

Philippines says ASEAN hopes for clear picture on Trump policies

BORACAY, Philippines — Southeast Asian countries hope that US President Donald Trump will unveil his policies within the next few months to provide a "more concrete and clearer picture", especially regarding China, the Philippine foreign minister said on Tuesday. "We all recognise the fact that American policy under the Trump administration is still evolving," Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay told a news conference. "We do not know the complete picture of what this foreign policy might be, insofar as its relationship with China is concerned.

"We're however, hopeful, that the policy that would come out will be positive...And we would hope that within the next few months we would see a more concrete and clearer picture." —Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

Expatriate Consultant Editor
Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail .com

Senior Translators
Khin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International News Editor
Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Translators
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

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

Advertising inquiry
01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Vietnamese PM keen to strengthen ties with Russia

HANOI — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc met Russia's Council of the Federal Assembly chairperson Valentina Ivanovna Matviyenko here Tuesday, voicing wishes to enhance bilateral relations, Vietnam's government e-portal reported.

Matviyenko is visiting Vietnam from Mon-

day to Wednesday.

In addition to existing cooperation in oil and gas, Vietnam will support Russia participating in energy and infrastructure projects in Vietnam, Phuc said, adding that the country wishes to enhance ties with Russia in defense and security.

Matviyenko said her country wants to enhance

cooperation with Vietnam in trade and agriculture products and food, as well as areas that Russia has strengths, such as oil filtration, petrochemicals, liquefied petroleum.

The visiting Russian official showed respect to Vietnam's decision to end nuclear projects and said Russia wants to boost implementation of their

bilateral agreement on a nuclear science and technology centre in Vietnam.

This year Russian government will grant around 1,000 scholarships to Vietnamese students, Matviyenko said, affirming Russia's willingness to support teaching Russian language in Vietnam. —Xinhua

China jails former head of safety watchdog for 15 years for graft

BEIJING — China on Friday jailed the former head of its safety watchdog for 15 years for graft, the state broadcaster said, wrapping up an inquiry launched after deadly blasts in 2015 killed nearly 170 people in the city of Tianjin, where he worked.

Regular mishaps, from factory fires to mine cave-ins, have boosted public concern about China's relatively lax safety standards, which the government has pledged to improve.

Yang Dongliang, former head of the State Administration of Work Safety, who spent much of his career in the port city,

was suspected of violating law and party discipline and sacked days after the blasts in a warehouse storing hazardous chemicals.

A court in Beijing found Yang guilty of abusing his position, including when he was former vice mayor of northeastern Tianjin, by accepting bribes to grant contracts to companies, China Central Television (CCTV) said.

In 1999, a property developer gave Yang an apartment in a new development complex that he failed register with the authorities.

The court reduced his sentence because Yang confessed and took steps

to return bribe money and assets to the state treasury, CCTV said.

State media did not mention the blasts. Yang could not immediately be reached for comment.

The company operating the chemical warehouse that blew up in August 2015, injuring hundreds, did not have the licence needed to handle and store dangerous materials for more than a year, state media said at the time.

Yang's agency, the State Administration of Work Safety, said on its website he signed a directive in 2012 allowing companies to function

without a licence to work with dangerous chemicals as long as they had a licence governing port operations.

Chinese president Xi Jinping vowed after the Tianjin blasts that the authorities should learn the lessons paid for in blood.

The explosions in the world's 10th-busiest port forced the evacuation of thousands of people from a large industrial site and nearby residential areas after toxic chemicals were detected in the air.

There were about 700 tons of deadly sodium cyanide in the warehouse at the time, the government said. —Reuters

China opposes US naval patrols in South China Sea



Sailors man the rails as the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier departs on deployment from Naval Station North Island in Coronado, California, US on 5 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING—China said on Tuesday it opposed action by other countries under the pretext of freedom of navigation that undermined its sovereignty, after a US aircraft carrier strike group began patrols in the contested South China Sea.

The US navy said the strike group, including the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier the USS Carl Vinson, began “routine operations” in the South China Sea on Saturday amid growing tension with China over control of the disputed waterway.

“China always respects the freedom of navigation and overflight all countries enjoy under international law,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a daily news briefing.

“But we are consistently opposed to relevant countries threatening and damaging the sovereignty and security of littoral countries under the flag of freedom of navigation and overflight,” Geng said in

China’s first official comment on the latest US patrol since it began.

“We hope relevant countries can do more to safeguard regional peace and stability,” he said.

The US carrier strike group has not referred to its recent operations in the South China Sea as “freedom of navigation” patrols.

US ships last year conducted several such patrols to counter any efforts to limit freedom of navigation in the strategic waters.

Friction between the United States and China over trade and territory under US President Donald Trump has increased concern that the South China Sea could become a flashpoint. China wrapped up its own naval exercises in the South China Sea on Friday. War games involving its own aircraft carrier have unnerved neighbours with which it has long-running territorial disputes.

Beijing last week warned Washington against

challenging its sovereignty in the South China Sea. It claims almost all of the resource-rich waters, through which about \$5 trillion worth of trade passes each year.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam also claim parts of the South China Sea that command strategic sea lanes and have rich fishing grounds, along with oil and gas deposits.

The United States has criticised China’s construction of man-made islands and build-up of military facilities in the sea, and expressed concern they could be used to restrict free movement.

Foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Tuesday expressed concern over what they see as militarisation in the South China Sea, Philippines Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay said after meeting with his ASEAN counterparts.—Reuters

China says N Korean coal ban shows its sincerity on UN resolutions

BEIJING—China’s suspension of imports of North Korean coal shows it is sincere about implementing UN Security Council resolutions punishing North Korea over its nuclear weapons and missile programmes, it said on Tuesday.

China’s Commerce Ministry said on Saturday it would ban coal imports until the end of this year. The ban came about a week after North Korea tested an intermediate-range ballistic missile in its first direct challenge to the international community since US President Donald Trump took office.

Trump’s administra-

tion has said China should do more to put pressure on North Korea. All members of the United Nations had a duty to carry out Security Council resolutions, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular press briefing.

“This move reflects China’s responsible attitude on the Korean nuclear issue and its sincerity in implementing UN Security Council resolutions,” Geng said, referring to the ban.

South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported last week that a shipment of North Korean coal worth about \$1 million was rejected at Wenzhou port on China’s eastern coast.

China announced in April last year that it would ban North Korean coal imports in order to comply with sanctions imposed by the United Nations and aimed at starving the country of funds for its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. But it made exceptions for deliveries intended for “the people’s wellbeing” and not connected to the nuclear or missile programmes.

Despite the restrictions, North Korea remained China’s fourth biggest supplier of coal last year, with non-lignite imports reaching 22.48 million tonnes, up 14.5 per cent compared with 2015.—Reuters

Candidate vying to lead Indonesian capital denies pandering to Islamists

JAKARTA—A former education minister in Muslim-majority Indonesia facing a run-off vote against a Christian to be Jakarta governor, on Tuesday denied pandering to Islamists to win support and said he could unite the capital after a divisive election.

Anies Baswedan is set to take on Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, Jakarta’s first Christian and ethnic Chinese governor, in a second-round vote on 19 April. Purnama got the most votes in a first round, on 15 February, but not by enough to avoid a run-off, unofficial counts show. Campaigning for the poll has been overshadowed by religious tensions, with protests led by hardline group Islamic Defenders Front (FPI) against Purnama, and calls for voters to choose a Muslim.

Photographs of Baswedan meeting FPI leader Habib Rizieq were widely published in media, leading his critics to accuse him of tarnishing his reputation as a moderate Muslim.

“I think there’s a framing that is not fair here,”



Former education minister and Jakarta governor candidate Anies Baswedan speaks during an interview at his home in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Baswedan said in an interview at his Jakarta home.

“If I met the Catholic community, am I then considered no longer a Muslim? If I met the Buddhist community, am I then considered no longer a Muslim?” He said the media was giving a distorted impression of his campaign, which included meetings with a range of religious groups.

“Often times, they only see one meeting, even though I’ve gone for dozens of other meetings,” Baswedan said, sitting with a

portrait of Sukarno, Indonesia’s founding father, hanging on a wall near him.

“I interact with all residents of Jakarta,” Baswedan, a respected academic who won a Fulbright scholarship to study in the United States, was picked by President Joko Widodo to be education minister, but was dropped from the cabinet in a reshuffle last year. Indonesia has the world’s largest Muslim population but is officially secular and home to minority Christian, Hindu, Buddhist and other communities. The post of Jakarta governor has been a stepping stone to higher office. Widodo was previously governor and Purnama was his deputy. The city vote is being widely seen as a proxy battle for the next presidential election, in 2019. Purnama has the support of Widodo’s ruling party while Baswedan has the backing of an influential former general, Prabowo Subianto, and his Gerindra Party. Subianto narrowly lost the last presidential election, in 2014, to Widodo.—Reuters

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

Who on earth is backing these criminal acts?

Khin Maung Oo

THESE days, news about crimes, seizures of illegal drugs and smuggling of contraband teak logs, hard woods and gems and jewels have occupied the pages of newspapers and journals, almost every day. To our great surprise and delight, we heard the news of contraband seizures, because in the past, such kinds of seizures turned out to be ownerless, and most of the cases vanished out of people's minds as time went by. Now, the situation has changed completely. People, especially conscientious youths and adults themselves stepped up to cooperate with authorities concerned, of their own accord in fighting against these unlawful deeds and activities of unscrupulous people. Loss of our country's natural resources can pose a great danger to the country. Due to the undisciplined cutting of trees and relentless mining of minerals, we are now suffering climate change which begets floods, landslides, deforestation, drought and global warming. If these problems go unchecked without any remedial measures,

the country will surely be in great danger in the near future, according to experts. By letting these ultra-opportunists mine minerals and extract logs without any regard for the interest of the public, the country is losing its revenues, which we can utilize for the development of our children's health and education.

In fact, the harmful effects of damages done to our natural environment can be minimized to a certain extent by taking proper corrective measures; whereas the increasing smuggling of drugs into the country will erode the intellects, strengths and abilities of our youths. If unsolved urgently, this threatening and frightening danger will swallow the future of our youths and our country. Drugs will consume our youth's energy and morals to such an extent that very soon these youths will become a liability to the country instead of our future hope. How will our future nation-builders devoid of capacities to lead a country manage the country to stand tall as a sovereign nation in the world? Now, the whole nation wants

to get rid of bitter experiences inherited from previous governments. We have chosen a good and clean government by a landslide victory in the 2015 general elections, being inspired by our desire to change where change is needed. For this we have energetic youths who are eager to build our country into a modern and developed nation. With their active and energetic contributions, we will surely be able to march towards our goal, on one condition that we need to change everything necessary to be changed—including laws, acts, rules and regulations so that any hindrances will not stand in our way.

Release of criminals under the general amnesty order by the previous regime led to increasing crime rates which begot theft, murder and rape cases. At present, seizures of drugs and contraband goods are heartening for us. The government is responsible for seeking out these criminals, to arrest them and giving them the punishment they deserve. We, the people, on the other hand should cooperate with

the authorities concerned conscientiously, in fighting against these criminal acts. It is natural for any society or community to have good people as well as bad ones.

Due to the concerted efforts of the Tatmadaw, the Police Force and the People, wrongdoers, law violators and criminals have been discovered and arrested and brought to justice. This is a good sign for us. Yet, it is a sorrowful thing that in some cases, some people in authority have been found to have gotten involved in some way, and this shows that there are still loopholes and weakness in our laws and in the Constitution.

Therefore, there are those who take advantage of these loopholes and weakness for their own benefit. What is worse, these people are backing the criminals and wrongdoers; these dangerous acts will surely destroy our future. Now is the time to amend any and all loopholes and weaknesses in our laws so that anyone who threatens our society can be promptly arrested, brought to justice and given the punishment they deserve.

World's major famines of the last 100 years

LONDON— The UN children's agency UNICEF said on Tuesday nearly 1.4 million children were at "imminent risk" of death in famines in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

Famine was formally declared on Monday in parts of South Sudan, which has been mired in civil war since 2013.

People are already starving to death in all four countries, and the World Food Programme says more than 20 million lives are at risk in the next six months.

The United Nations defines famine as when at least 20 percent of households in an area face extreme food shortages, acute malnutrition rates exceed 30 percent, and two or more people per 10,000 are dying per day.

Here are details about some of the major famines around the world in the last 100 years:

SOMALIA:

In 2011, Somalia suffered a famine that killed 260,000 people in south and central regions. The famine was declared in July, but most people had already died by May.

Years of drought, that have also affected Kenya and Ethiopia, have hit harvests and conflict has made it extremely difficult for agencies to operate and access communities in the south of the country.

UN declared Somali famine over in February 2012 following an exceptional harvest after good rains and food deliveries by aid agencies.

NORTH KOREA:

From 1995-1999 between 2.8 million and 3.5 million people died because of a combination of flooding and government policy in the reclusive state.

ETHIOPIA:

The Marxist policies of Mengistu Haile Mariam, which he began abandoning in 1990 with some economic reforms, left a

the World Food Programme says more than 20 million lives are at risk in the next six months

country ravaged by economic decline, famine and regional conflicts that consumed half the state budget.

In 1984-85, in the famine, up to one million Ethiopians starved

to death. For months in 1984, Mengistu denied the devastating famine in Ethiopia's north.

Aid workers later recalled he flew in planes loaded with whisky to celebrate the anniversary of his revolution, as hunger deepened.

Bob Geldof, after watching pictures of the famine, organised Live Aid in 1985 to try to alleviate the hunger. Watched by 1.5 billion people, it raised \$100 million for Africa's starving.

CAMBODIA:

Up to 2 million died of famine following a decade of conflict, first during the 1970-1975 civil war, then during the brutal Khmer Rouge era until 1978 and finally in the aftermath of the Vietnamese invasion that ended Khmer Rouge rule in 1979.

CHINA:

Between 10 and 30 million people died as a result of Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward in the

late 1950s.

His plan involved modernizing agriculture and increasing grain production however officials often exaggerated the size of harvests, and in many places the entire grain harvest was seized.

China's leaders appeared to have been unaware of the severity of the famine as from 1958 until 1961, China doubled its grain exports and cut imports of food.

SOVIET UNION:

Up to 8 million people died as a result of Josef Stalin's massive industrialisation programme in the Soviet Union in the early 1930s, during which the government seized grain for export. It needed the hard currency to buy industrial equipment.

When people in the Ukraine reported a famine, Stalin punished them by refusing to send them food aid.—Reuters

Union Farmer-Labour Force Party presents policy and programmes



U Min Thu, Chairman of Union Farmer-Labour Force Party.

U MIN THU, chairman of Union Farmer-Labour Force party presented the policy, attitudes and working procedure of their party on Radio & Television on 21 February 2017.

The text of his presentation is given below.

Highly respectable and beneficent farmers and all the working populace!

From today on, I wish you all to be blessed with health and happiness till many years to come.

I am U Min Thu, chairman of Union Farmer-Labour Force Party.

First of all, I want to thank our beneficent farmers for my existence as the chairman of the present UFLF Party and for having an access to actively take part in politics, by eating rice meal they had grown as sustenance. And, I sent my heart-felt greetings to President of the State, chairman of Union Election Commission and the Ministry of Information who granted to present meaning of our party's logo, policy and working procedure, all the staff of MRTV and all the voters.

We applied for the permission to found our UFLF Party on 29th April 2015, having the permission under party registration no/ 99 on 4th August 2015. The party's central executive committee is comprised of 3 lawyers and legal experts including genuine farmers and workers.

Our respected people and voters!

1/ Party's names and its meaning

Our party's name is Union Farmer-Labour Force Party.

We aim at building a disciplined multi-party democratic country and making Myanmar's farmers and workers known to the world with a great emphasis, by taking strength from cooperating hand in hand with successive governments for eternal peace and stability of farmers and workers living in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2/ Party's flag, symbol and its meaning

The image of a smiling and ebullient-faced farmer reaping paddy with a sickle in his hand in the green circle is drawn in the middle of a cogwheel and 14 same-sized and white-coloured stars with red coloured background.

(A) Red-coloured background represents red blood of farmers and workers and spirit of loyalty toward the country.

(B) 14 same-sized and white coloured stars represent 14 Regions and States and equality of all

national brethren, without discrimination.

(C) Cogwheel represents the working populace inside Myanmar.

(D) Green circle represents guarantee of building a peaceful, stable and modernized nation with the force of farmers and workers in the Union.

(E) The image of a smiling and ebullient-faced farmer represents the spirit of a good father who will always support his offspring without informing of hardships and sufferings, regardless of any risks of enemies.

(F) The style of reaping paddy with a sickle in his hand represents the party's commitment of sustainable effort to fulfill the need of food in the country.

(G) Hands of farmers holding sickles and hands of working populace represent the national spirit to defend the country hand in hand with the Tatmataw, when destructive elements outside the country harm the sovereignty of the State.

Flag and Logo of Union Farmer-Labour Force Party are the same.

Respected people and voters!

As regards policy and principles of the party,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a country made up of 135 races of national ethnics living in 14 Regions and States. Accordingly, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar belongs to all the nationals and it is the country has its own stance on equality, freedom, justice and solidarity. In building up peaceful, stable and modernized Union, the UFLF Party was founded with the aim of upgrading the country into mechanized farming system for the progress of social life of farmers and workers in rural areas in Myanmar, implementing the industrial development and developing the living standards of workers in urban areas.

Our party is named after the agricultural country and the country in which most of the farmers and workers reside. Hence, by combining all the nationals, farmers and workers, joining with consecutive governments to come, and looking forward to peace and stability of the Union, our party UFLF was founded aiming at giving equal rights to every citizen under article 21 (A), chapter 1 of 2008 constitution, and equality in legal rights under article 347, chapter 8 of the constitution.

Our respected voters!

As regards our party's policy on political affairs,

(A) Hands of farmers and workers serving 51 million people will stay alert to defend the country joining with Tatmataw provided that any destructive elements harm the sovereignty of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

(B) Our party will firmly hold its own stance that the Sovereignty of the State must go into the hands of the people as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a transparent and sovereign democracy-based State.

(C) For national reconciliation and for ceasing civil conflicts experienced since the time of gaining Independence of the State, our party will stand on its principles of defending national interest with the collective forces of national races, farmers and worker, without betraying nationalism, by negotiating peacefully, based on the vision of nationalism.

(D) Our party will firmly hold the principles that we must fulfill the needs of national races as the Union formed collectively by the Self-administrative States with equality of ethnic rights.

(E) In accord with the prescription that any transparent organization representing a social class can be set up, we will support and implement having an access

1/ to form organizations representing farmers,

2/ to form organizations representing workers,

3/ to form organizations representing national ethnic entrepreneurs,

4/ to form organizations representing women and youths, and

5/ to form Student Unions.

As regards our party's policy on legal affairs,

Legislation and promulgation play an important role for peace and stability of a country. Only if the principle that no one is above the law is accepted and practiced, will rule of law develop in the country.

For farmers, there must the law on applying the farming land, and confiscation of farming lands must be performed in accord with the law.

Promulgation of laws for workers to get wages and salaries they deserve and laws for workers who lose limbs on the job to get compensations or monetary support they deserve, and the emergence of Ministry of Labour Affairs that can take responsibility and accountability for workers in accord with the law.

As regards our party's policy on health,

Health is a major factor for the poor, farmers and workers, so we need a lot of medical staff. We are seeing rarity of medical staff in villages with poor conditions of communication and economy in these days. We will carry out medical affairs as a priority.

As regards our party's policy on economy,

Our country is an agriculture-based country, in which poor farmers and workers mostly live. For our country to stand tall in the



Party Logo.

midst of the world, we assume that our country will develop only if we can upgrade the economy of the grass-roots. Accordingly, we need to lay great stress on stability of rice market and commodity prices for the convenience of strong economy of farmers and workers. So, we will implement economic plans linking with national entrepreneurs and foreign investors.

Respected voters and people!

As regards our party's policy on education,

In making relations with world countries with keeping abreast with each other, education is the most important thing. So, standard of education in our country needs to be advanced. Especially, our rural areas need a lot of teaching staff. Education plays an important role in transforming manual farming into mechanized farming system for farmers. Only if our farmers are well-educated, can they acquire techniques and knowhow. Then, they will know how to systematically use agricultural machineries sold under the installment system by national co-operative syndicates and companies. If so, I want to say that it will be easy to gain the development of mechanized farming.

In the regions with poor economy and communication conditions, schools and teachers are rare. So, until now monthly paid teachers on the basis of daily wage are being employed. As they are not those trained at the educational colleges, the education of the country did not improve as desired. We will mainly solve these problems.

Our people and voters!

Our UFLF Party contested for 5 parliamentary seats in general election in 8th November, 2015 in five township constituencies—Waw, Bago, Daik U, Kawa and Thanatpin.

In the by-election to be held in 1st April 2017, I myself will contest for the Amyotha Hluttaw seat in constituency 4, Nyaunglaybin township of Bago Region to have a right to stand up for farmers and workers in the Hluttaw. I will put up motions and debate in the parliament, pointing out some weakness in land laws during the reigns of successive governments. Therefore, I emphatically apologize to our voters living in Nyaunglaybin, to cast votes for me, if you have a desire to save the lives of farmers and workers.

We will enthusiastically present our party's further plans to be done inside and outside Hluttaw, after the election. We will carry out these task:

1/ For our farmers who actually do farming to get timely agricultural loan disbursements,

2/ Managing to distribute pedigree paddy seeds to farmers,

and promulgating laws that guarantee the responsibility and accountability for the sale of pedigree seeds from entrepreneurs,

3/ Selling fertilizers at reasonable prices,

4/ Creating markets for produce of rice and crops to catch prices it deserves,

5/ Conducting trainings for transforming manual farming to mechanized farming,

6/ Making farmers get loans according to acreage farmers actually grow,

7/ Making genuine farmers get form 7, right to do farming and making authority issue form 7 to farmers,

8/ Building roads for transportation to sell agricultural produce in every village,

9/ Performing in consultation with the incumbent government not to confiscate farm land on which our beneficent farmers grow actually,

10/ Making farmers happy, by performing in consultation with the incumbent government and ministry of home affairs for giving backs confiscated farm land into hand of farmers and,

11/ For our farmers to be able to stand tall, by energetically performing the tasks in consultation with the incumbent government and respective ministries, concerning responsibility and accountability for opening cheap shops for the poor, farmers and workers and for workers from private companies to have rights fully.

Voters and respected people!

Our country is made up of simple and industrious farmers and workers. These farmers and workers of the State are like stars in the sky. Stars reflect light at night with the sunshine received from the sun. Only if the President of the State, State Counsellor and Speakers of 3 Hluttaws can perform the tasks with concerted effort, bearing Metta in their minds like the sunshine, can the poor, farmers and workers cast the light to the State.

Hence, our party places the image of a peasant, representing the peasantry and the image of a cogwheel representing all the working force on the flag. I hereby conclude my presentation by urging our farmers and workers not to jump down after thinking that it is too high, and to select Hluttaw representatives who will bravely discuss in the interest of farmers and workers inside the Hluttaws, by voting our candidates in coming by-election to be held in 1st April, 2017 so that they can have life and wish of similitude.

(Unofficial Translation)

Outspoken general named Trump's top security adviser



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with his new National Security Adviser Army Lt Gen HR McMaster after making the announcement at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida US on 20 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla./WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Monday named Lieutenant General Herbert Raymond McMaster as his new national security adviser, choosing a military officer known for speaking his mind and challenging his superiors.

McMaster is a highly regarded military tactician and strategic thinker, but his selection surprised some observers who wondered how the officer, whose Army career stalled at times for his questioning of authority, would deal with a White House that has not welcomed criticism.

"He is highly respected by everybody in the military and we're very honoured to have him," Trump told reporters in West Palm Beach where he spent the weekend. "He's a man of tremendous talent and tremendous experience."

One subject on which Trump and McMaster could soon differ is Russia. McMaster shares the consensus view among the US national security establishment that Russia is a threat and an antagonist to the United States, while the man whom McMaster is replacing, retired Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, appeared to view it more as a potential geopolitical partner.

Trump in the past has expressed a willingness to engage with Russia more than his predecessor, Barack Obama.

Flynn was fired as national security adviser on 13 February after reports emerged that he had misled Vice President Mike Pence about speaking to Russia's ambassador to the United States about US sanctions before Trump's inauguration.

The ouster, coming so early in Trump's administration, was another upset for a White House that has been hit by miscues, including the controversial rollout of a travel ban on people from seven Muslim-majority countries, since the Republican president took office on 20 January.

The national security adviser is an independent aide to the president and does not require confirmation by the US Senate. He has broad influence over foreign policy and attends National Security Council meetings along with the heads of the State Department, the Department of Defence and key security agencies.

Republican Senator John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a frequent Trump critic, praised McMaster as an "outstanding" choice.

"I give President Trump great credit for this decision," McCain said in a statement.

A former US ambassador to Russia under Obama, Michael McFaul, a Democrat, praised McMaster on Twitter as "terrific" and said McMaster "will not be afraid to question his boss."

McMaster, who flew back to the Washington area from Florida with Trump on Air Force One, will remain on active military duty, the White House said.

Trump also said Keith Kellogg, a retired US Army general who has been serving as the acting national security adviser, as chief of staff to the National Security Council. John Bolton, a former US ambassador to the United Nations, would be asked to serve the administration in another capacity, Trump said.

"He has a good number of ideas that I must tell you I agree

very much with," Trump said of Bolton, who served in Republican President George W Bush's administration.

Kellogg and Bolton were among those in contention as Trump spent the long Presidents Day weekend considering his options for replacing Flynn. His first choice, retired Vice Admiral Robert Harward, turned down the job last week.

McMaster, 54, is a West Point graduate known as "HR," with a PhD in US history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was listed as one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people in 2014, partly because of his willingness to buck the system.

A combat veteran, he gained renown in the first Gulf War — and was awarded a Silver Star — after he commanded a small troop of the US 2nd Armoured Cavalry Regiment that destroyed a much larger Iraqi Republican Guard force in 1991 in a place called 73 Easting, for its map coordinates, in what many consider the biggest tank battle since World War Two.

As one fellow officer put it, referring to Trump's inner circle of aides and speaking on condition of anonymity, the Trump White House "has its own Republican Guard, which may be harder for him to deal with than the Iraqis were." The Iraqi Republican Guard was the elite military force of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein. Trump relies on a tight, insular group of advisers, who at times appear to have competing political agendas. Senior adviser Steve Bannon has asserted his influence by taking a seat on the National Security Council.—Reuters

Notice to Contributors to The Global New Light of Myanmar

1. For stories and articles submitted to the Global New Light of Myanmar, remuneration for the works that are used in the daily paper are available one week after publication.
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 tognlaccountant2016@gmail.com or dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com or by calling

Ph: 01-8604529, 01-8604530

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vucic, Nikolic: Joint, comprehensive response to challenges

BELGRADE — Serbian President Tomislav Nikolic and PM Aleksandar Vucic agreed Monday the serious challenges facing Serbia required a joint, comprehensive response by the state leadership.

Nikolic and Vucic "today discussed the political and security situation in the country and the region. Unity of all state officials in solving regional problems, and averting a largest-scale crisis are priority tasks for both President Nikolic and PM Vucic," they said in a joint statement.—Tanjug

Kremlin: too early for Putin's statements on 2018 election

MOSCOW — Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday that Vladimir Putin had not announced yet whether he was going to seek a new presidential term in 2018 because it was too early.

"We have yet enough time before the election campaign," Peskov said.—Reuters

Nigeria's presidency says no cause for worry about Buhari

ABUJA — Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari said there was no cause to worry about his health but he had to stay longer on medical leave in Britain than planned, the presidency said on Tuesday.

"During his normal annual checkup, tests showed he needed a longer period of rest, necessitating the President staying longer than originally planned," the presidency said in a statement.

"President Buhari wishes to reassure Nigerians that there is no cause for worry," it said.—Reuters

Britain faces "very hefty" Brexit bill, years of talks — Juncker

BRUSSELS — Britain will need years to negotiate a future trade deal with the European Union after it quits the bloc and will be landed with a "very hefty bill" from Brussels on leaving, EU chief executive Jean-Claude Juncker said on Tuesday.

Noting that the Brexit talks expected to be launched next month would last two years before Britain withdraws from the bloc, Juncker said in a speech to the Belgian parliament: "To agree on the future architecture of relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union, we will need years."—Reuters

Bodies of 74 migrants found on west Libyan shore — Red Crescent

TRIPOLI — The bodies of 74 migrants have been found washed up on a beach near the western Libya city of Zawiya, a Red Crescent spokesman said on Tuesday.

Mohamed al-Misrati said the bodies had been recovered on Monday and that the migrants appeared to have died during the past two days. The migrants were all adults, mostly from sub-Saharan African countries, and all but three of them were men, Misrati said.—Reuters

Israeli soldier sentenced to 18 months in jail for killing wounded Palestinian attacker

TEL AVIV — A young Israeli soldier convicted of killing a Palestinian assailant lying wounded on the ground was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment on Tuesday, far less than prosecutors requested, in one of the most divisive cases in Israel's history.

The decision to court-martial Sergeant Elor Azaria, who shot the Palestinian after he had stabbed another soldier in the occupied West Bank last March, stirred controversy in Israel from the start, with opinion polls showing strong support for the army medic.

A military court last month found Azaria guilty of manslaughter, a crime that carries a top punishment of 20 years in jail.

With the 50th anniversary of Israel's wartime capture of the West Bank approaching, the trial has generated debate about whether the military, long seen as a melting pot for Israelis, was out of touch with a public that has shifted to the right in its attitudes towards the Palestinians.

The prosecution asked that Azaria be sentenced to three to five years behind bars, far below the maximum term, noting that he had shot a Palestinian who only minutes earlier had carried out an attack.

Passing an 18-month sentence that Israeli media commentators described as lenient, the court said that Azaria had not ex-



Israeli soldier Elor Azaria is embraced by his mother at the start of his sentencing hearing at a military court in Tel Aviv, Israel on 21 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

pressed regret for his crime but it noted that his army record had been unblemished up until the shooting and that his arrest had caused his family deep distress.

Palestinians had called for a life term. But there was little sign the sentencing would lead to any significant outbreak of violence by Palestinians. They have long accused Israel of using excessive force against lightly armed assailants and harbored few expectations soldiers would be held accountable.

It was not immediately clear if Azaria's lawyers, who had said after the verdict last month that they intended to appeal his conviction, would still proceed along that path.

Eleven months ago, Azaria, then 19, was serving in the town of Hebron when two Palestinians carried out the stabbing. Hebron has been a longtime flashpoint of violence, and the incident occurred during a wave of Palestinian street attacks on Israelis.

One of the two assailants was shot dead by troops. The other was shot and wounded. Eleven minutes later, as the wounded man, Abd Elfatah Ashareef, 21, lay on the ground incapacitated, Azaria shot him in the head with an assault rifle.

At the trial, Azaria said he believed the Palestinian, though motionless, still posed a danger because his knife was nearby,

and that he might have been carrying explosives. "He deserves to die," Azaria was quoted in the verdict as telling another soldier after pulling the trigger.

At the sentencing, Chief Judge Maya Heller said that Azaria "took upon himself to be both judge and executioner".

Surveys detected significant popular support for Azaria, and Netanyahu took the unusual step of calling the soldier's parents to express his sympathy after he was arrested. In one poll, nearly half of Israeli Jews said any Palestinian who carries out an attack should be killed on the spot.

Rallies for Azaria, some backed by rightist politicians and pop singers, gathered momentum as the trial progressed.

But members of Israel's military establishment argued that the shooting violated rules stating that soldiers can open fire only in life-threatening situations, and the three-judge panel rejected Azaria's argument.

"One cannot use this type of force, even if we're talking about an enemy's life," the court said in its verdict.

Video footage of the shooting, taken by a Palestinian human rights activist, showed the knife was not within Ashareef's reach, and no bomb was found.

The video was distributed to news organizations, ensuring that the incident drew international attention.—Reuters

Suicide bombers hit court in Pakistan, at least four killed: police

PESHAWAR (Pakistan) — Suicide bombers attacked a court complex in Pakistan on Tuesday, killing at least four people, officials said, in the latest incident in a new surge of Islamist violence.

A spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban's Jamaat-ur-Ahrar faction claimed responsibility for the attack in the northwestern town of Charsadda.

The district administration said at least four people were killed. A witness told Reuters he had seen "many" dead bodies at the scene.

A string of bombings in Pakistan over the past 10 days has killed more than 100 people.

Town resident Mohammad Shah Baz told Reuters he was inside the judicial complex when the suicide bombers stormed it.

"I escaped towards the canteen and climbed the wall to save my life. But there were many people dead and injured," he said.

District police chief Sohail Khalid said at least one of the attackers blew himself up and another opened fire at the main entrance of the court compound before they were shot and killed. Jamaat-ur-Ahrar spokesman Asad Mansoor claimed responsibility the attack in a message to journalists. He said fighting was still going on at the court.—Reuters

Gaddafi son's trial unfair, should be sent to ICC — UN

GENEVA — The trial of Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, a son of the ousted Libyan leader sentenced to death in absentia, did not meet international standards and he should face murder charges at the International Criminal Court (ICC), the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Since his father's toppling in 2011, Saif has been held in Zintan, a mountainous western region, by one of the factions that began contending for power after Gaddafi was killed.

He was sentenced to death in July 2015 by a Tripoli court

for war crimes, including killing protesters during the revolution. Zintani forces refused to hand him over, saying they did not trust Tripoli to guarantee he does not escape.

The UN report on the trial of 37 defendants including Saif cited serious violations of due process, such as prolonged incommunicado detention without access to families or lawyers, and allegations of torture that were not properly investigated.

The proceedings "fell short of international norms and standards for fair trial and also breached Lib-

yan law in some respects", it said. No prosecution witnesses were called to testify in court, undermining the defendants' ability to challenge evidence.

"This trial was a missed opportunity for justice," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a statement.

Saif, former intelligence chief Abdullah al-Senussi and former Prime Minister Al-Baghdadi a-Mahmoudi were among nine defendants sentenced to death by firing squad.

"The Libyan Government has been unable to secure the arrest and surrender of (Gaddafi), who remains in Zintan and is considered to be outside the control of the internationally-recognised Libyan authorities," the UN report said.

Libya's Court of Cassation is to review the procedures in the case but not the facts and evidence. "As such the review does not constitute a full appeal as required by international standards," the UN report said.

It called on Libyan authorities to ensure the surrender of Saif to

the Hague-based ICC, "in compliance with Libya's international obligations". The ICC does not allow the death penalty.

"The (ICC) Prosecutor continues to seek the surrender of (Gaddafi) to the Libyan authorities in order to proceed with his case," it said.

The report, by the UN human rights office and UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), urged Libyan authorities to reform the criminal justice system saying that the trial had highlighted "major flaws".—Reuters

Islamic State linked group expands foothold in southern Syria near Israel

AMMAN — Islamic State-linked Syrian militant groups on Monday launched a surprise attack on moderate rebels in southwestern Syria near the Golan Heights near where the Jordanian and Israeli borders converge, seizing several villages and a large town, rebels and witnesses said.

Rebels said the militants were able to extend their area of control in territory that forms a natural barrier between Syria and Israel where the Yarmouk River flows after they

overran the towns of Tseel, Sahem al Golan, Adwan and Tel Jamoua.

"In a surprise attack Islamic State made an attack on positions held by the Free Syrian Army FSA groups which no one expected to happen so fast," said Colonel Ismail Ayoub, a Syrian opposition army defector.

The militants launched a wide-scale dawn attack from their enclave where they are entrenched in the towns of Jamla, Ain Zakar Nafaa and al Shajra, deploying

dozens of armoured vehicles and several tanks to overrun nearby towns aided by sleeper cells among locals who helped the attackers, two rebel sources said.

The jihadists were later driven out of at least two villages — Jileen and Heet — after a counteroffensive by Southern Front groups, an alliance of FSA factions that coordinates operations from a joint command centre in Jordan, said Abu Yahya, a rebel official in the Jabhat Thwar Surya faction.

It includes groups that have received some support from foreign states including Gulf Arab governments.

The Sunni hardline militants are members of the so-called Khalid Ibn Al Walid Army, a grouping set up last year from a merger of two main militant jihadist factions who are believed to have pledged allegiance to Islamic State and now control the strip of territory southeast of the Golan Heights.

Jordanian army units stationed along the border were put in a state of heightened readiness, a Jordanian security source said, and residents in the area said sounds of mortars were heard clearly from the fighting across the border.

A rebel official told Reuters that several FSA rebel groups were expected to get fresh supplies of arms from Jordan in the next few weeks to beef up their defences against the ultra-hardline Sunni radicals.—Reuters



A man inspects the damage at a site hit by airstrikes in the rebel held besieged Douma neighbourhood of Damascus, Syria on 19 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Geneva talks to encompass Syrian transition process: UN

GENEVA—Syria peace talks due to start this week in Geneva are based on the broad mandate of a UN resolution that asks the UN mediator to hold talks on a “political transition process”, an official involved in the talks said on Tuesday.

Last week the United Nations appeared to back away from using the phrase “political transition”, which

is understood by the opposition to mean a removal of President Bashar al-Assad or at least an erosion of his powers.

Michael Contet, chief of staff of Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, told a regular UN briefing that de Mistura was putting the final touches to arrangements for the talks.

“The invitations as well

as the substantive agenda for the negotiations are all based on the wide scope of Security Council resolutions, in particular (UN Security Council Resolution) 2254, which is our main guidance in this process.

“The second operative paragraph of 2254 requests the special envoy to convene formal negotiations on the political transition process.”

cess.”

The talks would revolve around three sets of issues, which 2254 mandates de Mistura to mediate on: establishment of a credible, inclusive and non-sectarian governance; a process for drafting a new constitution; and free and fair elections under UN supervision.

Contet declined to take questions.—Reuters

Socialist French minister says may vote for centrist Macron

PARIS — Stephane Le Foll, the French Socialist government’s spokesman and its agriculture minister, said on Tuesday he backs his party’s official candidate Benoit Hamon but might vote for independent centrist Emmanuel Macron instead.

Hamon, elected as candidate in a Socialist party primary in January, is struggling to make an impact on the presidential election. He is pushing a more hard left programme that appears to be increasing divisions within the party.

Some left-wing voters also prefer independent leftist Jean-Luc Melenchon to him, and people on the right of the Socialist party are tempted by Macron, who is favourite to win the 7 May runoff according to opinion polls.

“I support the man who has been chosen (by the Socialists), but the moment comes when political responsibility with regard

to what is at play, with regard to (far-right National Front leader) Marine Le Pen and with regard also to the programme of (conservative) Francois Fillon,” Le Foll said on BFM TV.

Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, who is the number two in the cabinet rankings said on Sunday, he had also not decided which way he would vote.

“For Benoit Hamon, the conditions are not yet in place for him to get to the second round. As for Macron, I’m waiting for his programme,” Ayrault told Ouest-France newspaper.

Macron is due to unveil his economic programme this week.

Le Pen, Fillon and Macron are all vying for a place in the second round run-off that would decide who becomes president, while Hamon is in a distant fourth place. — Reuters

British heterosexual couple lose bid to have civil partnership instead of marriage

LONDON — A heterosexual British couple who object to what they call the patriarchal nature of marriage narrowly lost a court bid on Tuesday to be able to enter into a civil partnership after judges upheld a ruling that such unions were only eligible to those of the same sex.

Civil partnerships were introduced in Britain in 2004, giving gay couples similar legal rights to those

enjoyed by married heterosexuals.

Since 2014, same-sex marriage has also been legal in England, Wales and Scotland, meaning gay couples could choose to get married or enter into a civil partnership.

Rebecca Steinfeld, 35, and her partner Charles Keidan, 40, who have a child, said that meant the law discriminated against

heterosexuals like them who wanted a civil partnership rather than to be married.

The couple say they have deep-rooted and genuine ideological objections to marriage based upon what they consider to be its historically patriarchal nature.

Last January, London’s High Court rejected their claim saying the law specified that civil partnerships were only for people of the

same sex, and on Tuesday that ruling was upheld by the Court of Appeal.

The judges accepted there was a potential breach of the couple’s human rights but by a two-to-one majority said the government should be allowed more time to assess whether civil partnerships should be extended or perhaps even phased out.

“We lost so narrowly that there’s everything

to fight for,” Steinfeld told reporters outside the court. “All three of the judges agreed that we were being treated differently because of our sexual orientation and that this impacts are family and private life.”

Keidan said there were more than three million mixed-sex couple living together with two million dependent children.

“These couple lack

legal and financial security and I think many would agree that this isn’t right,” he said. “None of us should be denied recognition or protection because marriage isn’t right for us.”

He said they would challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court, the highest judicial body in Britain, unless the government indicated it would change the existing law.—Reuters

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (164)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (164) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

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MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV THUAN PHUOC VOY. NO (3)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THUAN PHUOC VOY. NO (3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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France’s Le Pen cancels meet with Lebanon grand mufti over headscarf

BEIRUT — French far-right National Front presidential candidate Marine Le Pen cancelled a meeting on Tuesday with Lebanon’s grand mufti, its top cleric for Sunni Muslims, after refusing to wear a headscarf for the encounter.

Le Pen, among the frontrunners for the presidency, is using a two-day visit to Lebanon to bolster her foreign policy credentials nine weeks from the 23 April first round, and may be partly targeting potential Franco-Lebanese votes.

Many Lebanese fled to France, Lebanon’s former colonial power, during their country’s 1975-1990 civil war and became French citizens.

After meeting Christian President Michel Aoun — her first public handshake

with a head of state — and Sunni Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri on Monday, she had been scheduled to meet the Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Latif Derian.

He heads the Dar al-Fatwa, the top religious authority for Sunni Muslims in the multireligious country.

“I met the grand mufti of Al-Azhar,” she told reporters, referring to a visit in 2015 to Cairo’s 1,000-year-old centre of Islamic learning. “The highest Sunni authority didn’t have this requirement, but it doesn’t matter.

“You can pass on my respects to the grand mufti, but I will not cover myself up,” she said.

The cleric’s press office said Le Pen’s aides had been informed beforehand that a headscarf was required for the meeting and had been “surprised by her refusal”.

But it was no surprise in the French political context. French law bans headscarves in the public service and for high school pupils,



Marine Le Pen, French National Front (FN) political party leader and candidate for the French 2017 presidential elections, meets with Cardinal Bechara Boutros Rai of Lebanon, the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and the Whole Levant, as French deputy Gilbert Collard listens, in Bkerke, north of Beirut, Lebanon on 21 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

in the United States and by Britain’s vote to leave the European Union, Le Pen’s anti-immigration, anti-EU National Front (FN) hopes for similar populist momentum in France.

Like Trump, she has said radical Islamism must be faced head on, although she has toned down her party’s rhetoric to attract more mainstream support and possibly even woo some Muslim voters disillusioned with France’s traditional parties. After meeting Hariri on Monday, Le Pen went against current French policy in Syria by describing President Bashar al-Assad as the “only viable solution” for preventing Islamic State from taking power in Syria.

Lebanon has some 1.5 million Syrian refugees.

“I explained clearly that ... Bashar al-Assad was obviously today a much more reassuring solution for France than Islamic State would be if it came to power in Syria,” she told reporters.

Hariri, whose family has close links to conservative former French President Jacques Chirac and still has a home in France, issued a strongly-worded statement after their meeting.

“The most serious error would be to link Islam and Muslims on the one hand and terrorism on the other,” Hariri said.

“The Lebanese and Arabs, like most of the world, considers that France is the home of human rights and the republican state makes no distinction between citizens on ethnic, religious or class grounds.” —Reuters

Five die as light plane crashes into mall in Australia

MELBOURNE — A pilot and four American passengers were killed on Tuesday when a small plane crashed in to the roof of a shopping mall after taking off from an airfield outside Melbourne, Australia’s second-largest city, police said.

The twin-turboprop Beechcraft King Air plane suffered an engine failure and crashed into the mall near the end of the runway at Essendon Airport, Victoria state police assistant commissioner Stephen Leane told reporters in Melbourne.

Witnesses told Australian Associated Press the plane exploded on impact.

“There were five people on the aeroplane and it looks like nobody’s survived the crash,” Leane said. The crash happened at around 9 am, about an hour before the mall was due to open and there were no fatalities other than those aboard the aircraft, he added.

“All five occupants were male — the pilot was Australian and the four passengers were from the United States of America,” Victoria police said in later statement.

Sky News showed burning wreckage strewn across the mall’s carpark and a thick column of black smoke rising from the crash site.

The plane had been bound for King Island in Bass Strait between the mainland and the southern island state of Tasmania and Australian newspapers reported that at least two of the men were traveling to play golf on the island’s famed links.

A spokeswoman for Airservices Australia said flights in and out of Melbourne’s main airport were unaffected. Essendon Airport, which is used mainly by light aircraft, remained closed. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau is investigating the crash.—Reuters

Passengers walk through JFK checkpoint without being screened — NBC

NEW YORK — Eleven passengers walked through a security checkpoint without being screened before apparently boarding planes at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York on Monday, national media reported.

The breaches occurred at about 6 am local time at a checkpoint lane that was not fully staffed, NBC News reported.

The passengers’ carry-on bags were screened and cleared by a security team with sniffer dogs, Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) sources told the broadcaster.

Three of the passengers set off metal detectors but were permitted to continue to their boarding gates without being body searched by staff, the broadcaster said.

US authorities beefed up security at airports in 2001 following the 9/11 attacks. A debate over whether it should be tightened further has been given impetus by a deadly shooting in January in a Florida airport baggage claim area, and attempts by President Donald Trump to clamp down on immigration from some Muslim-majority countries.

The Port Authority said three passengers were screened after they got off their flight when it landed in California.

It did not say if they were the people who had also set off the metal detectors, and gave no information about the identities or flight schedules of the other eight passengers.

The TSA said it was confident the incident presented “minimal risk to the aviation transportation system,” NBC News reported.

TSA and port authority officials were not immediately available for further comment.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY

MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE

(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)

(4 / 2017)

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(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- 1.2m³) (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
Ph . +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

Ex-teen idol David Cassidy says he has dementia

LOS ANGELES — Former teen idol David Cassidy said on Monday he was suffering from dementia, a day after weekend performances in California in which he forgot his words and appeared to fall off stage raised concern about his health.

The former Partridge Family singer and actor, 66, told People magazine he was fighting dementia, a disease which his mother also suffered from.

"I was in denial, but a part of me always knew this was coming," Cassidy told People.

Cassidy told the magazine he had decided to stop touring as a musician to concentrate on his health.

"I want to focus on what I am, who I am and how I've been, without any distractions," he said. "I want to love. I want to enjoy life."

Cassidy's publicist said his comments were accurate but gave no further details.

His comments followed videos taken by fans of the singer struggling to remember words to some of his old hits at small venue concerts in southern California on Saturday and Sunday. At one point, he appeared to fall off the side of a small stage before climbing back up. Cassidy, whose hits "Cherish" and "I Think I Love You" had teenage girls swooning in the 1970s, has struggled with drinking and financial troubles in



David Cassidy smiles for photographers outside the Phoenix theatre in London, Britain, October 23, 1995.

PHOTO: REUTERS

recent years. In 2015, he had to auction his Florida home after a bankruptcy filing. He was arrested three times for drunken driving between 2010 and 2014, and was ordered to rehab as part of his sentence in 2014.

Cassidy appeared in several stage shows after his career as a solo singer declined. He played an aging former teen heartthrob in the short-lived 2009 TV comedy "Ruby & the Rockits" and was a member of the "Celebrity Apprentice" reality TV show in 2011.—Reuters



Members of the cast of the NBC television series "Will and Grace" Debra Messing (L) Eric McCormack (C) and Megan Mullally (R) clown around on the bell balcony overlooking the main trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange shortly before ringing the closing bell for the session in New York, on 18 May, 2006. PHOTO: REUTERS

Megan Mullally teases 'Will & Grace' revival

LOS ANGELES — Mullally took to Twitter to share a new photo of the crew back together.

"Lunch," she captioned the pic of herself laying across the laps of Sean Hayes and Eric McCormack.

NBC announced last month that the Will & Grace revival was official a go, crediting the video

the cast filmed in September as the catalyst for the 10-episode reboot.

Creators Max Mutchnick and David Kohan will be returning as co-showrunners and executive producers, with legendary TV director James Burrows on board to direct and executive produce.—PTI

Selena Gomez hates being defined by boyfriends

LOS ANGELES — Singer-actress Selena Gomez is reportedly fed up of being defined by her boyfriends.

The "Hands To Myself" hitmaker, who is currently dating "Can't Feel My Face" singer The Weeknd, is doing all she can to separate herself from her boyfriend, reported TMZ.

The brunette beauty made a point of not attending the Grammy Awards with her boyfriend as she wants people to focus on her as an artist rather than have people worry about who she's dating.

And Gomez is also said to be pleading for her ex Justin Bieber — who she dated on and off for a number of years — to move on and stop criticising The Weeknd, according to sources.

Meanwhile, the 24-year-old singers relationship with The Weeknd — real name Abel Tesfaye — is going from strength to strength after she recently spent a whopping USD 30,000 on a birthday party for her boyfriend.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Lin-Manuel Miranda predicts Oscars will be political

LOS ANGELES — Just few days ahead of the 89th Academy Awards, actor-composer Lin-Manuel Miranda, who is nominated in the best original song category at the ceremony, says this year's Oscars will be a political affair.

Miranda, 37, has scored his first-ever Oscar nomination for his track "How Far I'll Go" from the film "Moana" and the actor has already anticipated the atmosphere of the star-studded ceremony as he says "this year it would be just as political as your social-media feeds", according to The Hollywood Reporter.

"It's a political time, so I imagine the Oscars will look exactly like your Twitter or Facebook feed. Why should we ignore for three hours what were talking about 24 hours a day?" he wrote in a guest column of the publication.

The "Hamilton" creator also wrote about his longtime love affair with the award show, offering a reasonable explanation for why he never wants to host Hollywood's biggest night.

"Hosting the Oscars is not a thing I would ever want to do. You always have to do this dance as a host: You're playing

to a billion people at home, and you're playing to anxious contestants in a room, and that's an insanely hard thing to divide. It's the most thankless task in the world.

Calling Oscars "larger-than-life thing", He further said watching the ceremony when he was a child was always a family thing.

He still remembers watching the Academy Awards in 1990, rooting for "The Little Mermaid" to win best song and best score, the first time he "felt like I had a horse in the race."—PTI

Attenborough, 90, to present BBC 'Blue Planet' sequel

LONDON — Britain's most revered TV naturalist David Attenborough, 90, is returning to present a sequel to "The Blue Planet" documentary series, 16 years after the original illuminated the depths of the world's oceans.

"Blue Planet II" will air later this year on the BBC, and follows the 2001 series which vividly depicted marine life from across the world and won two Emmys and two Baftas for its music and cinematography.

The BBC said the new series will feature phenomena such as methane volcanoes in the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean's so-called 'boiling sea', as well as footage from 1,000 metres under the Antarctic Ocean.



David Attenborough poses next to a portrait of himself by Bryan Organ to mark his 90th birthday at New Walk Museum and Art Gallery in Leicester, Britain, on 22 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I am truly thrilled to be joining this new exploration of the underwater worlds which cover most of our planet, yet are still its least known," Attenborough said.

The series follows his critically acclaimed series "Planet Earth II", which was broadcast in Britain last year. It was the

most watched natural history program for at least 15 years, the BBC said, and premiered in the US on Saturday.

Attenborough is also known for his work on the "Life" series of nine documentaries made over a 30-year period from 1979.—Reuters

Obituary

Al Haj Tun Aung (Chairman – Gensecon Myanmar Pte. Ltd.)
(Supervisor (Rtd.) – The Guardian Newspaper House)
(Aged 69 Years)

This is to inform all friends and relatives of far and near that Al Haj. U Tun Aung (a) Shahul Hameed residing at 156, Theinbyu Road, Botataung Tsp., Yangon, (son of Al Haj U Abbas and Al Haj Daw Mariam Bi), Son in Law of (Al Haj U Yassim and Al Hajah Daw Mi Mi Gyi – Principia B.S.C Collage), beloved husband of AL Hajah Daw Myit Myit Sein (Vice Chairman – GMPL), father of Ma Aye Aye Tun and Mg Soe Wunna (Diamond Group Construction) and also father of Al Haj Arkar Tun (Aywaratt Paper and Printing Inks Distribution) and beloved grandfather of Mg Soe Thurein Tun (Grade 1, B.E.H.S. (5) Botataung) and Ma Soe Yatti Tun, passed away this morning (21-02-2017) at 03:58 AM. Burial Rights have taken place at the Yeway Sunni Muslim Garden at 5:00 the same day today.

The Bereaved Family

Motherhood has changed me: Una Healy

LONDON — Singer Una Healy has said becoming a mother has definitely changed her life for the better.

The Saturdays singer, who has Aoife, four, and two-year-old Tadhg with her husband Ben Foden, is so thrilled to have two wonderful children and has revealed how much they have inspired her, reported Daily Star.

“It’s definitely changed my life for the better becoming a mum — the love I have for them and the excitement I have for everything they’re doing.

“They’ve inspired me in so many ways with my music and keep me wanting to do well in life to help support them and put food on the table,” Healy said.—PTI

“Final Fantasy” recognized as most prolific roll-playing game

TOKYO — Square Enix Co said Monday its video game series “Final Fantasy” has been recognized by Guinness World Records as being the role-playing game series with the largest number of titles. It won the title of “most prolific role-playing series” for having 87 titles in total as of last Wednesday, including works that were derived from the series and smart-phone games.

“Final Fantasy” was launched in 1987 with its first game sold to be played on Nintendo Co’s consoles for home use that were branded famicom in Japan.

Since then, the main characters in the series have grown up, undergoing various experiences such as battling enemies, and the series’ storylines and songs have become popular worldwide.

Up to now, 15 “Final Fantasy” compilations have been released. The series’ 14th compilation has also been recognized by Guinness World Records for “most original pieces of music in a video game (including expansions).” The certificates were awarded at a promotional event in Frankfurt, Germany, over the past weekend.—Kyodo News



Supplied photo shows the package design of the first title under the “Final Fantasy” video game series launched in 1987. Square Enix Co. said 20 February, 2017, the series has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the role-playing game series with the largest number of titles, totaling 87 as of 15 February. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Burberry turns to artist Henry Moore for latest London Fashion Week show

LONDON — British artist Henry Moore provided the inspiration for luxury label Burberry’s latest collection at London Fashion Week on Monday, with models strutting amid his sculptures in neutral designs influenced by his work.

At the British brand’s mixed menswear and womenswear catwalk show, Chief Creative Officer Christopher Bailey offered deconstructed knitwear, overhanging shirts and the fashion house’s trademark outerwear for both male and female wardrobes. There were ivory lace dresses for women, worn with knits or over ruffled white shirts with frills and striped tops. Rope detailing adorned sweatshirt-like jumpers. Bailey also presented one-shouldered short dresses, capes and loose indigo blue trousers. A pair of overalls in the same shade also made an appearance. Men’s shirts also had lace detailing while trousers were high-waisted. A selection of jackets and Burberry’s famed trench coats came in sculpted


shapes. “I have often played with his work, his influence through other collections,” Bailey told Reuters of Moore after the show. “But I never really got under the skin of his work and that’s what I wanted to do here, really understand his thought process.” Moore, who died in 1986, was known for his bronze sculptures, some of which were on display at the Burberry show venue. Except for a few printed designs seen on a dress and men’s shirts, the color palette was mainly a neutral white, ivory, gray and blue.

“(Moore) always wore indigo blue shirts and I had stripes in there — he always wore ... a striped butcher’s apron, so I wanted to get that in there, but also his monumental sculptures, they were all kind of the colors of the collection,” Bailey said. For the finale, Bailey, who like Moore comes from the English county of Yorkshire, sent out models in intricate shoulder pieces decorated in pearls, feathers, lace and other luxurious embellishments.—Reuters

Chinese New Year Concert held in Berlin



Photo taken on 20 February, 2017 shows the Chinese New Year Concert 2017 at Berlin Philharmonie in Berlin, capital of Germany. The Chinese New Year Concert 2017 performed by Guangdong National Orchestra of China kicked off on Monday. A series of cultural activities will be held to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Chinese-German diplomatic relations. PHOTO: XINHUA



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: Ngwe Saung Beach
07:47	Pm	Elephant Catching and Scaring Trip Mile Stone 26
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Tapestry - A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
08:45	Pm	Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant

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

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

(22-2-2017 07:00am ~ 23-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Jivitadana Hospital)
07:51	Am	Sagaing: Guitars
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Home Grown Treasure
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
09:39	Am	Myanmar Betels
09:54	Am	Paper Flower
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar
10:43	Am	Swan Hein Cave

Leicester complains to FA over crowd behaviour at Millwall

LONDON — Leicester City have complained to the Football Association (FA) about “abuse, provocation and intimidation” aimed at their players, staff and fans during Saturday’s FA Cup defeat by third-tier Millwall.

Millwall supporters ran onto the pitch after their team’s 1-0 victory over Premier League champions Leicester, and mounted police were forced to intervene to keep some fans away from Leicester’s supporters.

The BBC quoted a Leicester City spokesman as saying that while they had congratulated Millwall on their victory, the behaviour of their fans was unacceptable.

“Following receipt of numerous complaints relating to the constant abuse, provocation and intimidation of our players, staff and supporters ... we have registered our dissatisfaction with the FA,” he said. “We are awaiting their response.”

Millwall expressed disappointment that Leicester did not raise the issue on the day of the match.

“We have been made aware of these allegations today and are extremely disappointed that Leicester City, as is the professional protocol in such instances, did not raise them on the day of the game itself,” a spokesman for the League One club said.—Reuters

Wenger astonished by Sutton’s fight after FA Cup win



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger left Sutton United with a deeper respect for non-league football after watching his Premier League charges being pushed hard by their far less illustrious opponents in the FA Cup fifth round.

Arsenal ran out 2-0 winners at Sutton’s tiny Gander Green Lane ground on Monday, but Wenger was full of admiration for Sutton’s spirited display.

“I didn’t really enjoy tonight because we absolutely had to do the job and it is tricky,” Wenger told the media after goals from Lucas Perez and Theo Walcott ended Sutton’s dream Cup run.

“If we had come here in a relaxed mood we would have gone out tonight because they produced quality.”

Sutton are 17th in the National League, 105 places below Arsenal in the English football pyramid, and while Wenger enjoyed the romance

of the tiny club punching so far above their weight, he said he would never be able to manage at their level.

“It is basically division five, and they are 17th out of 24,” the Frenchman added. “I will never go down there to manage because it is too difficult.”

“I come from a club that is smaller than that so it reminds me of my childhood. The changing rooms for me were fantastic — the closer you are, the more united you are when you go out there.”

“They were organised and had a huge desire. If we were not mentally prepared we would not have gone through today.”

Arsenal have been drawn against non-league Lincoln City in the quarter-finals, a team that became the first minor league side to reach the FA Cup quarter-finals in 103 years when they beat the Premier League’s Burnley in the last round.—Reuters



Manchester United’s Wayne Rooney. PHOTO: REUTERS

Man United’s Rooney could miss League Cup final with muscle injury

LONDON — Manchester United skipper Wayne Rooney could miss Sunday’s League Cup final against Southampton at Wembley after manager Jose Mourinho revealed that the striker was still struggling with a muscle injury.

Rooney, United’s all-time top scorer, has not played since the start of February and missed Sunday’s FA Cup fifth-round win over Blackburn Rovers.

“I don’t know,” Mourinho

told reporters when asked if Rooney would be fit to face Southampton in the final.

Mourinho also ruled Rooney and defender Phil Jones out of United’s Europa League last-32 match at St Etienne on Wednesday. United have a 3-0 lead from the first leg of the tie.

“Rooney is injured. Jones is injured. I don’t think they will recover,” the manager added. “Rooney and Jones haven’t trained with the team yet so I

don’t think they will be there for Wednesday.”

United, who have won the League Cup four times before, beat Hull City 2-0 at Old Trafford before losing 2-1 away in the semi-final to progress to the final with a 3-2 aggregate score.

Southampton beat Liverpool 1-0 both home and away in the semis to book their first major Wembley final since losing to Nottingham Forest in the 1979 League Cup final.—Reuters

Isco ready to walk out on Real Madrid — reports

MADRID—Spain international Isco will look to leave Real Madrid in the summer after growing tired of a lack of first team opportunities with the European champions, Spanish media reported on Tuesday.

Spanish sports daily Marca reported that the midfielder, who cast doubt on his future at the club on Saturday, is unhappy with his role in the team this campaign, citing information coming from the player’s representatives.

Isco has started 11 of 21 games in La Liga and only one in

the Champions League.

Marca reported the 24-year-old was also unhappy with Real Madrid’s offer of an improved salary in negotiations to renew his contract and that he wants to move to the Premier League, with Manchester City his number one choice.

Isco scored a crucial goal in Real’s 3-1 at Osasuna on 11 February but was left out of the team in Wednesday’s 3-1 win over Napoli in Europe’s elite competition.

He is ranked 15th in the squad for the number of minutes played

this season and rarely starts when coach Zinedine Zidane has a full squad available.

The Spaniard, however, played a starring role in Saturday’s 2-0 victory over Espanyol on Saturday, setting up goalscorers Alvaro Morata and Gareth Bale, but after the game said he was uncertain whether he would remain at the club beyond the summer.

“I’m calm but I’m concerned about the number of minutes I am playing because the career of a player is very short,” he told BeIN sports.—Reuters

St Etienne say not obsessed by nemesis Ibrahimovic

SAINT-ETIENNE (France) — St Etienne are Zlatan Ibrahimovic’s preferred victim, but Les Verts refuse to obsess over the Manchester United striker ahead of their Europa League last-32 return leg on Wednesday.

No other team in Europe has been more haunted by Ibrahimovic, who has now scored three hat tricks against the French club, including one in the first leg that put United on the brink of qualification with a 3-0 win.

Ibrahimovic has scored 17 goals against St Etienne in 14 games.

“Ibrahimovic’s stats against us are outstanding, he is a great player,” St Etienne midfielder Romain Hamouma told a news conference on Tuesday. “However, we cannot be obsessed by just one player.”

St Etienne coach Christophe Galtier said United could inflict damage through any number of players.

“You can have an anti-Ibrahimovic plan or an anti-Paul-Pogba plan but with this team, danger can come from anywhere,” said Galtier.

St Etienne go into the match as underdogs, and Galtier said his team would need to seize their chances with the home fans behind them.

“We need a great start. We will have chances like in the first leg but this time we will have to convert them,” he said.—Reuters