

Practice harmony among one's deed, mind, season and food: President

U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, sent message to the 16th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference held today in Nay Pyi Taw.

PAGE 3

Local job creation essential for combat against human trafficking

PAGE 2

Myanmar exported over US\$ 7.2 billion worth of goods

PAGE 3

ANALYSIS

The devil is in the details

PAGE 8

STRATEGY AGAINST TRAGEDY

Mines Ministry considers three plans to prevent landslide casualties

IN an effort to prevent future deaths around jade mines, the Ministry of Mines is considering three strategies: banning jade mining in Lonkhin and Hpakant; imposing a curfew on the mine areas; or putting the at-risk areas under martial law in order to enforce the rule of law there.

In response to a question at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday over landslides of dumped soil causing casualties, using heavy machinery in jade mining and over-exploration of natural resources harming local people, Deputy Minister for Mines U Than Tun Aung said union ministries, the Kachin State government, the Tatmadaw and armed groups will cooperate in order to enforce the rule of law in the area. He said it is necessary to evict squatters and to systematically manage jade mining in Lonkhin and Hpakant in accordance with the by-laws of the Myanmar Gems Law.

The Ministry is also coordinating with the Myanmar Gems Entrepreneurs Association restrict the number of machinery and their capacity in each plot in the jade land.

According to the statistics of the Myanma Gems Enterprise up to 30 November, there are 1,872 backhoes and 3,327 dumpers in



Panoramic view of Hpakant in Kachin State. Photo: panoramio.com

total in Lonkhin and Hpakant.

Shortcomings in following safety regulations by both mining companies and migrant squatters pose challenges for local authorities in preventing future

landslides around jade mines in Kachin State, according to local authorities in Hpakant.

Since the deadly landslides last month, local authorities have conducted routine checks of the

at-risk areas, issuing an order to evict the squatters and erecting warning signboards.

The authorities blame both migrant workers and mining companies for not fully cooper-

ating with them by not moving from the at-risk areas and by dumping waste soil haphazardly.

There are currently around 200,000 squatters in Hpakant Township.—GNLM

Appeal will be made within the framework of law for Win Zaw Tun and Zaw Lin Effort will be exerted for relaxation of punishment in consideration of bilateral friendship

The following are the excerpts from interview with U Sein Oo, Director-General of consular affairs & legal affairs department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding handing down death sentence by a Thai Court to two Myanmar migrant workers for allegedly murdering two British tourists in Koh Tao Island:—

— officers from Myanmar embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, and the office of the military attaché and members of Myanmar Association in Thailand (MAT) visited on 5th October, 2014, the two Myanmar detainees and conducted a field trip to the scene of the incident to find out what was happening on ground;

— Myanmar chargé d'affaires a.i on 10th October, 2014 met with Mr Paul Bute, the second in charge of British mission in Thailand discussed this matter in order that they both could ensure justice, transparency and winning of public trust,

— Members of MAT and of Foundation of Education Development (FED) had, in coopera-

tion with two lawyers from Thai Barr Council, three witnesses freed before the trial on 14th October, 2014;

— Myanmar Ambassador to Thai on 29th October, 2014, met patron of Thai Barr Council and Thai National Human Rights Commission and discussed with them to ensure that the accused were not persecuted;

— The President and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services have invariably requested the Thai Prime Minister and leaders to ensure that the trial was conducted legally; besides, they both sent messages to review this case to ensure that there exist sound evidences;

— Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) had

also requested during his visit to Thailand on 24th September, 2014, Thai authorities to handle this case in order that the verdict could be passed within the framework of law;

— Speakers of both houses had sent messages to their respective counterparts to administer justice in trial.—Myanmar News Agency

Human rights commission defends migrant workers' right to appeal murder conviction

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) sent a message today to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand requesting the protection of the right of two Myanmar workers to appeal their death sentence for the murder of two British tourists in Koh Tao, Thailand.

In the message, U Win Mra, chairman of the MNHRC, said: "Since it is clear an appeal will be filed, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission would earnestly like

to request the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand to give its utmost cooperation during the appeal process to see that the two Myanmar workers are accorded the rights they are entitled to; that fair and equal justice be meted out to them by the Thai Court; that they are afforded equal protection of the law without any discrimination and the enjoyment of the right to life."

The full text of the message is available at www.mnhrc.org.mm.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union minister pays homage to candidate monks



Union Minister U Soe Win pays homage to monks sitting for Tipitakadhara Tipitakavida examination. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win paid homage to candidate monks of the written test of Tipitakadhara Tipitakavida examination held at

Mahapathana Cave in Yangon on Sunday.

The examination was held from 27 to 28 December. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Local job creation essential for combat against human trafficking



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko addresses meeting of Central Committee for Anti-Human Trafficking. PHOTO: MNA

THE number of human trafficking cases will decrease only when local job creation is speeded up, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Ko Ko said at a meeting of the Central Committee for Anti-human Trafficking on Monday.

In addition, it is necessary to develop tactics for safe migration while revealing causes of human trafficking, places where

human trafficking can take place and groups likely to be targeted by traffickers in addition to educative measures, the union minister added.

The union minister also said that Myanmar was able to reach agreements with nations like China, Thailand and Indonesia to combat human trafficking and rescued 789 people from traffickers in Indonesia.

In conclusion, the union minister reviewed the strong and weak points of human trafficking measures including those to prevent being source and transit countries for boat people.

Myanmar has been amending its anti-human trafficking law to be in accordance with the ASEAN Convention on Anti-Human Trafficking.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Japan and Myanmar girl scouts participate in camping training

THE opening of the third international camping training for Japan and Myanmar girl scouts was organized at No (2) BEHS in Sanchaung on Monday.

Chief of girl scouts of Japan Michiko Hanaoka said on the occasion that she encouraged Myanmar and Japan girl scouts to cooperate for the development of

scout activities.

Present on the occasion were senior scouts including Yangon Region Electric and Industry Minister U Nyan Tun Oo, Chairman of Myanmar Scout Federation Dr Tin Nyo, Chairman of Myanmar Girl Scout Federation Dr Daw Tin Hla Kyi and members of Japan girl scouts.

After the ceremony, member of Myanmar and Japan girl scouts exchanged gifts.

The camping training has been organized from 28 December until 31 December and a total of 91 Myanmar girl scouts and 43 members of Japan girl scouts are participating in the camping training.—*Ko Latt (MNA)*



Responsible personnel of coal-fired power plant project holds meeting with local people. PHOTO: WAI YAN LIN (IPRD)

Tachilek residents, energy company reach deal on development programmes

RESIDENTS of Tachilek have reached an agreement with a nearby coal-fired power station on regional development programmes, including agriculture, livestock breeding, education, health and transportation, according to locals and company officials.

The coal-fired power station is being constructed by Min Khit Thit Company and is located near Kyaukhlaingu Village, 14 miles away from Tachilek, Shan state. It will generate 22 megawatts of electricity starting

from December 2017.

The review team for the environmental impact assessment, company officials and local people met at the project site on 26 December 2015, and local people raised questions about the project to officials from the environmental conservation department, township development supporting committee and the company.

After the meeting, they visited the project site and viewed round construction tasks there.—*Wai Yan Lin (IPRD)*

Practice harmony among one's deed, mind, season and food: President

The following are the excerpts from the message sent by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the 16th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference

THE Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference has been held without fail since 2000 and this year marks the 16th anniversary. During the fifteen-year period, the old and the new generation traditional medicine practitioners have had a chance to share their experiences through the spirit of friendship and amity. I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all the representatives to the conference at such a time of holding the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference. I wish the representatives to this conference and all the traditional medicine practitioners, who are in harmony and friendship with the aspiration to raise the health standard of the people sharing experience with positive attitude, may hand down the good heritage of Myanmar traditional medicines to generations to come.

I strongly believe that at the conferences, the Ministry of Health, those from the management and treatment fields under the Traditional Medicine Department,

members of the Traditional Medical Council, representatives from Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Association, traditional medicine practitioners representatives from four corners of the country and representative professionals related to the traditional medicines would surely bring about the development of the Myanmar traditional medicine.

It is natural that some works can be carried out in a short period of time, but some need time to develop a sector in a society. The successive governments tried their utmost to uplift Myanmar traditional medicines which is the heritage handed down by the ancestors. Harmonious cooperation of the traditional medicine practitioners with the government plays an important role in promoting the quality and augmenting the prestige of Myanmar traditional medicines. It is sure that through this cooperation public health care can be enhanced.

Nowadays, the government, respecting the desires of the

people, and hand in hand with them is advocating reforms in the country. Delegates of the traditional medicine practitioners to this conference play an important role in providing health care to the public. The delegates, applying their professions, are to double their efforts for ensuring health and fitness of the people. Myanmar people relied on, are still relying on and will definitely be relying on traditional medicines in which they put their trusts because they are the ones who honour and adore their lineage and religion as precious heritages handed down by their ancestors. As Myanmar people attach great importance to the traditional medicine all the delegates to this conference are urged to join hands with the government in preserving and promoting the Myanmar traditional medicines.

Today, a firm foundation has been laid for Myanmar traditional medicines. University of Traditional Medicine was founded to nurture new generation indigenous medical prac-

tioners. Traditional Medical Council Law was promulgated thereby enabling the indigenous medicine practitioners to provide health care to the public systematically. Moreover, Traditional Medicine Law was enacted to produce and supply qualified indigenous medicines to the people. The Ministry of Health has spared no efforts to upgrade and extend traditional medicine hospitals and clinics. The Indigenous Medicine Practitioners' Association was established and the indigenous medical practitioners in unity are taking part in effort to serve the interests of the state and the people. Such firm foundations are proof of good opportunities for public health care service applying the traditional medicines.

Advanced medical technology in this age are reliable enough to diagnose various illnesses while the concept of practicing harmony among one's deed, his mind, the season and the food; and the concept of living and taking food in conformity

with hot and cold environment as prescribed in the *Utubawzana* Thingaha Treatise which are the essence of Myanmar traditional medicines are also reliable and they are the universal truth for longevity. Nowadays, not only the people of Myanmar but also the world populations turn their attention back to natural herbs and shrubs. Therefore, it can be said that the role of Myanmar traditional medicines produced with natural herbs and shrubs and Myanmar traditional medical science skillfully practiced by Myanmar traditional medical practitioners have been expanded more than ever.

Therefore, I wish all the delegates may exchange their views on health care for the entire people at the 16th Myanmar Traditional Medicine Practitioners' Conference, the get together of Myanmar traditional medicine practitioners.

On this auspicious occasion, I send this message wishing all the delegates and the entire Myanmar citizens health and happiness.

CATIC Beijing delegation calls on Union Industry Minister



Meeting between Union Minister U Maung Myint and Mr Wang Guangjun, Vice Chairman of CATIC Beijing Co Ltd. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Industry U Maung Myint received a Chinese delegation of CATIC Beijing Co Ltd.

At the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, the Union Minister and Mr Wang Guangjun, Vice

Chairman of CATIC Beijing Co Ltd, discussed opening of Automobile Mould & Die Manufacturing project and Truck Axle Manufacturing Project which are being implemented in Myanmar in cooperation

with the ministry.

The two sides also discussed matters on issuing Final Acceptance Certificate (FAC) to the company when manufacturing of 14 items meet with success.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar exports over US\$7.2 billion worth of goods until November

MYANMAR shows US\$ 3.713 billion trade deficit during the period from April to November in 2015 of 2015-16 fy.

Myanmar exported over US\$ 7.2 billion worth of goods and imported 10.9 billion worth of goods during the period, ac-

ording to the statistics provided by the Central Statistics Organization of the union government.—*GNLM*

Bill signed into Law

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office announced yesterday that the President signed the following bill into law—
The Bill Amending the Multiple Modes of Transportation Law.—
Myanmar News Agency

Winners announced for 68th Independence Day photo contest

THE Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information has announced the winners of its photography contest held in commemoration of Myanmar's 68th Anniversary Independence Day. The winners received prizes.

Kyaw Bo Bo Han won the first prize, while Zayar Lin stood second and Myo Min Kywe (Shwetaunggya) took third in the contest.

Consolation prizes were given to Pyi Soe tun (Paji), U Myint Hsan, Htay Lwin (Amarapura) and Zayar Lin.

The prizes were presented to the winners in the presence of Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Thein.

The first prize amounts to K500,000, the second K350,000, third to K200,000. Each consolation prize amounts to K100,000.—*Yi Yi Myint*



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Thein presents prize to a winner of photography contest held in commemoration of Myanmar's 68th Anniversary Independence Day. PHOTO: MNA

India deal unlikely to secure Toshiba's lofty nuclear plans

TOKYO — Japan's Toshiba Corp may need to curb its ambitions in nuclear power even as it looks set to win a deal in India, battling both competition from emerging market rivals and the impact of its own deteriorating finances, industry experts said.

A senior Indian government official told Reuters earlier this month that the country expects to seal a contract with Toshiba's US nuclear unit Westinghouse to build six nuclear reactors in the first half of next year.

The deal, estimated to be worth as much as \$2 billion per reactor, is a blessing for Toshiba as the laptop-to-nuclear conglomerate overhauls its loss-making consumer electronics division in the wake of a \$1.3 billion book-keeping scandal.

Yet industry experts say it is far from securing its goal of building 64 reactors over the next 15 years — an ambitious plan announced in November and even more bullish than its outlook before the 2011 Fukushima disaster that spurred a nuclear phase-out

among developed nations such as Germany.

Moreover, they say Russia and China are beefing up efforts to export their own reactors with lower prices.

In 2013, Toshiba lost to Russia's Rosatom in supplying Finland's Fennovoima power plant project, and analysts say there's little assurance Toshiba will beat out cheaper manufacturers vying for contracts in emerging countries such as China, India and Turkey.

"I expect Russia and China to eventually dominate the nuclear market," Hideo Kubota, nuclear expert at Japan's Tepia Research Institute, said.

"Their reactors are significantly price competitive," he noted.

Toshiba's deteriorating capital base, laid bare in recent financial reports after years of exaggerated profits, also means the company lacks the financial flexibility often required of nuclear reactor suppliers.

Reuters reported earlier this

month that Toshiba was asking Japanese financial institutions to help fund the NuGen UK nuclear project in northwest England.

The scandal has made it more difficult for Toshiba to take on its planned share of the building costs by itself, the sources said.

Moody's also recently downgraded the company's debt rating to junk status, and the Tokyo Stock Exchange has placed Toshiba stocks in a special "watch" category to see whether it can improve internal controls. Both moves make it difficult for the company to raise funding through debt or new shares.

That also leaves Toshiba at a disadvantage to rivals such as Hitachi Ltd. An executive at Hitachi, declining to be named because he was commenting on a competitor, said massive costs for reactors meant suppliers were increasingly expected to submit funding proposals along with bids for reactor projects.

"Nowadays, nuclear projects must be accompanied by financ-



A man walks past a Toshiba Corp logo displayed on one of its television sets in Tokyo, Japan. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing plans," the executive said.

Yet Toshiba insiders are upbeat, saying they expect it to take time for rivals such as Chinese manufacturers to catch up with Westinghouse's quality standards.

Toshiba Chief Executive Masashi Muromachi has so far refused to back down on the company's ambitious plans in the nu-

clear industry, saying a push for cleaner energy gave the business plenty of room to grow.

"We expect to see considerable demand for new plants globally as part of an effort to address global warming," he told reporters last week. "If we can maintain our competitiveness, we are confident that our nuclear business will grow big." —Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer -

Nakagawa Kiyoshi
gnlmdaily@gmail.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
khinmaungaye@hotmail.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com

Chief Reporter

Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,

Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg
jgold.news@gmail.com

Alec Wilmot
alec.wilmot.gnlm@gmail.com

Editors

Ye Htut Tin
mryehtuttin@gmail.com
Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,

Myint Win Thein
journalist.sss@gmail.com

International news

Tun Tun Naing
tunyunaing@gmail.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin
juniorlwin25@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw
tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com

Translators

Ma Than Htay,
Hay Mar Tin Win
haymarfat@gmail.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Computer Team

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
Circulation & Advertising
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532
Ads and subscription enquiries:
adv.gnlm@gmail.com

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

Japan picks high schooler's design for 2016 G-7 summit logo



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and high school student Shiho Utsumiya from Oita Prefecture pose for photos at Abe's office in Tokyo on 28 December. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — The Japanese government yesterday selected a high school student's design as the official logo for the Group of Seven summit that will be held in Japan next May.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has chosen the design by Shiho Utsumiya, 18, from the six finalists shortlisted by a selection committee after 7,084 entries were submitted by elementary, junior high and senior high school students across Japan.

"Her design expresses Japan's beautiful nature in a

well-balanced and simple manner," Abe said, referring to the work by the student of Tsurusaki Technical High School in Oita Prefecture, during a ceremony to announce the selection at the prime minister's office.

The logo will be used at the Ise-Shima summit in Mie Prefecture, central Japan, and ministerial gatherings to be held at 10 other locations in Japan during 2016.

The design — seven cherry blossom petals surrounding a red circle on a blue crescent-shaped pattern — depicts the G-7 nations,

Japan's national flag and the sea in the Ise-Shima area.

"I made this logo in hopes of a successful summit and world peace. It's an honor to see my design has been selected," Utsumiya told reporters after the ceremony.

Abe awarded Utsumiya's work the top prize, along with excellence awards for the five other shortlisted designs selected by the panel chaired by creative director Kashiwa Sato. The G-7 groups Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. — Kyodo News

Bangladesh security unit kills 2 militants in raid on hideout

DHAKA — A Bangladesh anti-terrorist force killed two members of a banned Islamist group yesterday, a force spokesman said, the latest clash in an intensified hunt for militants behind a spate of violence.

Muslim-majority Bangladesh faces a growing threat of militant violence with a string of incidents this year including the killing of several liberal activists and attacks on minority Shi'ite Muslims, Christian priest and Hindu temples.

Members of the anti-terrorist unit raided an abandoned house on the outskirts of Dhaka in the early hours and killed two members of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen militant group hiding there after they threw bombs, the force spokesman said.

"Our personnel had to retaliate by firing," spokesman Mufti Mahmud Khan told reporters.

A large amount of bomb-making material was found along with a pistol and some bullets, he said. The militant group is believed to be behind a series of recent attacks, including bombings of a Shi'ite shrine and the shooting of three foreigners, two of whom have died. — Reuters

Japan, S Korea reach deal to resolve 'comfort women' row

SEOUL — Japan and South Korea reached an agreement yesterday to resolve the issue of women who were forced to work in Japan's wartime military brothels.

The two Asian neighbours struck the deal to end their protracted dispute regarding so-called "comfort women" following talks between Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his South Korean counterpart Yun Byung Se in Seoul.

As a way to resolve the row, Japan and South Korea agreed to set up a new fund amounting to some 1 billion yen (\$8.3 million) for the women, with the money coming from the Japanese government's budget, Kishida said at a joint press conference.

"On the premise that the steps (agreed on) will be implemented steadily, our governments will confirm that the comfort women issue will be settled in a final and irreversible manner," Kishida said.

Yun also said Seoul will confirm the issue's settlement as long as Japan sticks to the agreement.

Kishida said that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will extend a sincere apology and

express remorse to the comfort women. He said the Japanese government recognizes its responsibility over the issue.

The deal is hoped to remove what South Korean President Park Geun-hye has described as "the biggest obstacle to efforts to improve bilateral relations" in the final days of 2015, which marks the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties.

The two governments have been in talks on the form and size of the envisaged fund, with Tokyo initially offering to provide about 100 million yen but Seoul calling for a Japanese contribution of more than 1 billion yen, according to sources familiar with bilateral relations.

South Korea will work toward removing a statue of a girl symbolizing the victims located in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, Yun said.

The meeting came as the United States has stepped up calls on Japan and South Korea, its key Asian allies, to mend ties in the face of an increasingly assertive China and nuclear-armed North Korea.

To make the prospective deal irreversible, Tokyo and Seoul are

considering confirming it in a joint statement that Abe and Park would issue in their next talks, possibly in the United States, according to the sources.

South Korea has demanded that Japan make an official apology and offer reparations with a recognition of legal responsibility.

But Japan has maintained that the issue was legally settled under a 1965 basic treaty with South Korea and an attached agreement, which states the issue of property and claim rights between the two countries "is settled completely and finally."

The Korean Peninsula was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

Given its position, Japan has no plans to acknowledge its legal responsibility and pay reparations or government compensation. Instead, it advocates the government-backed fund from a humanitarian perspective, the sources said.

The fund would effectively expand a Japanese government-run follow-up programme to the now-defunct Asian Women's Fund, a pool of private donations set up at Tokyo's initiative



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) and his South Korean counterpart Yun Byung Se shake hands in Seoul on 28 December. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

in 1995 and run through 2007.

In the fiscal 2015 budget, the government allocated 15 million yen for the programme, in which periodic visits are made to recipients' homes and medical and other welfare assistance is provided.

Citing the gap between the positions of Japan and South Korea, experts predict the name of the fund will be a contentious issue as well, with Tokyo favouring "atonement" over "compensation" sought by Seoul.

"An act by a government using the state budget can be interpreted as an act accompanied by legal responsibility," Lee Won Deok, director of the Institute of Japanese Studies at Kookmin University in Seoul, was quoted as saying in the weekend edition

of the *Korea Joongang Daily*.

"If the money is not clearly labeled reparations, the Japanese government can explain to rightists in the country that it was providing humanitarian assistance to the victims because there was a shortcoming after the 1965 settlement," Lee said. "A gray area can be created to allow Seoul and Tokyo to interpret the measure the way each needs."

In their first summit meeting on 2 November, Abe and Park instructed their respective governments to speed up negotiations for addressing the comfort women issue. Park has said her government wants to resolve the issue by the end of this year, demanding that it be solved "in a way that our people can accept."—*Kyodo News*

Pakistan army chief visits Kabul as peace diplomacy builds

KABUL — The powerful head of Pakistan's army, General Raheel Sharif, met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Sunday, the latest in a series of encounters between officials to prepare the way for new peace talks with the Taliban.

Officials and politicians from Pakistan, Afghanistan and India have met in recent months in what are seen as cautious moves towards easing long-standing tensions between Islamabad, New Delhi and Kabul.

Ghani's office said the talks on Sunday had focussed on security, joint efforts to tackle terrorism and the resumption of peace talks with moderate elements of the Taliban after nearly 15 years of war.

"Both sides have agreed to continue the peace process with groups of Taliban that are ready for negotiation and reconciliation and to act against those groups that resort to terrorist actions and violence," his office said in a statement.

The two sides agreed to coordinate counter-terrorism oper-

ations and work to prevent the mountainous frontier regions of their respective territories, where government authority is weak, being used as a base for cross-border insurgents.

Sharif's visit to Kabul followed two meetings between Ghani and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in recent weeks that set the stage for efforts to restart Pakistan-brokered peace talks with the Taliban.

Officials have said talks could begin as soon as next month.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise visit last week to the Pakistani city of Lahore on his way back from Afghanistan, where he opened a new Indian-financed parliament building and delivered three Russian-made military helicopters.

General Raheel Sharif, whose influence on Pakistani policy extends well beyond the normal remit of an army commander, was in Washington last month where President Barack Obama and officials pushed

hard for a return to talks with the Taliban.

Pakistan is viewed with deep suspicion by many in Afghanistan, who say Islamabad has sponsored the Taliban insurgency with the aim of destabilising its northern neighbour and extending its own influence.

For its part, Pakistan, where many Taliban leaders are believed to be living, denies the accusation and says it is also a victim of militancy. Earlier this month, it marked the first anniversary of an attack on a school in Peshawar in which Taliban gunmen killed 134 students.

Peace talks with the Taliban broke down in July when it emerged that the Taliban's leader Mullah Mohammad Omar had been dead for more than two years and his death had been covered up.

Prospects for more talks have been complicated by the bloody factional fighting within the Islamist insurgent movement in the wake of Omar's death. It has so far said it will not join talks while foreign forces remain in Afghanistan.—*Reuters*

Taiwan's National Palace Museum opens southern branch

CHIAYI — Taiwan's world-famous National Palace Museum opened its first branch yesterday in the island's southwestern county.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the branch, which will operate on a trial basis, President Ma Ying-jeou said he was "appreciative" and "touched" that the project had finally been completed after 15 years of hard work.

As this year marks the 90th anniversary of the museum, Ma said the opening of its new branch in Chiayi County is "the best birthday present" that "came at the right time."

He said that while construction projects can make a city big, culture can make a city great. "The same principle also applies to the country."

Museum director Fung Ming-chu said it took two presidents and five museum directors, including herself, to complete the 15-year project.

Fung thanked the Shenyang Palace Museum in China and the Museum of Oriental Ceramics in Osaka for agreeing to lend artifacts to the branch to celebrate

the special occasion.

The Osaka museum in Japan will lend more than 300 ceramic objects for two exhibitions from December through the end of 2017 and 2018, respectively.

They consist of 175 Korean celadon objects and 161 Imari-style porcelain wares from Arita, the cradle of porcelain manufacturing in southwestern Japan.

Apart from the two loan exhibitions from Japan, the museum will also host eight other exhibitions to celebrate the opening.

While the National Palace Museum in Taipei features a large collection of the finest Chinese antiquities collected by various Chinese emperors over the course of a millennium, its southern branch, the Asian Art and Culture Museum, will focus on Asian arts and culture, including those of Taiwan and China. To attract domestic and international visitors to the remote area, which is a 90-minute journey by high-speed train, or three hours by car, from Taipei, the museum will exhibit two of its most popular items at the branch when it opens to the public.—*Kyodo News*

The transformation to a more sustainable and just world begins now

By Mogens Lykketoft, President of the UN General Assembly

Ask anyone for their abiding memory of 2015 and they will most likely recall a negative one.

Some will recall the horrifying stories of death and destruction caused by conflicts around the world, most notably in Syria where over 250,000 people have lost their lives and almost 11 million people have been displaced.

Others will recall a sense of grief, fear and anger after violent extremists attacked, tortured, kidnapped and executed innocent civilians around the world. Others still might recall a simple but disturbing fact they heard in passing – that 2015 was the hottest year on record or that over 15,000 children continue to die annually, mostly from preventable diseases.

Yet, despite all of this, 2015 was also a year of progress and breakthroughs.

2015 was the year, for instance, when health workers and public officials supported by the international community brought an end to the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. It was the year when the UN Millennium Development Goals expired, having helped to reduce the number of people living in extreme poverty globally by over 50%. And it was the year when talks not tanks led to improvements in Cuba/US relations, an Iranian nuclear deal, a breakthrough in peace-talks in Colombia, transition in the Central African Republic.

And most recently, a roadmap on resolving the Syria conflict was agreed on in the Security Council; the hope is that finally we can begin to contain this horrible humanitarian disaster.

Each of these is a great achievement in its own right. But it was the adoption, by more than 193 members of the United Nations, of three major international agreements that gives me greatest hope for the future.

In September, world leaders descended on New York to embrace a new compact for people and planet anchored in 17 Sustainable Development Goals known as the SDGs. In Addis Ababa, just two months earlier, those same leaders committed to a new global framework on finance, capacity building, technology, trade, debt and other issues to support the reali-

zation of these goals.

And in Paris earlier this month, after years of disappointment, they overcame divisions and agreed on how to avert catastrophic climate change while advancing human progress.

Through these agreements, governments everywhere have committed to advance three critical transformations in our world. First, they committed to address the root causes of poverty and hunger and to advance human development and gender equality everywhere. Second, they agreed to promote shared prosperity while transitioning to a low-carbon climate-resilient economy and protecting our natural environment. And, third, they agreed to improve governance at all levels so as to bring about more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

2016 — from commitments to action

Sceptics will of course question both the ability and commitment of governments to translate these agreements into real change. But not only do I believe that we can succeed, I truly believe that we will succeed. Let me explain why.

After 50 years in politics, I have never seen negotiations that were more deliberative or more inclusive than those that gave rise to these agreements. The result is that these agreements have real political buy-in at the highest possible level. They have also helped create a global movement for positive change, involving civil society, young people, private companies and more, that will be with us every step of the way over the next fifteen years. And from the Millennium Development Goals to reduction in the price of renewables, many governments and many companies are demonstrating that the change we need is not only possible but already happening.

In 2016, however, we must build on this momentum and secure early implementation. To do so, we need action from all actors. As President of the United Nations General Assembly, this is my top priority.

Governments, for example, must identify and plan for the changes they need to undertake to reach these new Goals. They must invest in essential services so that all people can fulfil their potential. They must create an enabling legal and policy framework that encourages

more responsible consumption and increased investment in sustainable infrastructure.

And they must advance more transparent and inclusive governance so that everyone pays their fair share, people live in freedom and security; and societies become more cohesive and more equal.

At the international level, we need a United Nations system that is ready to give countries the support they need. We also need to ensure that exclusive economic decision making forums, such as the World Bank and IMF, the G20 etc, become more aligned with this new Agenda.

In the area of peace and security, we need changes at the UN so that we can become better at preventing conflicts and protecting human rights, before it is too late.

The Sustainable Development Goals also demand action from the private sector. They must align their corporate activities with the essence of the new Goals.

They can turn their innovation towards finding SDG solutions and partner with governments and other key actors to support and finance implementation.

This includes the global finance industry which must now embrace the shift. Governments must ensure a framework of regulation and taxation for the private sector that makes it obvious that green investment is not just the best for the environment and the future of mankind, but the best for business too.

Finally, change will not happen without action and pressure from civil society and ordinary people everywhere. Non-governmental organizations need to hold governments to account for the commitments they have made in 2015. Philanthropic foundations need to support causes that are aligned with the SDGs and work more effectively with governments and other actors. And ordinary citizens, young people and others can use the incredible explosion in information technology in recent years to become key drivers of implementation.

If 2015 was a year of incredible breakthroughs, then 2016 must mark the moment when all of us begin to deliver, when we begin to make the transformation needed to a more sustainable and just world.

Families demand Chicago police, mayor explain shooting deaths



Janet Cooksey, mother of Quintonio Legrier, (C) is consoled by relatives and friends, after speaking to the media in Chicago, Illinois, on 27 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

CHICAGO — The families of two black Chicagoans killed by police accused officers on Sunday of having used excessive force and Mayor Rahm Emanuel of having failed them, piling pressure on a city facing a US federal probe over possible racial bias in policing.

Police shot Quintonio LeGrier, 19, a male college student who was visiting his father, and Bettie Jones, a 55-year-old mother of five, on Saturday.

Family members said police were called after LeGrier threatened his father with a metal baseball bat. Jones, who lived in a first-floor apartment, was shot through the door, said her cousin Evelyn Glover.

Police said LeGrier was being combative. They said Jones was killed by accident and extended condolences.

“This needs to stop. No mother should have to bury her child,” Janet Cooksey, LeGrier’s mother, told a news conference in front of the home. She said her son was shot seven times. She previously told reporters her son suffered from mental illness.

Several people who spoke wore T-shirts reading, “Rahm Failed Us.” Family members demanded to know why police used lethal force.

High-profile killings of black men by police officers since mid-2014 have triggered waves of pro-

test — including in Chicago, the country’s third-largest city — and fueled a civil rights movement under the name Black Lives Matter.

After the news conference, about 100 people including neighbors and religious leaders held a vigil in neighbourhood streets, with many saying they did not trust the police to be truthful about what happened.

“We are under siege here in Chicago,” Ira Acree, pastor of the Greater St John Bible Church, said at the vigil. “Trigger-happy cops are still engaged in senseless murders of people of colour.”

A Chicago police video of the fatal shooting of another black teenager sparked protests last month, with activists demanding the resignation of Mayor Emanuel, a former chief of staff to President Barack Obama.

A federal investigation is under way over the department’s use of deadly force and officer discipline. LeGrier, a sophomore at Northern Illinois University, was home for Christmas. His father is the landlord of the two-story wooden frame building where the shooting occurred.

Police said an unspecified weapon was recovered and no officers were hurt. They did not say whether there was a video of the incident, provided no information on officers involved, and said the department was unlikely to say any more on Sunday.—Reuters

One killed, 13 wounded in Kabul suicide attack

KABUL — A suicide bomber killed at least one person and wounded 13 in an attack on a road near Kabul airport, officials in the Afghan capital said yesterday, barely two weeks after a major Taliban assault in the city.

A police officer at the scene said the suicide bomber walked up to a white pickup truck and detonated explosives he was

wearing. A minibus was also destroyed by the explosion, which shattered the windows of nearby shops.

The head of Kabul police, Abdul Rahman Rahimi, said one person had been killed and 13 wounded, including three women. He said the aim of the attack in an overwhelmingly civilian area was to create fear among Afghans.—Reuters

Germany plans spot drug tests on pilots after Germanwings crash

BERLIN — Germany plans legislation requiring random drug and alcohol testing of pilots, hoping to reduce the risk of a repeat of the Germanwings crash in March, Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt was quoted as saying on Sunday.

The plans follow the recommendation of a task-force set up by the Transport Ministry, after a pilot barricaded himself inside the cockpit of a plane operated by the Lufthansa unit and crashed it in the Alps, killing all 150 people on board.

Prosecutors have found evidence that the co-pilot, who had suffered severe depression and may have feared losing his job, had researched suicide methods and concealed an illness from his employer, sparking a debate on supervision and medical secrecy.

“I think it’s sensible that pilots are checked on a random basis for the consumption of alcohol, drugs and medicines,” Dobrindt



Wreckage of the Airbus A320 is seen at the site of the crash, near Seyne-les-Alpes, French Alps on 26 March 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

told *Bild am Sonntag*. “Experts around the world see positive effects from this to boost operational safety in aviation,” Dobrindt said it was important airlines were given the responsibility to carry out the checks. The paper said Dobrindt plans to present the regulation to the cabinet in the new year. Yet Markus Wahl, a spokesman for German pilots’ union Vereinigung Cockpit, was

critical of the proposal.

“From our point of view the planned random tests are completely wrong. They have nothing to do with the Germanwings disaster and will put an entire professional group under general suspicion,” Wahl was quoted by *Bild am Sonntag* as saying.

Germany’s measures come after a panel of experts led by Europe’s aviation safety regulator in July rec-

ommended improved psychological screening for new pilots, and called for the creation of a European database with details of medical visits plus better support networks to reduce the risks of a similar tragedy. It also called for the introduction of random drug and alcohol testing of pilots and better oversight of the doctors responsible for their regular medical checks.—Reuters

Iran’s Rouhani says it’s up to Muslims to correct Islam’s image

DUBAI — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that Muslims must improve the image of their religion, which has been tarnished by the violence of hardline groups such as Islamic State,

“It is our greatest duty today to correct the image of Islam in world public opinion,” Rouhani told a conference on Islamic unity in Tehran in a speech broadcast by state television.

His remarks were rare for a leader of Iran, which considers itself an authority in the Islamic world and often blames the “enemies” of the religion for problems in the Middle East.

“Did we ever think that, instead of enemies, an albeit small group from within the Islamic world using the language of Islam, would present it as the religion of killing, violence, whips, extor-

tion and injustice?” Rouhani said.

Rouhani, a relative moderate, said Islamic principles opposed violence and the extremism of groups such as Islamic State stemmed from “narrow-mindedness and a lack of moderation”.

Rouhani criticised Muslim countries for “being silent in the face of all the killing and bloodshed” in Syria, Iraq and Yemen — conflicts in which Iran plays a role.

Iran supports the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, has close ties with neighbouring Iraq, and condemns the Islamic State group which fights both governments. The Islamic Republic is also an ally of the Houthi movement which seized control of most of Yemen last year and has fought a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia for nine months.—Reuters

Seized documents reveal Islamic State’s Department of ‘War Spoils’

WASHINGTON — Islamic State has set up departments to handle “war spoils,” including slaves, and the exploitation of natural resources such as oil, creating the trappings of government that enable it to manage large swaths of Syria and Iraq and other areas.

The hierarchical bureaucracy, including petty rivalries between officials, and legal codes in the form of religious fatwas are detailed in a cache of documents seized by US Special Operations Forces in a May raid in Syria that killed top IS financial official Abu Sayyaf. Reuters has reviewed some of the documents.

US officials say the documents have helped deepen their understanding of a militant group whose skill in controlling the territory it has seized has surprised many. They provide insight into how a once small insurgent group has developed a complex bureaucracy to manage revenue streams — from pillaged oil to stolen antiquities — and oversee subjugated populations.

“This really kind of brings it out. The level of bureaucratization, organi-

sation, the diwans, the committees,” Brett McGurk, President Barack Obama’s special envoy for the anti-IS coalition, told Reuters.

For example, one diwan, roughly equivalent to a government ministry, handles natural resources, including the exploitation of antiquities from ancient empires. Another processes “war spoils,” including slaves.

“Islamic State is invested in the statehood and Caliphate image more so than any other jihadist enterprise. So a formal organisation, besides being practical when you control so much contiguous territory and major cities, also reinforces the statehood image,” said Aymenn al-Tamimi, a fellow at the Middle East Forum think tank and an expert on IS’s structure.

The documents also show how “meticulous and data-oriented” IS is in managing the oil and gas sector, although it is not a sophisticated operation, said Amos Hochstein, the State Department’s top official for energy affairs.

US officials said the documents have helped the anti-IS coalition to pinpoint vulnerabilities. The United

States and its allies have been using air strikes to degrade the group’s oil infrastructure and target key officials.

The documents show the Islamic State is not immune to the rivalries and personality clashes that typify bureaucracies everywhere. A 21 November, 2014 letter from the Diwan of Natural Resources emphasizes that Abu Sayyaf is in charge of handling antiquities.

“The reason being is that he is very knowledgeable in this field and that Abu Jihad al-Tunisi is a simpleton who can’t manage the division,” it says.

Reuters could not independently verify the authenticity of the documents it obtained, which represent a fraction of the material seized in the Syria raid. US forces captured a huge amount of data in the form of computer hard drives, thumb drives, CDs, DVDs and papers.

Many of the seized documents are fatwas, or religious rulings, covering issues from rape of female prisoners and the treatment of slaves with minor children to when it is permissible for a son to steal from his father to fund travel to



Shiite fighters launch a rocket towards Islamic State militants on the outskirts of Bayji. PHOTO: REUTERS

fight jihad, or holy war.

Reuters reported last week on a previously undisclosed ruling by the Islamic State’s Research and Fatwa Committee that sanctions the harvesting of human organs. The fatwa raises concerns that the violent extremist group may be trafficking in body parts.

A booklet entitled “From Creator’s Rulings on Capturing Prisoners and Enslavement,” lays out rules on enslaving women seized from vanquished “infidels.” The October 2014 docu-

ment, reviewed by Reuters, attempts to ground the rules in Islamic law.

Citing sayings of the Prophet Mohammad, the booklet calls for both kindness and cruelty to captives by Islamic State fighters.

Enslaved women should not be separated from their children, it says, but elsewhere the rules allow Islamic State fighters to have sex with female slaves.

Middle East Forum’s Tamimi said the fatwas are intended to bolster Islamic

State’s claim that it is a legitimate state.

The rules not only apply to captured territory in Iraq and Syria but also its self-declared provinces in Africa, the Sinai and South Asia. They cover even mundane issues. In the documents, there is a ruling on proper procedure for filling out the personal details of prospective fighters: name, gender, and communications method — telephone, telegram, Skype or the mobile messaging service WhatsApp.—Reuters

OPINION

The devil is in the details

Myint Win Thein

POLITICIANS tend to make general promises, avoiding specific ones. For example, most politicians promise change, but they try to avoid saying specifically what that change will look like. They try to avoid saying that the minimum wage for workers will be increased to a certain amount of money or certain types of taxes will be increased to a certain percentage.

When they are asked by the people to say what they would do exactly, they tend to say that it is impractical to reveal specifics to the people as they need to consider all realities of a situation. However, when politicians have to bargain with their political opponents, they need to make specific promises because they want specific promises from their opponents. They even ask legal experts to define every word in all the terms and conditions of agreements they have reached so that no one is fooled during the process of negotiation.

However, the real friends of all politicians, in power or in opposition, are the people. Therefore, politicians should avoid making general promises to them. Avoiding details shows that politicians do not have sound policies that can effect real change.

The true friends of politicians — the people —

should be given special treatment. Specific promises should be given to the people by politicians, rather than keeping specifics only among themselves.

The people should no longer be fooled.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email thantunaungnlm@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

Keeping Our Nation Clean

Htun Tin Htun

KNOWLEDGE and character are power. Economy is of paramount importance for sustainable socio-politico-economic development. Environment must be conserved for the peace, prosperity and posterity of planet. Peoples' participation is an important element for all stages of community development: decision making, planning, implementation and evaluation. Innovative approach is needed for the following programmes: "Keep our home clean", "Keep our campus clean", "Keep our community clean", "Keep our town clean", "Keep our township clean", "Keep our district clean", "Keep our region/state clean", "Keep our country clean", and "Keep our planet clean." Nothing is impossible to one with a wish-to-do, work-hard, will and wisdom. Good governance has to maintain the qualities of transparency, accountability, participatory and efficiency/effectiveness (TAPE). Our people (around 135 ethnic groups) are many but "One" (Union). United we stand, divided we fall, unity matters most and unity is strength. Right speech, right action and right livelihood (Morality/Virtue/Discipline) is fundamental foundation of all mankind for peace and happiness. Not by passing arbitrary judgments does a man become just; a wise man is he who investigates both right and wrong. Always be active, brave, creative, dynamic and energetic. Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM). Initiate the way leading to implementing "Clean Campaign" programmes in the community. One world is our vision. Non-discrimination, inclusiveness, accountability, equity, participatory, transparency, non-violence, self-reliance and equality are important values for community development. Concern for community is one of the basic principles of cooperatives which play an important role in poverty reduction. Leader is the one who (knows/goes/shows and leads) the way to peace and happiness. Equity (pro-poor), Empowerment (pro-women), Environment (pro-nature) and employment (pro-job) are essential requirements for enlarging people's choices in human development in this planet. Awareness, ad-

vocacy, assessment, analysis and action are 5 important A's for rights-based planning, implementation and evaluation process of any Clean Campaign to be carried out by People-Centered Development projects. Non-repetition is the bane of scriptures; neglect is the bane of a home; slovenliness is the bane of personal appearance and the heedlessness is the bane of a guard.

Know this, O good man; evil things are difficult to control; let not greed and wickedness drag you to protracted misery. Easy is life for the shameless one who is as impudent as a crow, is backbiting and forward, arrogant and corrupt. Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself; but exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial. People who hold dear him who embodies virtue and insight, who is principled, has realized the truth, and who himself does what he ought to be doing. It may be well with the evil-doer as long as the evil ripens not; but when it does ripen, then the evil-doer sees (the painful results of) his evil deeds. Neither in the sky nor in mid-ocean, nor by entering into mountain clefts, nowhere in the world is there a place where one may escape from the results of evil deeds. Good is virtue until life is end, good is faith that is steadfast, good is acquisition of wisdom and good is the avoidance of evil. One, who destroys life, takes what is not given, goes to another man's wife, utters lies and is addicted to intoxicating drinks—such a man digs up his own root even in this very world. Unchastity is the taint in a woman, niggardliness is the taint in a giver; taints, indeed, are all evil things, both in this world and the next. Riches ruin only the foolish, not those is quest of the Beyond; by craving for riches the witless man ruins himself as well as others. Not despising, not harming, restraint according to the code of monastic discipline (rule of law), moderation in food, dwelling in solitude, devotion to meditation—this is the teaching of the Buddhas. As a bee gathers honey from the flower without injuring its colour or fragrance, even so the sage goes on his alms-round in the community. The foolish and ignorant indulge in heedlessness, but the wise one keeps his heedfulness as his best treasure. Ill done is that action doing which one repents later, and the fruit

of which one, weeping, reaps with tears. Of all the fragrances—sandal, tagara, blue lotus and jasmine—the fragrance of virtue is by far the sweetest. Not the sweet smell of flowers, not even the fragrance of sandal, tagara or jasmine blows against the wind; but the fragrance of the virtuous blows against the wind; truly, the virtuous man pervades all directions with the fragrance of his virtue. Calm is his thought, calm is speech and calm is his bodily action, who, truly knowing, is wholly freed, perfectly tranquil and wise. Lead a righteous life; lead not a base life; the righteous live happily both in this world and the next. Enduring patience is the highest austerity; "Nibbana is supreme," say the Buddhas; he is not a true monk who harms another, not a true renunciate who oppresses others. Not to do evil, to cultivate good and to cleanse one's mind—this is the teaching of the Buddha.

Knowing the destruction of all conditioned things, become, O holy man, the knower of the Uncreate (Nibbana). Exert yourself, O holy man; cut off the stream (of craving), and discard sense desires. Everywhere these currents (of craving) flow, and the creeper (of craving) sprouts and grows; seeing that the creeper has sprung up, cut off its root with wisdom. People give according to their faith or regard; if one becomes discontented with the food and drink given by others, one does not attain meditative absorption, either by day or by night. If for company you find a wise and prudent friend who leads a good life, you should, overcoming all impediments, keep his company joyously and mindfully. Nothing is better for a holy man than when he holds his mind back from what is endearing; to the extent the intent to harm wears away, to that extent does suffering subside. Giving himself to things to be shunned and not exerting where exertion is needed, a seeker after pleasures, having given up his true welfare, envies those intent upon theirs. One who should not strike a holy man, nor should a holy man, when struck, give way to anger; shame on him who strikes a holy man, and more shame on him who gives way to anger. Upon a heap of rubbish in the roadside ditch blooms fragrant and pleasing; even so, on the rubbish heap of

blinded mortals the disciples of the Supremely Enlightened One shine resplendent in wisdom. Realizing that this body is like froth, penetrating its mirage-like nature, and plucking out Mara's (the Destroyer) flower-tipped arrows of sensuality go beyond sight of the King of Death! Neither mother, nor father, nor any other relative can do one greater good than one's own well-directed mind. A worst taint than these is ignorance, the worst of all taints; destroy this one taint and become taintless, O monks! The sun shines by day, the moon shines by night; the warrior shines in armour, the holy man shines in meditation; but the Buddhas shines resplendent all day and all night. Indeed, he who moves in the company of fools grieves for long; association with fools is ever painful, like partnership with an enemy; but association with the wise is happy, like meeting one's own kinsmen. One by one, little by little, moment by moment, a wise man should remove his own impurities, as a silver smith removes the dross from silver. Neither in the sky nor in mid-ocean, nor by entering into mountain clefts, nowhere in the world is there a place where one will not overcome by death. Cut off your affection in the manner a man plucks with his hand an autumn lotus; cultivate only the path to peace, Nibbana, as made known by the Exalted One (the Buddha). Long is the night to the sleepless; long is the league to the weary; long is worldly existence to fools who know not the Sublime Truth. Even gorgeous royal chariots wear out, and indeed this body too wears out; but the Dhamma of the Good does not age; thus the Good make it known to the good. Associate with good friends, seek the fellowship of noble men; do not associate with evil companions; do not seek the fellowship of the vile. No one is perfect but practice makes perfect.

Keep our nation clean depend on individual, campus, community, town, township, district, stet/region's scheme and measure of cleanliness. Everybody needs to abide by the rule of order on systematic garbage collection system. Ethics is important for community members to maintain their community to be clean and tidy. People are encouraged and urged to actively and enthusiastically participate in weekend garbage collection

and disposal. It is important that the whole community must give this cleanliness scheme a priority for the beautification of the nation. No community is perfect but practice makes perfect. Getting community moving in people-centered development is our priority. One truly is the protector of oneself, who else could the protector be? Union needs the vigorous effort of the people for the Nation's cleanliness. Right understanding, right thought, right effort, right mindfulness and right concentration are important for all citizens to attain the goal of peace and happiness. No two in the world as Myanmar stood first in charitable giving so that we can also do something for the Nation's cleanliness. All citizens must be involved altruistically and avidly in the community-wise "Clean Campaign". Team spirit is very much important for effective team performance and all citizens in the community should participate in the team enthusiastically. Integration can be built through the implementation of cooperation: coming together is beginning, working together is progress, staying together is sustainable and performing together is success. Organization development is needed to make further steps for enhancement and improvement of capacity and capability. No one is above the Law. Cooperation, coordination, collaboration and compromising are 4 C's of essential elements for any development process. Leader is the one who (knows, goes, shows and leads) the way. Embody values is one of the secrets of Great Leader's SERVE (See the future, Engage and develop others, Reinvent continuously, Value respect and relationship, Embody values). A tamed mind brings peace and happiness. Not by matted hair, nor by lineage, nor by birth does one become a holy man; but he in whom truth and righteousness exist—he is pure, he is a holy man.

May the whole nation be clean, peaceful, happy and prosperous in the days to come!!!

About the author

Freelance Management and Development Consultant, Former International UNV UNCHS/ILO/UNIDO Cooperative and Small Business Specialist in Malawi and Kiribati /UNDP Community Empowerment and Development Specialist in Bangladesh

Pyatho potters turn steady profits

ARTISANS making Alakatpa clay pots, also known as Pyatho clay pots, in Myinmu Township, are reportedly earning steady incomes from their craft.

The clay pots, used to store drinking water, are famous for their design, which keeps water cool.

The Alakatpa pots, made from a combination of silt, ocher and sand, are baked in hay fire during the Myanmar month of Pyatho (late December and January) to be used during the summer.

The pots are a popular product among the township's residents, and the pot makers are earning steady profits.

Other characteristics of clay pots in Myanmar come from the delta township Twente, from Nyaungyan in the middle of the country and from Myaung and Sagaing in upper Myanmar.—246/Kyemon



A woman is crafting a clay pot at a pottery in Myinmu Township. PHOTO: 246/KYEMON

Crime News

Gas-leak fire injures five

A fire broke out in Botahtaung Township due to cylinder leak on 28 December, leaving five minor injuries.

The incident happened around 1 pm at a teashop at the corner of Botahtaung Road and the Mahabandula Street as the gas leak from a cylinder met with spark from nearby charcoal-burning stove.

"Once the fire started, I

broke into the shop and put out the fire with the use of extinguisher. Due to gas leak, the fire also spread to two neighbouring rooms," said U Shwe Lone.

With 45 firemen, five fire engines arrived at the scene.

"As the first fire engine has already put the fire under control with the use of chemical extinguisher, other fire engines did not get busy with the fire. Two staff

of the teashop and three people from neighbouring shops have got minor burns on their legs due to gas leak," said U U Win Win, an officer of the Yangon Region Fire Services Department.

The two injured men and three women were sent to hospital.

Action has been taken against U Tin Ko Ko, 31, the owner of the tea shop.—Zaw Gyi



Firefighters trying to put out fire at Botahtaung township. PHOTO: ZAW GYI



Hol Kyitat is seen together with seizure from him. PHOTO: MPF

Police seize yabba, heroin, gun in eastern Shan State

POLICE seized a cache of yabba tablets, heroin and a pistol during surprise checks in eastern Shan State on 26 and 27 December.

A combined team comprising a local anti-drug squad and police searched a motorcycle driven by Sain San Khay Tit (aka Aik Say Waing) en-route from Narkaungmu to Mongton, Mongsat Township, on 26 De-

ember and discovered 190 yabba tablets.

Police also seized 0.143 kilos of heroin and a point-22 pistol with two bullets from Hol Kyitat in Mabein on 27 December.

Action has been taken against both under the Anti-Narcotics law.—Myanmar Police Force

Car-train collision leaves seven injured

A CAR collided with a train in Bilin on 25 December, injuring seven people in the car, police said.

The incident was reported at around 7:55pm at the rail mile post No. 11322-23 between Taungzun and Hninpale stations in Bilin Township. Before it collided with the engine of the Nay Pyi Taw-Mawlamyine train, the speeding car en-route from Bilin to Kyaikto hit the boom barrier at the intersection, according to the police. No passengers on the train were injured. The injured passengers were from Mutin East Village in Bilin Township.

Action has been taken against Thein Zaw, 25, the driver of the car, under Section 128 of the Railways Act.—Myanmar Police Force

Illegal teak seized in Wuntho

ACTING on a tip-off, local police in Wuntho searched a truck on 26 December and discovered more than 2 tonnes of sawn teak logs.

During an interrogation, U Than Gyaung, the driver of the truck, confirmed that the owner

of the illegal teak is Sein Kyaw Moe, 37, from Wuntho.

Action has been taken against U Than Gyaung, and Sein Kyaw Moe under the Public Property Protection Act.—Myanmar Police Force

Fire destroys three houses in Zigon

A KITCHEN fire engulfed a house before spreading to three other neighbouring houses in Zigon Township on 26 December.

The fire started at around 9:40am on 26 December, and it was put under control by fire-

men and local people by around 9:55am.

Action is being taken against Daw Aye Naing, the owner of the house where the fire started.—Myanmar Police Force

Sensex hits over three-week high in thin trading



The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) building is pictured next to a police van in Mumbai in August 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MUMBAI — Indian shares rose to their highest level in more than three weeks yesterday as investors bought beaten-down stocks such as ICICI Bank (ICBK.NS) in thin trading in the year-end holiday season and ahead of the expiry of derivatives contracts later this week.

Shares of ICICI Bank rose as much as 2.1 per cent, bouncing back from a fall of 1.5 per cent on Thursday after a central bank report raised concerns over weak corporate balance sheets and bad loans among banks.

Indian markets are expected to remain volatile ahead of the expiry of futures and options contracts on Thursday as traders churn positions.

Volume is also expected to remain thin with majority of foreign investors away for year-end holidays.

"I don't think 7,950-8,000 on the Nifty will be conquered this week, possibly we'll head lower," said Gaurang Shah, vice president at Geojit BNP Paribas.

"We have corporate earnings in the second week of January, so investors will wait to see that and then immediately after you have the (Union) budget."

The Nifty was up 0.54 per cent at 7,903.85, after rising to its highest level since 3 December at 7,907.45 earlier in the day.

The Sensex was up 0.56 per cent at 25,982.90, after rising to its highest level since 3 December

at 25,991.08. Tata Power (TTPW.NS) shares rose 2.33 per cent after the company on Thursday signed an agreement with Russia for energy projects in the country.

Insurer Max India Ltd (MAXI.NS) surged as much as 7 pct to its highest level since 8 December after a court approved a demerger of its business.

All sectors were in the green except telecoms. Bharti Airtel (BRTL.NS) fell 1.6 per cent and Idea Cellular (IDEA.NS) slipped 0.8 per cent after Reliance Industries (RELI.NS) rolled out its 4G network for employees, a move seen by many as a soft launch and precursor to full-scale launch next year. Reliance shares were up 0.63 per cent.—Reuters

Gov't offices, companies in Japan mark last business day of 2015

TOKYO — Government offices and many companies marked the final business day of 2015 yesterday, with some hoping for a better year ahead after a turbulent past 12 months including a number of scandals that rocked the country.

Fewer people headed to ministries and agencies in Tokyo's Kasumigaseki District in the morning than usual because many central government workers opted to take their year-end holidays from last weekend.

With the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry hit by the hacking of Japan's public pension programme that led to the leaking of one million people's personal data, as well as a bribery scandal involving one of its bureaucrats, an official in his 20s said his ministry was "often in the spotlight in a negative sense."

"I hope next year won't be a year like this," he said.

In Okinawa, some local government officials were bracing for another tough year as they are squaring off with the

central government over a plan to relocate a US military base within the southern island prefecture. "This year began and ended with the Henoko (issue)," one official said, referring to the name of the coastal area to which the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma would be transferred from a crowded residential district in Ginowan under the plan.

"We want the central government to give up (the plan) next year, but prospects are unclear," the official said. A member of a university student group that played a key role in this year's protest movement against national security legislation said they will continue to raise voices against the government although the laws were enacted in the Diet in September.

"None of our members stopped moving even after the laws were enacted," said Yasu-

Chiba, a 24-year-old graduate student and a member of Students Emergency Action for Liberal Democracy-s.—Kyodo News

Samsung Elec plans initial production of 5m Galaxy S7 phones

SEOUL — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, the world's top smartphone maker, plans an initial production run of about 5 million of its upcoming Galaxy S7 smartphones, South Korea's *Electronic Times* reported yesterday, citing unnamed sources.

The paper said Samsung is planning to launch two different versions of its new flagship smartphone: a 5.2-inch flat-

screen version, and a 5.5-inch, curved-screen version that will be called the 'Galaxy S7 edge'.

Samsung plans to initially make 3.3 million of the flat-screen devices and around 1.6 million of the curved-screen version, the report said, with plans to launch the handset in February. A Samsung Electronics spokeswoman declined to comment on the report. — Reuters

Asia stocks slip but Japan bucks trend on oil bounce; dollar wobbles

TOKYO — Asian stocks dipped yesterday amid a lack of immediate directional cues in light year-end trade, although Japanese shares managed to rise following a rebound in crude oil prices from multiple-year lows.

Investors across asset markets were without some of the usual leads as most global markets were closed on Friday for Christmas. The British markets will remain closed yesterday, while those in Germany and France will reopen.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan gave up earlier modest gains and were down 0.4 per cent. The index was on track for an 11 per cent loss this year.

Shanghai shares fell 1.3 per cent yesterday, with banking shares leading the fall, following

weak Chinese industrial output data. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dropped 1.0 per cent. South Korea's KOSPI fell 1.1 per cent.

Stocks affiliated with Samsung Group fell after the South Korean conglomerate said on Sunday its battery-making arm Samsung SDI will sell shares in sister firm Samsung C&T Corp to comply with regulatory requirements.

Japan's Nikkei rose 0.7 per cent, with soft domestic production and retail data offset by a rebound in crude oil prices.

"Disappointing production and retail figures have crushed the chances of any sort of photo-finish for the Nikkei this year," said Martin King, co-managing director at Tyton Capital Advisors.

"But oil holding in the high

30s will provide some welcome respite for energy companies at year-end and see the index close out 2015 in 19,000 point territory."

The Nikkei, lifted in part by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's reflationary policies, was headed for its fourth straight year of gains.

US crude fell 0.9 per cent to \$37.74 a barrel but remained significantly above \$33.98, its lowest level since February 2009, after surging last week on falling inventories, reduced drilling and the lifting of a ban on most US crude exports.

Brent crude edged down 0.4 per cent to \$37.73 a barrel after rising nearly 3 percent last week to move away from an 11-year trough.

Still, the warmer-than-usual

winter affecting many parts of the world, attributed to the El Nino weather pattern, meant potentially less crude demand for heating purposes. Analysts also pondered the wider economic impact of the weather pattern.

"The United States is experiencing a winter with record high temperatures and the focus is on whether first quarter economic activity would be negatively affected because of this," wrote Shinichiro Kadota, chief Japan FX strategist at Barclays in Tokyo.

"US data related to housing and private consumption, which are swayed by winter conditions, bear watching," Kadota said.

In currencies, the dollar fetched 120.46 yen, wobbling near its two-month low of 120.05 struck on Friday. The dollar has

lost some steam, with investors locking in profits after the Federal Reserve this month hiked interest rates for the first time in nine years.

Late last week, a weaker-than-expected US index on employment cost also weighed on the greenback. The currency market will be keeping an eye on coming US data to gauge if the world's largest economy is strong enough to withstand further rate hikes in 2016. The euro was flat at \$1.0973, having spent the past two sessions in a tight \$1.0944-\$1.1000 range. The Australian dollar was down 0.2 per cent at \$0.7267 but still within striking distance of a two-week peak of \$0.7295 scaled on Friday. Relatively high Australian yields have recently worked in favour of the currency.—Reuters

Gunmen kill woman anti-polio volunteer in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR — Two gunmen on a motorbike shot and killed a female polio vaccination campaigner in Afghanistan yesterday and seriously wounded her granddaughter, officials said.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack but Islamists in some parts of the world believe campaigns against the crippling disease are a plot against Muslims or an attempt to spy on militants.

The pair, a woman and her teenaged granddaughter, were eradication-campaign volunteers, going house to house in the southern city of Kandahar when they were shot, said senior provincial health official Abdul Qayum Pukhla.

"Today was the last day of campaign and as the workers were leaving a house, the gunmen opened fire on them and fled," Pukhla told Reuters.

Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan are the only two countries in the world that remain polio-endemic, according to the World Health Organisation.

Polio attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis within hours of infection. But it can be stopped with comprehensive, population-wide vaccination.

When a global eradication campaign was launched in 1988,

the virus paralysed more than 350,000 children in 125 countries annually.

Despite some violent opposition to vaccination in Afghanistan, its anti-polio campaign has had remarkable success for a nation at war. The number of cases has fallen from 63 in 1999 to just 14 in 2013. Only eight new cases have been confirmed this year, compared with 108 in Pakistan.—Reuters

Cambodian ruling party looks to extend single citizenship rules

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said yesterday that the ruling Cambodian People's Party will initiate a legal requirement for single citizenship for leaders of all political parties in Cambodia.

Speaking at a graduation ceremony in Phnom Penh, the premier said he will assign his working group to meet and discuss the possibility of reviewing and incorporating the issue into the existing law on political parties, with a view to having it say "party leaders shall have only a single citizenship."

Hun Sen said a similar legal requirement has already been applied to the president and members of the National Election Committee.

He added that by having such a requirement, a political party's leader will be more accountable to their people, rather than just holding a passport but being able to flee the country and ask for foreign intervention.

Hun Sen, president of the CPP, referred to the case of Sam Rainsy, president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, who holds both French and Cambodian citizenship and is currently in self-imposed exile. He is wanted on a number of charges in Cambodia. Holding dual citizenship is common for many Cambodians who fled the country for France, the United States and Australia during the civil war. Some returned to Cambodia and engaged in politics.—Kyodo News

Buses carrying several hundred fighters and civilians leave Syria for Turkish, Lebanese borders

BEIRUT — Buses carrying several hundred fighters and civilians left two besieged areas on Monday for Turkish and Lebanese border crossings under a UN-backed deal by warring parties, aid workers and sources familiar with the deal said.

At least 130, mostly wounded, rebel fighters left the border town of Zabadani for the Lebanese border at the same time as about 350 fighters and civilians from pro-government besieged Shi'ite towns in northwestern Syria, who headed for a Turkish border crossing.—Reuters



Syrian children carry placards as they call for the lifting of the siege off Madaya and Zabadani towns in Syria, in front of the offices of the UN headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon on 26 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

US sees bearable costs, key goals met for Russia in Syria so far

WASHINGTON — Three months into his military intervention in Syria, Russian President Vladimir Putin has achieved his central goal of stabilizing the Assad government and, with the costs relatively low, could sustain military operations at this level for years, US officials and military analysts say.

That assessment comes despite public assertions by President Barack Obama and top aides that Putin has embarked on an ill-conceived mission in support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad that it will struggle to afford and that will likely fail.

"I think it's indisputable that the Assad regime, with Russian military support, is probably in a safer position than it was," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity. Five other US officials interviewed by Reuters concurred with the view that the Russian mission has been mostly successful so far and is facing relatively low costs.

The US officials stressed that Putin could face serious problems the longer his involvement in the more than four-year-old civil war drags on.

Yet since its campaign began on 30 September, Russia has suffered minimal casualties and, despite domestic fiscal woes, is handily covering the operation's cost, which analysts estimate at \$1-2 billion a year. The war is being funded from Russia's regular annual defence budget of about \$54 billion, a US intelligence official said.

The expense, analysts and officials said, is being kept in check by plummeting oil prices that, while hurting Russia's overall economy, has helped its defense budget stretch further by reducing the costs of fueling aircraft and ships. It has also been able to tap a stockpile of conventional bombs dating to the Soviet era.

Putin has said his intervention is aimed at stabilizing the Assad

government and helping it fight the Islamic State group, though Western officials and Syrian opposition groups say its air strikes mostly have targeted moderate rebels.

Russia's Syrian and Iranian partners have made few major territorial gains.

Yet Putin's intervention has halted the opposition's momentum, allowing pro-Assad forces to take the offensive. Prior to Russia's military action, US and Western officials said, Assad's government looked increasingly threatened.

Rather than pushing back the opposition, Russia may be settling for defending Assad's grip on key population centers that include the heartland of his minority Alawite sect, said the US intelligence official.

Russia is taking advantage of the operation to test new weapons in battlefield conditions and integrate them into its tactics, the intelligence official said. It is refining its use of unarmed surveillance

drones, the official added.

"The Russians didn't go blindly into this," said the US intelligence official, adding that they "are getting some benefit out of the cost."

Russia's intervention also appears to have strengthened its hand at the negotiating table. In recent weeks, Washington has engaged more closely with Russia in seeking a settlement to the war and backed off a demand for the immediate departure of Assad as part of any political transition.

Obama has suggested as recently as this month that Moscow is being sucked into a foreign venture that will drain its resources and bog down its military.

"An attempt by Russia and Iran to prop up Assad and try to pacify the population is just going to get them stuck in a quagmire and it won't work," Obama said on 2 October.

On 1 December, he raised the prospect of Russia becoming

"bogged down in an inconclusive and paralyzing civil conflict."

The senior administration official denied any contradiction between Obama's statements and private assessments that Russia's campaign has been relatively effective so far.

"I think the president's point has been...it's not going to succeed in the long run," the official said. The Russians "have become bound up in a civil war in a way that's going to be extremely difficult to extricate themselves from."

US officials have not publicly defined what a quagmire would look like for Russia. But Obama has raised the Soviet Union's disastrous decade-long Afghanistan occupation from 1979.

US officials said Russia's military footprint is relatively light. It comprises a long-time naval facility in Tartus, a major air base near the port city of Latakia, a second under expansion near Homs and several lesser posts.—Reuters

Christmastime storms, tornadoes kill at least 43 in US

DALLAS — Storms hit the US South, Southwest and Midwest over the Christmas holiday weekend, unleashing floods and tornadoes that killed at least 43 people, flattened buildings and snarled transportation for millions during a busy travel time.

The bad weather, or the threat of it, prompted the governors of Missouri and New Mexico to declare a state of emergency for their states.

Flash floods killed at least 13 people in Missouri and Illinois.

In Missouri, emergency workers have evacuated residents from their homes and conducted dozens of water rescues, Governor Jay Nixon said on Sunday. He said at least eight people had been killed and numerous roadways had been closed.

Nixon declared a state of emergency, saying continued rains would make already widespread flooding conditions worse.

Three adults and two



Damage caused by a tornado is seen in a neighborhood in Birmingham, Alabama, on 26 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

children were near the village of Patoka, Illinois, 85 miles (137 km) east of St Louis, Missouri, when their car was washed away by floodwaters on Saturday night, according to Marion County Coroner Troy Cannon.

In Texas, at least 11 people were killed in the Dallas area over the week-

end by tornadoes, including one packing winds of up to 200 miles per hour (322 km per hour). The twister hit the city of Garland, killing eight people and blowing vehicles off highways.

"It is total devastation," Garland Police spokesman Lieutenant Pedro Barineau said. "It is a very difficult time to be struck by such a

horrible storm the day after Christmas."

Three other deaths were reported in the Dallas metropolitan area, the United States' fourth most populous with about 7 million residents. Scores of people were injured in the region and officials estimated some 800 homes may have been damaged.

Powerful tornadoes are a staple of spring and summer in central states but occur less frequently in winter, according to US weather data

Three tornadoes were reported in Arkansas on Sunday, the weather service said, but there were no initial reports of significant injuries or damage.

The service has issued tornado watches and warnings for areas in that state, as well as in parts of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Mississippi.

A tornado watch means a storm is likely, while a warning means a storm or storms have been sighted.

The storms came on the heels of tornadoes that hit two days before Christmas, killing at least 18 people, including 10 in Mississippi.

In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott said his office had declared Dallas County and three nearby counties disaster areas. He also warned people to be wary

of snow in western parts of the state and rivers spilling their banks in other places.

The National Weather Service issued severe weather advisories for large parts of the central United States, including a blizzard warning for parts of New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and a flash flood watch stretching from Texas to Indiana.

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez declared a state of emergency for the entire state due to a winter storm that had dumped up to two feet of snow by Sunday night.

The New Mexico city of Roswell bested its one-day snowfall record, receiving 12.3 inches by Sunday evening, the Weather Service said.

The bad weather forced the cancellation of nearly 1,500 flights in the nation on Sunday, according to tracking service FlightAware.com. About half of the canceled flights were in Dallas, a major US flight hub.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TENAGA VOY NO (TGN-321)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TENAGA VOY NO (TGN-321) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.12.2015 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BEHSHAD VOY NO (SCY)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BEHSHAD VOY NO (SCY) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO (1044W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1044W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2015 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO (1520)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO (1520) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.12.2015 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (100N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (100N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2015 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185



OKKALA GOLF RESORT

Golfers are invited to come to Okkala Golf Resort, Yangon, which has been renovated to look modernized and advanced. The new golf resort resumed its services on 26th December.



Contact Ph:09-30998334, 09-30998335

Khloe Kardashian's Christmas visit to Lamar Odom

LOS ANGELES — Reality TV star Khloe Kardashian visited her estranged husband Lamar Odom in Cedars Sinai hospital over the festive period.

The basketball star is currently recovering in hospital after being found unconscious in a Nevada brothel in October following a suspected alcohol and drugs binge and Khloe, 31, is a constant presence by his bedside at the hospital in Los Angeles, reported TMZ.

Khloe, who spent Christmas with her family in Calabasas, reportedly paid a visit to Lamar on 26 December.—PTI



Khloe Kardashian. PHOTO: REUTERS

Christopher Nolans' next on World War II?

LONDON — Ace director Christopher Nolan next project will reportedly be about the Second World War.

The film already has a release date that is 21 July, 2017, but details about the project are scarce.

It will be a World War II film based on Operation Dynamo, which was a near-miraculous evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and other Allied troops from the French

seaport of Dunkirk which took place from May-June in 1940, reported The Independent.

The current mayor of Dunkirk, France says that filming of an American blockbuster would take place in June 2016 "by a world-famous director" and a regional daily newspaper from the north of France, says their sources are saying it is Nolan, who has been doing early location scouting with screenwriting partner and brother Jonathan.—PTI



Christian Bale (L) and director Christopher Nolan. PHOTO: REUTERS

Neil Nitin Mukesh to release single next year

MUMBAI — Taking forward the legacy of his grandfather singer Mukesh, actor Neil Nitin Mukesh will be venturing into music and says he plans to release a single next year.

The "Johnny Gaddar" star has recorded nine songs, which he plans to

use in his films. "Yes I have plans. Hopefully by mid of next year I'll release my single. I have recorded almost nine songs already."

Music is definitely the next card that I'll open up," Neil told PTI. "We will use the songs in a couple of my films as well.

First, I'll release my single, which I am working on," he said.

The 33-year-old actor, who was last seen in "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo", recently directed a TV commercial and he wishes to expand to other creative aspects of films. "I have recently directed

my first TV commercial for a tea brand, which has been shot on a mammoth scale... I have decided that as far as the creative sides of films are concerned, I'll start opening up all my cards," he said. He will be next seen in "Wazir", scheduled to release on 8 January.—PTI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA ALSTER VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.12.2015 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (089W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (089W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGKA CHAI VOY NO (141)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKA CHAI VOY NO (141) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-2 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-677)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-677) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.12.2015 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (022N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (022N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2015 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Sponsor of monk and donor of pagoda, ordination hall, monastery and public hall

Lieutenant General Chit Swe
Minister for Forestry (Rtd)
(84) years

Son of late U Hla Baw and late Daw Khin Tint, beloved husband of Daw Myint Myint Khin residing at No.70-Ba, Ngwe Wut Hmone Avenue, Golden Valley (1) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon, father of late Captain Maung Zaw and late Daw Khin Swe Oo, U Zaw Min Swe and Daw Mar Mar Cho, U Soe Naing Swe and Daw Tin Tin Aye, U Thein Tan Swe and Daw Wah Wah Tint Shein, Dr. Aung Zaw Myint and Daw Khine Mar Swe, Colonel Than Aung and Daw Sandar Swe, grandfather of U Phyo Wei Zaw, U Yan Naing Min and Ma Win Wint Zaw, Ma Chit Su Zaw, Mg Zar Ni Zaw and Ma Hning Hning Aye, Ma Khine Thant Zin Aung, Mg Nyein Thu Aung and Ma Phint Mon Yee, Mg Min Bala Chit Swe, Ma Khine Thitsar Aung, Ma May Thu Kyaw, Mg Thiha Thway alias Thuta, Ma Tan Thar Zaw, Ma Nway Nway Thiri and Ma Noe Noe Thiri, and great grandfather of Ma Ginga May, Mg Sitt Thway Zaw, Mg Zwe Htet Naing, Ma Yun Nadi Min and Ma Kyawt Eindra Zaw, Lieutenant General Chit Swe passed away at above resident at 8:40am on 28 December 2015. Relatives and friends far and near are informed that the cremation ceremony will be held at Yeway Cemetery at 10:00am on 30 December 2015 (Wednesday).

Buses will leave the above address at 8am.

Bereaved Family

Burj Khalifa's observation deck named world's best attraction

DUBAI — World's highest observation deck 'Burj Khalifa At The Top' has been voted as the 'Best Attraction' in the world for 2015 in an international poll, surpassing Disney World's Magic Kingdom and Britain's London Eye.

The poll conducted by Attractiontix, an online ticket specialist for attractions around the world, asked thousands of voters to choose their favorite lei-

sure attraction from 15 categories over a period of two week.

'The 2015 World-wide Attractions Awards' winners were chosen from thousands of votes by people from around the world, a statement said.

The viewing deck also came second to The Empire State Building in the 'Best Observation Deck' category and was voted the 'Most Romantic Attraction or

Tour 2015' next to The Eiffel Tower, underlining the strong popularity of Burj Khalifa globally.

Standing at a height of 829.8 metres, the observation deck of Burj Khalifa offers visitors the rare opportunity to soak up views of the city and beyond. The structure with over 200 storeys and highest number of floors also holds the Guinness World Record for the tallest building.—PTI

Painter puts her love of squids into art

HAKODATE — Yuka Miyauchi is a painter, but not interested in drawing landscape, people or still lifes. Her art is all about squids.

Miyauchi, a 30-year-old native of southwestern Japan's Kagoshima Prefecture, says she had never aspired to be an artist nor did she care much about squids until she saw a bigfin reef squid just caught by a neighbor when she was 19.

"Its body was transparent, its eyes sparkled, and it looked like an alien. On top of that, it tastes good as sashimi." That's how her

obsession with squids began, said Miyauchi.

And ever since painting one as an art student, she has dedicated herself to creating squid works.

People regard her work with curiosity, which Miyauchi finds curious itself. "They wouldn't think it's strange (if I painted) dogs and cats. Why not squids?" she argues.

After graduation, Miyauchi worked as a web designer while continuing to paint cephalopods. But three years ago, she decided to concentrate only on painting squids, as she received more



Yuka Miyauchi, a painter from southwestern Japan's Kagoshima city who specialises in drawing squid, shows a piece of her artwork painted with squid ink during an exhibition in Hakodate, Hokkaido, on 13 November. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

and more offers to exhibit her work.

Currently, she has her own studio in Kagoshima. Visiting an aquarium and observing swimming squids helps her develop ideas for paintings. It is believed that there are some 450 kinds of squid around the globe. Details of the creature's ecology are still largely unknown.

To share the creature's charms with more people, Miyauchi has held exhibitions of her work in and outside Japan. She does not forget to eat locally caught squid every time she travels for an exhibition.

In November, Miyauchi showcased her works at the venue of an international symposium on squid and octopus held in Hakodate in the northernmost prefecture of Hokkaido, known for its squid dishes.

She creates around 50 oil paintings and black-and-white sketches, using squid ink obtained from a nearby sushi restaurant, a year.

"The real squids are more beautiful. It is frustrating that my painting skill isn't good enough. I cannot have enough of painting them," said Miyauchi.—Kyodo News

mitv Myanmar International

(29-12-2015 07:00 am~ 30-12-2015 07:00 am) MST

Today Fresh

| | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bon Yatanamingalar Palace |
| 07:46 | Am | Myanmar Traditional Toys |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Back To A Paradise (Ep-2) |
| 08:52 | Am | Kayah Style |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Choral Dance (Duel) |
| 09:34 | Am | Bagan Choral Dance |
| 09:38 | Am | Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay |
| 09:47 | Am | Today Myanmar |
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | Pet Fish Biz |
| 10:40 | Am | A Visit To Ye |

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday 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 | A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6) |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:27 | Pm | A Highland with Peace and Charm |
| 08:45 | Pm | Myanmar Outstanding Lady "Thin Zar Phyo" |

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

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

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

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

Abstract painter, sculptor Ellsworth Kelly dies at 92



A visitor walks towards Ellsworth Kelly's "Sculpture For a Large Wall" of anodized aluminum (1957) in the newly renovated Museum of Modern Art in New York City in 2004. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Influential American abstract painter and sculptor Ellsworth Kelly died on Sunday, said an art gallery owner in New York. He was 92.

Matthew Marks of the Matthew Marks Gallery said Kelly died of natural causes at his home in Spen-

certown, New York. Marks said he was told of the death by Kelly's partner, Jack Shear.

Kelly was born in Newburgh, New York, in 1923 and served in the US military during World War II. Afterward, he studied art in France for several years on the GI Bill and had

his first solo show at the Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre in Paris in 1951.

He returned to New York several years later.

"I think he bridged European and American modernism," Marks said. "He was a real American original."

Kelly had retrospec-

tives at New York's Guggenheim Museum and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among others over his decades-long career.

"In his work Kelly abstracts the forms in his paintings from observations of the real world, such as shadows cast by trees or the spaces between architectural elements," according to his biography on the Guggenheim's website.

He also carried out public commissions around the world, including a memorial for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Kelly, who named Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse among his influences, told the opening of a large contemporary art wing showcasing his work at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts in 2013: "I am nourished by the past, I am questioning the present, and I am stepping into the future."—Reuters

Simpson promises Leicester will bounce back against Man City



Christian Benteke celebrates scoring the first goal for Liverpool against Leicester City on 26 December.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Premier League leaders Leicester City have the character and spirit to put Saturday's loss to Liverpool behind them in their next game against

Manchester City, defender Danny Simpson has said.

The Foxes were beaten 1-0 at Anfield to record only their second loss of this season that

snapped their unbeaten 10-game run in the league.

"It was tough, but it has been a tough few weeks," Simpson told the club website (www.

lfc.com). "We know we will pick ourselves up. We are an honest bunch, we will look at it and we will react in the right way against Manchester City.

"It is a setback but we will bounce back. We have got a great team with great characters and great spirit. We have got (Manchester) City at home now and with our fans, we will get straight at them."

Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri has also asked his players to "clear their minds" after the Liverpool loss and take the positives from the game.

"It was a good lesson," he told the club website. "We showed good shape, we defended well and closed the space well, but we need to improve when we want to go straight away and score the goal." Leicester still head the table after 18 games and face third placed Manchester City, who are just three points behind, on Tuesday.—Reuters

Chelsea can still finish in top four, insists Willian

LONDON — Struggling Premier League champions Chelsea can still eke out a top four finish this season and qualify for the Champions League, according to winger Willian.

Interim manager Guus Hiddink last week said a top four finish was "mathematically possible" but Chelsea dropped more points on Saturday, drawing 2-2 with Watford to drop 13 points behind fourth-placed Tottenham Hotspur.

"This situation is difficult for us," Brazilian Willian told the British media. "But I think we can go and win game by game and finish the league in the top four." The four-time league winners are in 15th place, having lost nine of their 18 Premier League games this season, which cost the manager Jose Mourinho his job earlier this month.

"I think we deserved to win (against Watford). We played well second half. Of course we were in a difficult moment in that half when Watford scored a second goal but we kept going," added Willian.—Reuters

Inoue confident ahead of 1st title defence

TOKYO — Japan's WBO super flyweight champion Naoya Inoue is looking for an emphatic win in his first title defence, almost a year after his last fight, on Tuesday in a world title doubleheader.

"I'm itching (for the bout), and I want to show I'm back with a ferocious knockout," said Inoue after clearing the 52.1-kilogram limit on Monday as he gears up to face No 1-ranked Filipino Warlito Parrenas at Ariake Colosseum.

The 22-year-old Inoue became the first Japanese fighter to win two world titles in just eight fights when he knocked out defending champion Argentine Omar Narvaez in two rounds on 30 December last year. However, Inoue injured his right hand in the bout. Seven of Inoue's eight wins came by knockout, while 32-year-old Parrenas, who weighed in at 51.7 kg, is 24-6 with one draw and 21 knockouts.

Akira Yaegashi, a former champion in two weight divisions, will take on 24-year-old IBF light flyweight champion Javier Mendoza of Mexico on the same card. Yaegashi lost to another Mexican Pedro Guevara last December as he failed to win his third world title.—Kyodo News

Comanche leads 'toughest since 2004' Sydney to Hobart

SYDNEY — Damaged US super-maxi Comanche led the field early on Monday in a strong position to take line honours as the toughest Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race for more than 10 years neared the finish after bad weather forced out nearly a third of the fleet.

Two American boats held the top two positions as the leaders worked their way down Tasmania's east coast and the bad weather eased overnight.

Both Comanche and compatriot Rambler 88 have suffered damage in winds of up to 40 knots that also forced out the pre-race favorite, Australian record-holder Wild Oats XI.

After a 13-hour chase, Jim Clark and Kristy Hinze-Clark's Comanche regained the lead from George David's Rambler 88, despite making running repairs to a damaged rudder and daggerboard that nearly forced Comanche to join Wild Oats as a withdrawal.

Comanche steadily extended their lead overnight after regaining the momentum that saw them charge off down the New South Wales coast way ahead of its rivals on



Maxi yacht Comanche powers through heavy swells outside Sydney's harbour during the 71st Sydney to Hobart Yacht race, Australia's premiere bluewater classic race, on 26 December. PHOTO: REUTERS

Saturday.

The two US boats were ahead of Australia's Ragamuffin 100 and Italy's Maserati.

It would be a sweet success for Comanche, who led the field early last year but were ultimately run down by Wild Oats XI, who secured a record-breaking eighth win.

Another impressive start by Comanche on Saturday nearly came undone when they broke a rudder a few hours later and

while they retired briefly, skipper Ken Read decided to carry on despite the damage.

Organizers have described this year's race as the toughest since 2004, a year when nearly half the entrants retired early.

However, barring a major last-minute upset, Comanche looked on course to score their first line honors victory later on Monday with a projected finish time at around 7 pm local (0800 GMT).—Reuters

Tokyo Olympics to boost Japan GDP by 0.2-0.3 per cent point per year

TOKYO — The 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games will likely boost Japan's economy by 0.2-0.3 of a percentage point on average each year until 2018, offsetting some of the pain from another sales tax hike planned in 2017, the Bank of Japan said yesterday.

The estimate by the central bank, made on request by premier Shinzo Abe's administration, underscores the government's hope that the Olympics will draw fresh investment and more overseas tourists to jumpstart a stagnant economy.

Investment on new hotels, venues and infrastructure related to the games will reach a cumulative 10 trillion yen (£55.65 billion) by 2020, the BOJ said in a report assessing the economic impact of the event. Such investment and spending by overseas visitors will boost Japan's gross domestic product (GDP) by up to 30 trillion yen during 2015 to 2020 - or roughly 6 per cent the size of the economy, the central bank said.—Reuters