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## 2017 Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival begins

THE 2017 Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival kicked off at the National Theatre in Yangon yesterday, with President U Htin Kyaw in attendance.

Speaking on the occasion, the President has called on the people to make the best use of press freedom for the development and peace of the country.

“As everyone knows, individual freedom which does not harm others, and freedom of all citizens together with freedom of the press are being enjoyed in Myanmar today. Based on the press freedom which we have begun to enjoy recently, I wish to urge everyone to work for the development and peace of our country, and for the progress and prosperity, peace of mind and well-being of every individual citizen, at this auspicious Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival,” he said.

He also thanked the organisers of the 2107 Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival (Creative Literature) and all those who love and cherish literature gathered at the festival, for giving him the opportunity to give the opening remarks.

“Literature is a place where intellect and knowledge converge and reside. For a country and its people, a high level of literature means that the intellectual level and knowledge is high. It is a fact that a certain country can develop and enjoy peace only if its citizens have intellectual capacity and knowledge,” said the President.

“That is why I believe that in our country where we need to work for peace and development, it is more important to have a high literary standard,” he added.

“It has now been three years since the Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival has been organized. I have noticed that this year, this literary festival which is being



President U Htin Kyaw, third from left, visits a bookshop at the Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

organised with so much love and devotion for books is being organized with the title “Creative Literature”. If I were to talk about creative literature, the book called “Maung Yin Maung and Ma Mei Ma” by James Hla Kyaw, which may be called the origin of the long novel and a book called “Roselle leaf seller Maung Hmain” by clerk U Gyi both came out in the year 1904, so it is already over 100 years. It gives me satisfaction to see that classic books such as these which are over 100 years old

have been collected and displayed at today’s festival. Furthermore, I have also noted that at this festival, there are several events such as for presentation of papers, short story reading, poetry recitation, and also that books are being sold on a large scale. I have noticed that all these constitute a very huge support for the development of the Myanmar literary world,” said President U Htin Kyaw.

“Regarding creative literature, a particular incident comes to my mind in which Saya Zaw-

gyi, whom we all greatly respect, once said and also wrote in exhortation on a particular subject,” he said.

He continued to recount what Saya Zawgyi has said thus, “good literature only comes from a good mind. Good creative literature portrays the author’s intentions”. In addition he said, “the author usually sees and hears the surrounding environment only when a creative thought forms in his mind. At that time an existential understanding usually emerges within him in such a manner:

this is a feeling of compassion, this is a feeling of encouragement, this is something to praise, this is something to blame, this is something to be afraid of, and this is something to be ashamed of. As soon as this existential understanding arises, imagination begins to flourish. At that time, this very imagination can create human behaviour and worldly behaviour. That is why imagination is a function of the brain which can present the good and the bad and the benefits and the faults.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

## Pyithu Hluttaw speaker visits UK



Speaker U Win Myint arrives in London. PHOTO: MNA

AT the invitation of the Rt. Hon. Mr John Bercow of the Lower House of the British Parliament, a Myanmar delegation led by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint arrived at London's Heathrow Airport on Saturday morning.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Britain U Kyaw Swar Min and officials and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) of London. — Myanmar News Agency

## Union construction minister wins engineering awards

U Win Khaing, the Union Minister for Construction, was honoured yesterday by the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific and the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations yesterday at a ceremony at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon.

In attendance at the ceremony were the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and his wife, along with union ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the Yangon

City Development Committee, the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific, the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organisations (CAFEO) and the Myanmar Engineering Society.

On behalf of the chairman of the MES, Vice Chairman U Lin extended greetings and Dr Panich Voottuorues, chair of Foreign Affairs Committee of the EIT, read out the award citation.

Afterwards, a representa-

tive of REIAP Dr Gue See Saw presented the Outstanding Engineer of the Year 2016 Award and representative of AFEO President-Elect David Lai the AFEO Distinguished Honorary Fellow 2016 Award to the union minister.

The union minister is the first Myanmar winner of the Outstanding Engineer of the Year Award, an honour bestowed for devotion to the professional development of engineers. — Myanmar News Agency

## PaO people in Kayin State meet for Political Dialogues

NATIONAL-LEVEL political dialogues for the PaO ethnic group (Preliminary) were held at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-am, Kayin State yesterday morning.

The preliminary dialogue was held with the purpose of gathering the views and opinions of the PaO nationals, officials said. Such preliminary meetings will also be held in Htantabin

Township and Zayutgyi in Bago Region, Taunggyi and Maukme in Shan State (South) before submitting the attitudes of the people at the national-level political dialogue for the PaO ethnic group, according to U Khun Myint Tun, chairman of the organising committee for the dialogues.

Topics to be discussed at the dialogues will be about politics,

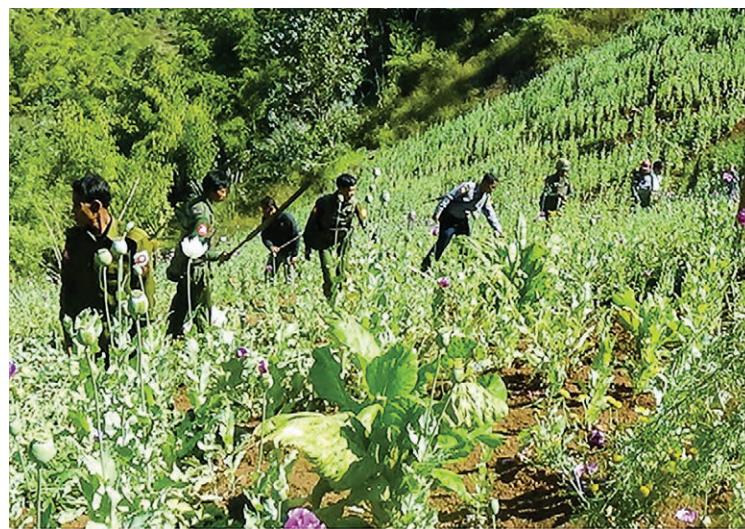
economics, social factors, security, and land and environmental issues.

The discussions at the national-level political dialogues will be taken up at a future gathering, with areas of agreement and points of contention to be submitted to a Union Peace Conference currently planned for February. — Saw Myo Min Thien (IPRD)

## SSA (Wanhai) group disturbs destruction of opium plantation in Mongshu

WHILE destroying opium fields in Mongshu, a combined team of government troops, police, departmental staff and the public were attacked with heavy and light weapons by members of the Shan State Army (Wanhai) group yesterday.

The group attacked the combined team three times. Columns of government troops were pursuing the attackers. — Myanmar News Agency



Troops of the Tatmadaw and police destroy poppy trees in Mongshu in northern Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

## Conference on high-quality urban infrastructure concrete held

A CONFERENCE on high-quality urban infrastructure concrete jointly organised by the Myanmar Construction Engineering Society and I&H Engineering Co., Ltd was held at the MCEA office in Yangon yesterday.

At the conference, Union Minister for Construction U Win

Khaing explained the policies of the ministry.

In conclusion, the union minister said that the construction sector is required to strive for development of infrastructure and will be the leading organisation which will have to cooperate with the ministry of construction.

The chairman of MCEA U Thar Htay and Managing Director Mr Tojuro Nishi of the I&H extended greetings before the permanent secretary of the ministry explained the new joint venture company for concrete technologies. — Myanmar News Agency

## British foreign secretary leaves Myanmar

A DELEGATION led by British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson left Myanmar yesterday morning.

During his three-day visit to Myanmar, Mr. Johnson visited Nay Pyi Taw, where he met with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to reaffirm Britain's support for Burma's transition to democracy and the government's efforts to reinvig-

orate the peace process.

The British foreign secretary also visited Yangon, where he toured Shwedagon Pagoda and Yangon General Hospital.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials of the ministry of foreign affairs and the ambassador of the British Embassy. — Myanmar News Agency



British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson is seen off by officials as he leaves for Britain. PHOTO: MNA

## Indonesian FM returns home

A delegation led by Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno L P Marsudi left Yangon for Indonesia yesterday after concluding the humanitarian aid visit.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Daw Kaythi Soe, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Trainings Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and officials and Dr Ito Sumardi, Ambassador to Indonesia to Myanmar. — Myanmar News Agency



Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno L P Marsudi. PHOTO: MNA

## Government troops clash with the KIA

CONDUCTING area clearance operations in Kyukok (Pangsang), Shan State (North), government troops clashed with a Kachin Independence Army (KIA) armed group on Friday, during which at least one member of the KIA was killed.

The government troops were conducting area clearance operations about 2,000 metres from Kaunglon Village in Kyukoke (Pangsang) Township

when they encountered about 15 members of the KIA and fighting ensued.

The government troops seized the body of one KIA member, three M-21 rifles, ten cartridges, eight assorted rockets, a rocket launcher, 19 detonators and remote-controlled mines.

The KIA group retreated to the north and northeast, with government troops in pursuit. — Myanmar News Agency

## Car under fire by KIA group

KIA armed group attacked a car in Mansi Township on Saturday and no one was injured in the attack.

Ko Kyaw Khaing of Manwainglay Village in the township was driving the car on his way to farmland to carry rice when it was under fire by 10

KIA members.

The car got 15 bullet holes and its windshield and engine were damaged in the attack.

Following the attack, the troops of the Tatmadaw are conducting an area clearance operation in the area. — Myanmar News Agency

# President U Htin Kyaw visits U Thant Museum

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, together with Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw U Mann Win Khaing Than and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, visited U Thant House Museum at No. 31 Panwar Road in Kamayut Township, Yangon, yesterday.

The President and party viewed documentary photos that illustrated the life of U Thant as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, civil servant, teacher and writer as well as his endeavours during the Cold War, Vietnam war and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Dr Thant Myint-U, a grandchild of U Thant, conducted the tour around the museum for the President and his party.

Later, the President presented a gift to Dr Thant Myint-U, who also presented the President with books he had written.

The President's visit to the museum coincided with the 108th Birthday of the former UN Secretary-General. Yesterday, talks were held on future plans for the museum and Dr Thant Myint-U spoke of the legacy of U Thant. Additionally, Mr Gopal Gandhi, a grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and former governor of West Bengal, spoke of the human soul.

Later, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, Dr Thant Myint-U and Mr Gopal Gandhi planted trees in commemoration of U Thant in the museum compound.

At the ceremony, the Chief Minister said that he came to the ceremony to honour the man who tirelessly served the world and sought peace and truth.

The ceremony was also attended by Patron of the National League for Democracy Thura U Tin Oo, and regional ministers,



President U Htin Kyaw sees historic pictures at U Thant's House Museum in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

the mayor, diplomats and invited university students.

U Thant served as the third Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1961 to 1971 and was a high ranking government official from 1951 to 1957. He

lived in this house together with his wife Daw Thein Tin, daughter Daw Aye Aye Thant and son Tin Maung Thant.

As his grandson, Dr Thant Myint-U found the house abandoned in 2012, he asked for per-

mission from the authorities to renovate the building and open it as a museum for U Thant.

The museum is open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 5 pm.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## 2017 Nobel-Myanmar Literary...

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That is why a novel of high quality can be written only if the author can write with that type of imagination." The President added that this was an attempt to explain how existential understanding, imagination, creativity and the author's intention were interlinked and important. He continued, "When we read good creative literature, we become aware of our environment. The person who becomes aware of the environment begins to understand how to control his thoughts, words and deeds. There is a possibility that this person will come to know not only how to work for his own benefit but also know how to appreciate, view and have compassion for the benefit of all other beings like him who are wandering through Samsara."

"Good creative literature can instill in our hearts noble and humanitarian thoughts such as those stated above. That is why I believe that it is necessary for such good creative literature to emerge in our country. At this point I wish to say that in accordance with the dictum, Only good minds produce

good literature; only good intentions produce good literature, the good intentions of authors is very important.

In addition, imagination and creativity are also very important. Furthermore, we have always believed that for imagination and creativity to develop, freedom of the press, which is based on fundamental principles such as the freedom to believe without harming any other person, freedom to think, and freedom of expression, is very important," he added.

The opening ceremony of the festival was also attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mann Win Khaing Than, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein, regional ministers, departmental heads and writers.

The opening ceremony was followed by a paper reading session.

More than 140 book shops are participating in the festival, which will last till 24th January.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Bookshops are crowded with visitors on the first day of the Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

## Writers read papers on literature at Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival

THE Nobel-Myanmar Literary Festival, which featured paper reading sessions and discussions, began yesterday morning.

The paper reading sessions were chaired by Mya Win (Philosophy) and Maung Hon Wan (lecturer). Maung Khin Min (Danuphyu) read a paper titled "Relationship Between Creator of Literature and Reader, before the literary talk on literature and its creation by writers Chit Oo Nyo, Ne Win Myint and Ju in the afternoon. Later, poet Thitsar Ni and Maung Zeya submitted papers on contemporary poetry and literature and literary criticism, before



Left to right: Chit Oo Nyo, Ju and Nay Win Myint take part in the literary talks at the Nobel-Myanmar Literary festival in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

the literary talk titled "Birth of an Essay" by writers Kyi Min, Mya Win (Philosophy), Maung Yint Mat (Kyaungon) and Thwe Thwe Myo Nyunt.

The festival will be held from 22nd to 24th January, featuring the best literature of Myanmar during

the last century, the literary work of Nobel prize winners, paper reading sessions, paintings, cartoons and poem recitations. Visitors at the festival were served with coffee, drinking water, Mohingha, meals and Htamane, a rice snack.—*Win Nanda*

## Myanmar delegation led by Union Information Minister leaves for Indonesia

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint left for Jakarta, Indonesia, to attend a Senior Leadership Program from 22nd to 29th January yesterday morning.

In addition to Dr Pe Myint, the delegation includes Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, representative of Pyithu Hluttaw U Oo Hla Saw, Rakhine State Border Affairs and Security Minister Col Htein Lin and Rakhine State Development Affairs Minister U Min Aung, Rakhine State Hluttaw representatives including U Oo Than Naing and U Maung Than Sein, advisors to the Rakhine State Advisory Commission Dr Mya Thida and U Khin Maung Lay, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of



The delegation led by Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, fifth from right, first row, poses for a photo before departing for Indonesia. PHOTO: MNA

Foreign Affairs U Soe Han, Director of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office U Tin Maung Naing, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Myint Kyaw, Dr Naing Swe Oo of Thinnaygha Institute of Strategic Studies, Legal Consultant to the National League for Democracy U Ko Ni, Leader of the Ethnic

Affairs of the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society U Mya Aye, Chairman of Maungtaw Border Trade and Commerce Association U Aung Myint Thein, town elders of Sittway U Hla Shwe and U Tin Hlaing, town elder of Maungtaw U Aung Myo Naing and town elder of Buthidaung U Mohammad Rafib.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Women artists present their works in Mandalay



A visitor enjoys works being displayed at Mandalay Hill Art Gallery. Photo: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

ARTWORKS created by 38 female artists who completed their studies at the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) were displayed in Mandalay on Saturday.

The collective art exhibition titled "Colourful Flower" will run until 25 January, showcasing more than 120 works with a wide range of styles and media through Mandalay

Hill Art Gallery located at the base of the Mandalay Hill near the prominent lion statues in Aungmyethazan Township.

Subject matters include still life, traditional arts and culture and Mandalay landscapes.

Senior artists around the region including U Zaw Win, U Khin Maung San and Tapawaddy U Win Maung, an archaeologist-cum-histori-

an, and art lovers attended the opening of the exhibition on 21 January.

This is the third time a large group of women artists have organised such a collective art exhibition in Mandalay.

The art exhibition continues to open for the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

## Large numbers of nature lovers gather in Sonye Natural Lake in high season

VISITORS to the Sonye Lake are on the rise in high season this year, enjoying the natural beauty of the four-mile-wide lake by riding traditional boats, locals say.

Lotus, water convolvulus, water hyacinth and aquatic herbs thrive in Sonye Lake. The lake,

which has a rich diversity of fish, is also a good place to see a wide variety of birds.

Traditional lotus weaving businesses and fish farming are the main pursuits of communities around the lake.

Residents living in the surrounding areas of the natu-

ral lake and nearby villages mainly carry out manufacturing of lotus robes on a commercial scale. The lotus-based products have been exported to Inlay and Taunggyi areas of Shan State as well as some foreign countries.

A local woman can produce 1.5 ticals of lotus yarns a day. One tical of lotus yarn is worth Ks5,000.

Sonye Lake is situated in Ingon Village, Sonye Village-tract, Sintgaing Township, Mandalay Region. The majority of visitors usually take photographs with lotus while visiting the lake by boat. A boat ride costs Ks1,000 per person.

Locals generate a handsome income thanks to the growing numbers of visitors to the lake.—*Khin Maung Lwin*



Local visitors aboard boats to sightsee the natural beauty around Sonye Lake. PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG LWIN

## Fighting happened between Tatmadaw's troops, KIA armed group

AN armed clash between the troops of the Tatmadaw and KIA armed group happened yesterday in Muse Township in northern Shan State.

The troops of the Tatmadaw returned fire to the armed group after they were at-

tacked by the group about four miles east of Mawtaung Village in the township while conducting area clearance operation.

The armed group withdrew to south-west direction.

After the fighting, the

troops found a body from the armed group and seized one M-22 gun, four cartridges with 200 bullets, five mortar rounds, one RPG mortar round, one grenade, two uniforms of KIA and some KIA insignia.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Crime NEWS

### Three bodies discovered in Maungtaw Township

LOCALS found three bodies buried in an area west of Pada-kar Village in Maungtaw Township on Saturday and informed the police.

Local security forces confirmed that the three bodies found are those of three missing men: Mummad Shawphi; Son-tar Ahmmed and Mummad Su-

paing.

The three men went missing from the village on 20 January.

The bodies were sent to Maungtaw People's Hospital.

A murder case has been opened at the Kyeikgyaung Police Station and police are investigating.—*Myanmar News Agency*

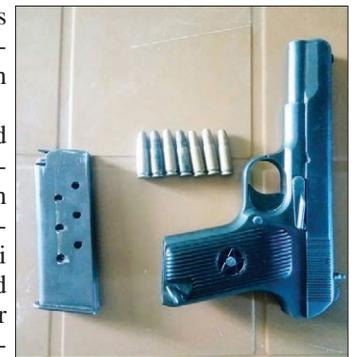
### Troops seize illegal timber, weapons in Tarmoenyae



Seized timber in Tarmoenyae are confiscated. PHOTO: MNA

TATMADAW troops seized arms and illegal timber from a vehicle during a surprise check in Tarmoenyae in northern Shan State yesterday.

The police intercepted and searched a Mitsubishi Pajero and discovered one pistol loaded with seven bullets and 740 pieces of sawed timber. The troops will hand over U Sai Kyaw Win, the driver of the car, and U Than Maung, who was a passenger on board carrying the pistol, to Tarmoenyae Police Station, according to the local authorities.—*Myanmar News Agency*



The pistol seized from U Than Maung. PHOTO: MNA

### Illegal timber, vehicles confiscated in Mangton, Nangkham Townships

FOUR illegal trucks used for carrying timber, one crane, one car, a truck carrying wood weighing about five tonnes, two vehicles carrying 39 50-gallon tanks with diesel fuel and a Toyota Prado carrying cement were confiscated by local authorities in Mangton Township in northern Shan State.

Troops from the Tatmadaw found the vehicles during an area clearance operation on 20th January.

Similarly, troops of the Tatmadaw found and confiscated one 12-wheeled vehicle carrying 39 tonnes of hardwood and

six trucks about 2 miles west of Mongwee Village in Nangkham Township on the same day.

Myanmar has lost an average of 17 per cent of its forests each year from 2010 to 2015, leaving a total of only 45 per cent of the country's forest cover, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation. An impending ban on all logging in the country has spurred a flurry of illegal logging.

The confiscated vehicles and timber will be handed over to the Forest Department, according to the local authorities.—*Myanmar News Agency*

# LOCAL Business



The advanced income tax on car imports from May to December in 2016 reached Ks 31 billion with 18,400 cars import to Yangon.  
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Advanced income tax on car imports reached over Ks31billion in eight months

ADVANCED income tax on car imports from May to December in 2016 was over Ks31billion, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

This amount was earned from 18,400 cars imported to Yangon. Starting this fiscal year, the advanced income tax was

levied on car imports in situations where the importers cannot present how they earn. If the car importers can fully provide the way they earn, they do not need to pay tax, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

According to 2016 Union Tax Law, the cars worth below

Ks30million are levied at 15 per cent while 20 per cent is paid for cars worth from Ks30 to Ks100 million. A 30 per cent tax is imposed on cars worth above Ks100million.

Additionally, cars with engine displacements over 1800cc are liable for a special goods tax

worth 25 per cent of the car's value.

The advanced income tax was received mostly from those who imported cars with slips upon the return of deregistration of old cars and car importers with foreign bank accounts. — *Ko Khant*

## Value of external trade through normal trade down by over US\$200mil

THE value of external trade through normal trade routes as of 13th January in this fiscal year declined by US\$216.727million, a drop from US\$15,687.438m in the previous year, according to Commerce Ministry statistics.

The decrease through sea trade was attributed to the decrease in the import trade, which was down by US\$686.609m compared to that in the similar period of last FY. The overseas trade value was US\$15,470.711m, whereas the border trade value was US\$5,513.224m during this final year. However, exports through both normal and border trade as of 13th January in this fiscal year managed to increase by US\$453.607m.

External trade from 1st April to 13th January in this fiscal year totalled US\$20,983.935m, with an export value of US\$8,641.539m and an import value of US\$12,342.396m, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, animal products, fisheries, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and other products whereas capital goods, raw industrial materials and personal goods are imported into the country. — *Mon Mon*

## Ornamental fish exhibition held in Mandalay

THE first-ever Myanmar ornamental sturgeon exhibition and contest was held in Mandalay City Hall on 21st and 22nd January, led by the Myanmar Koi Club.

The event is aimed at increasing the number of hobbyists of ornamental fish farming, penetrating the international sturgeon market, sharing the systematic farming methods of ornamental sturgeon and gaining access to easily purchase the high-quality sturgeon.

The Myanmar Koi Club was organised with 30 members. This exhibition showcased sturgeon from Japan, China and Hong Kong. The prizes for ornamental

fish were awarded by ornamental fish farming experts from Japan and Singapore.

The event was opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Dr Ye Lwin, the minister for Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC), the Mandalay Region Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the head of the Mandalay Region Fisheries Department. The Mandalay Region minister for agriculture, livestock and irrigation delivered an opening speech. Authorities then toured the stalls showcasing the Japanese sturgeons, associated goods for ornamental fish and aquaculture feedstuff. — *Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

## Export value up by over US\$450 million

THE value of exports as of 13th January this fiscal year increased by US\$453.607million when compared to that in the similar period of last fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Exports this fiscal year fetched US\$ 8,641.539m, with export values of \$2,129.35m from agricultural products, \$6.685m from animal

products, \$417.317m from fisheries products, \$750.266m from minerals, \$185.13m from forest products, \$3,911.382m from manufacturing goods and \$1,241.409m from other products.

In the similar period, the import values slumped by US\$609.011m, with import values of \$4,962.477m for capital goods,

\$ 4,394.943m for raw industrial materials and \$2,984.976m for personal goods.

External trade as of 13th January in this fiscal year fetched US\$20,983.935m, with an export value of US\$8,641.539m and an import value of US\$12,342.396m, according to the Commerce Ministry. — *Mon Mon*

## Mung bean price rebounds after a three week slump

THE price of mung bean bounced back a bit after about a three-week slump, with the prevailing price of over Ks1,160,000 per tonne of SQ (special quality) mung bean, according to the Bayintnaung commodity depot.

The pea prices were on the decline from the last week of December 2016 to the second week of January 2017. The price of mung bean rose a bit in the third week of January.

The pea prices in the

third week of January were Ks1,160,000 per tonne of SQ mung bean, Ks1,070,000 per tonne of FAQ (fair average quality) mung bean and Ks840,000 per tonne of pigeon pea, according to the Bayintnaung commodity depot. The pigeon pea growers from Pale town, Yinmarbin district, Sagaing Region are not doing well financially as the price is not high enough despite the high yield. About 20 baskets of pigeon peas are produced from an

acre. The current market price of pigeon peas in Pale town is over Ks26,000 per basket, whereas pigeon peas fetched Ks50,000 per basket last year. This has caused some growers to wait for the right time to sell their peas.

Myanmar produces a total of 1.5 to 2 million tonnes of peas, including 500,000 tonnes of mung bean, nearly 300,000 tonnes of green grams and around 250,000 tonnes of pigeon peas, it is learnt. — *Ko Htet*

## Philippine officials to visit Beijing to discuss investment deals, ASEAN summit

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is sending a cabinet-level delegation to Beijing this week to meet with China's Vice Premier Wang Yang and other top Chinese officials to discuss investment deals and his country's chairmanship of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) this year.

The 23-24 January trip by Philippine officials includes Duterte's finance, budget, economic, public works and transport secretaries, according to a statement from the Department of Finance on Sunday.

The visit occurs three months after Duterte visited Beijing to pave the way

for what he called a new commercial alliance. He has increased his overtures to China since assuming office last year while berating traditional ally the United States, a sharp change in Philippine foreign policy.

The Beijing mission to court China and tap loans and business follows Duterte's "pro-Filipino" policy aimed at reducing the reliance on a US that he says he has lost faith in.

Duterte will make a second China visit in May for a bilateral summit, China's Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said after meeting with him in Manila last week. That meeting was just days after Duterte's meeting with Jap-

anese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Meetings during the visit will also discuss the Philippines' chairmanship of the 10-member ASEAN this year, the Department of Finance said in a statement, without elaborating.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay said on 11 January that he was confident a code of conduct in the South China Sea between ASEAN and China could be finished by mid-2017. Still, the Philippines did file a diplomatic protest with China over its installation last year of anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems on its manmade islands in the disputed waters.

At this week's meet-

ing, Philippine and Chinese officials will flesh out some \$15 billion worth of investment pledges that China committed to Manila during Duterte's visit in October, the Department of Finance said.

Philippine Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi is also in China to "enhance energy cooperation" between the two countries and attract investments in local energy projects, his office said in a separate statement.

Japan's Abe, who wants to deepen ties with Duterte amid a changing geopolitical landscape, has pledged \$9 billion worth of investment and development aid for the Philippines.—Reuters

## Families of MH370 victims to lobby Malaysian minister in Australia

SYDNEY — Relatives of victims onboard missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 said on Sunday they plan to deliver personal letters to Malaysian Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai while he visits Australia, urging him to resume the search for the missing jet.

Liow held informal talks with Australian Transport Minister Darren Chester in the Western Australian capital of Perth on Sunday, Chester's office said, five days after the two ministers and their Chinese counterpart suspended a three-year hunt for the plane.

The Boeing 777 jet disappeared in March 2014 en route to Beijing from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, with 239 people on board, sparking one of the world's great aviation mysteries.

Voice370, a group representing families of the crew and passengers, said a representative would deliver the letters to Liow on either Sunday or Monday.

"We want them to resume the search. They can't let this go," Danica Weeks, an Australia-based spokeswoman for Voice370, said.

Chester and Liow will

welcome the search vessel, Fugro Equator, back to Fremantle on Monday, putting an end to a recovery operation that has scoured a 120,000-sq-km (46,000-sq-mile) area of the Indian Ocean sea floor.

Malaysia, Australia and China agreed in July to suspend the \$145 million search if the plane was not found, or if new evidence that might offer a clue as to its whereabouts was not uncovered, once that area had been checked.

"The tripartite decision to suspend the search in the absence of any credible new evidence leading to the specific location of the aircraft was not taken lightly," Chester said in a statement to Reuters.

Australia has not ruled out a future underwater search for plane and Malaysia said this week it would pay a reward if the fuselage was found by a credible private company.

Malaysia holds ultimate responsibility for the search given Malaysia Airlines is registered there. The aircraft is thought to have crashed west of Australia, placing it in its maritime zone of responsibility.—Reuters

## Indonesian authorities detain 17 nationals returning from Syria

JAKARTA — Indonesian authorities have detained 17 nationals returning from Syria, including children, suspected of being involved in radical activity, officials told Reuters on Sunday.

Immigration office spokesman Agung Sampurno said the people, including a two year-old girl and a three year-old boy, were arrested at Soekar-

no-Hatta airport upon disembarking an Istanbul-Jakarta Turkish Airline flight on Saturday.

They have been handed over to the police's anti-terrorism unit for questioning, Sampurno said.

"They are currently still under an interrogation process. If we find any relation to crime on terrorism, we will continue the investigation. If not, they

will be handed over to their families," the chief of Den-sus 88, police's anti-terrorism unit, Eddy Hartono told Reuters.

Police have been monitoring dozens of returning citizens over concerns they could be linking up with networks to equip a new generation of radicals with the skills and equipment required to launch a major attack at home.

Police killed 33 people and arrested 170 in 2016 for foiled attempts to launch attacks, a significant increase compared to 2015, according to their statistics.

A gun and bomb assault in the heart of Jakarta in January 2016 killed four people and was the first attack in Southeast Asia claimed by Islamic State.—Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

Expatriate Consultant Editor  
Mark Angeles  
markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators  
Khin Maung Oo, Myint Win Thein  
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International News Editor  
Ye Htut Tin  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

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

Chief Reporter  
Tun Aung Kyaw,  
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Circulation  
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114  
Advertising inquiry  
01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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## Xi to head central commission for integrated military, civilian development

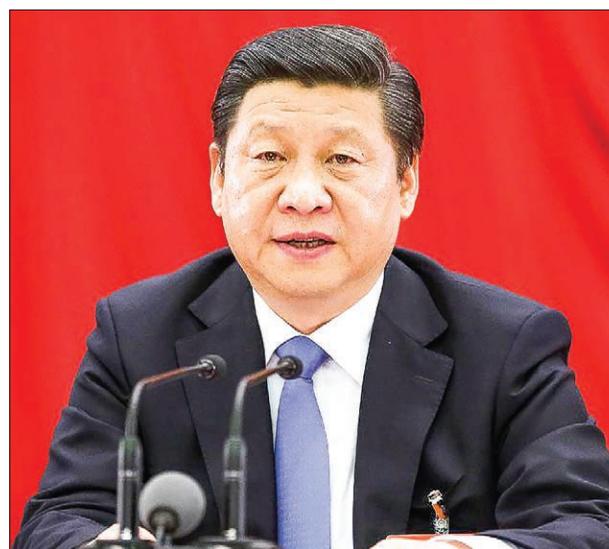
BEIJING — Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, will head a new central commission for integrated military and civilian development, according to a decision by the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee on Sunday.

The decision was made at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, which was chaired by Xi.

The commission will be the central agency tasked with decision-making, deliberation and coordination of major issues regarding integrated military and civilian development.

The commission will report to the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

Attendees at the meeting also heard a report on



Xi Jinping. PHOTO: XINHUA

the work of leading Party groups of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), the State Council, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and the Secre-

tariat of the CPC Central Committee. In a statement released after the meeting, the political bureau called for efforts to uphold the authority of the CPC Central Committee with comrade Xi Jinping as the core, adhere to its centralized and unified leadership, and fully implement major policies of the committee.

The year ahead is an important year to implement the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) and supply-side structural reform.

The top leadership called on the leading Party groups of the NPC Standing Committee, the State Council, the CPPCC National Committee, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate to follow new development concepts, fulfil their responsibility for strict governance of the Party, promote stable and healthy development of the economy and social stability and harmony.

Attendees urged the Secretariat of the CPC Central Committee to make policies to serve the overall situation, improve its working system and capability to solve practical problems so as to complete tasks given by the CPC Central Committee.—Xinhua

## LDP heavyweight backs Abe's 3<sup>rd</sup> term as ruling party leader

TOKYO — Toshihiro Nikai, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, expressed support Sunday for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe serving a third term as party president, while ruling out a general election in the near future.

Speaking in an interview with Kyodo News, Nikai said he will support Abe if the premier runs in the LDP president's race in the fall, citing Abe's high international credibility.

"It will be just fine for him to serve a long period of time as (party) president," the veteran

lawmaker said.

On the prospects of Abe dissolving the House of Representatives and holding a general election, Nikai said, "We have lots of jobs to be done."

The LDP, which forms the ruling coalition with the smaller Komeito party, is set to change an in-house rule at its party convention in March to allow a LDP president to serve a third term or up to nine years.

That means Abe, who assumed the LDP presidency in 2012, will be able to seek a third term.—*Kyodo News*

## S Korea's culture minister arrested over alleged blacklisting



Undated combined photo shows South Korean Culture Minister Cho Yoon Sun (L) and former presidential chief of staff Kim Ki Choon. Cho was arrested on 21 January, 2017, for her alleged role in the creation of a blacklist of artists deemed critical of President Park Geun Hye's administration, while the Seoul Central District Court issued an arrest warrant for Kim, accused of masterminding the blacklisting of some 10,000 people. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

SEOUL — South Korean Culture Minister Cho Yoon Sun was arrested on Saturday for her alleged role in the creation of a blacklist of artists deemed critical of President Park Geun Hye's administration, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Later in the day, Cho, 50, offered to resign from her post, according to Yonhap. Acting President and Prime Minister Hwang Kyo Ahn said he will promptly accept her resignation.

The Seoul Central District Court had issued an arrest warrant for Cho on charges of abuse of authority and perjury. It also issued an arrest warrant for former presidential chief of staff Kim Ki Choon, accused of masterminding the blacklisting of some 10,000 people. Kim, 77, has also been taken into custody.

The court said that criminal activity had been established and warned that the suspects might

attempt to destroy evidence, according to Yonhap.

Investigators sought warrants to formally arrest the pair shortly after the investigation team questioned them for 21 hours and 15 hours, respectively, from Tuesday to early Wednesday.

Cho served as the senior presidential secretary for political affairs from 2014 to 2015 and became the culture minister last year. Kim was the presidential chief of staff from 2013 to 2015.

The investigators suspect that the two were the masterminds behind the alleged creation and management of the blacklist intended to block artists critical of the government from receiving state support. Following parliament's impeachment last month of President Park Geun Hye over a political scandal, her powers have been transferred to Hwang.—*Kyodo News*

## At least 36 killed as Indian train derails

BHUBANESWAR, India — At least 36 people were killed and 50 injured on Saturday night when nine coaches of a passenger train derailed in eastern India, in the latest disaster to hit the vast and accident-prone state railways, police said.

The Hirakhand express train from Jagdalpur to Bhubaneswar derailed at around 11:20 pm near Kureri station, in the state of Andhra Pradesh, around 30 km (18 miles) outside the town of Rayagada.

"The rescue operation is almost over," said JP Mishra, the chief public relations officer at East Coast Railway, which has jurisdiction over the area where the derailment occurred.

"Our first priority is to take care of the injured passengers and provide them proper treatment by shifting them to hospitals. We are also searching all the coaches to ensure that nobody remains stranded in them," he said. The reason for the derailment has not been ascertained, said Mishra, adding that they were not ruling out any possibility of foul play and investigations will be conducted. The incident area is one where Maoist rebels typically operate.

Video footage from the scene showed members of the disaster management team and locals trying to rescue trapped passengers from windows and debris using phones to provide light with the



Derailed coaches of a Hirakhand express train from Jagdalpur to Bhubaneswar are seen near Kureri station, in the state of Andhra Pradesh, outside the town of Rayagada, India, in this still image from video on 22 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

train's bogie wheels tilted off the railway track and mangled wreckage all over the spot. "Nine bogies were derailed of which three have turned and fallen off the track," said local Superintendent of Police L K V Ranga Rao. "Most of the casualties and deaths are from the three sleeper-class compartments."

India's state railways, built during British colonial rule, have an appalling safety record - the result of decades of underinvestment and a priority on keeping fares low for the 23 million passengers who use the network every day.

In the last serious accident, 150 people died when a train derailed late last year in the north-

ern state of Uttar Pradesh. India recorded 27,581 railway deaths in 2014, the most recent year for which figures are available, with most victims falling from, or being struck by, moving trains.

"Anguished to learn about the train accident near Vizianagaram," Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said on Twitter, offering his condolences to the families of the victims. "We are investigating the reason for accident." Prime Minister Narendra Modi also tweeted that the tragedy was "saddening" and said the railways ministry was working to ensure quick relief and rescue operations.—*Reuters*

## Fire at oil plant in Wakayama Prefecture, 3,000 people urged to evacuate

WAKAYAMA, Japan — A fire broke out at an oil refinery in the western Japanese prefecture of Wakayama on Sunday, prompting authorities to urge nearly 3,000 local residents to evacuate, firefighters and local city officials said.

After the fire began around 3:50 pm at a TonenGeneral Sekiyu KK refinery in the city of Arita, black smoke hung over the area, but no injuries were reported.

A unit producing lubricant oil is believed to have been damaged by the blaze, according to the fire-

fighters and the company. No explosion occurred.

Another fire erupted Wednesday inside a crude oil tank at the same refinery, which operates around the clock to produce gasoline, kerosene and benzene.—*Kyodo News*



Water is sprayed on a TonenGeneral Sekiyu KK refinery in the city of Arita, Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan after a fire broke out on 22 January, 2017. Local authorities urged nearly 3,000 local residents to evacuate. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

# Opinion

## 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 [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.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.

## Empower our people with quality literature in order to achieve peace

Aye Min Soe

**B**ISHOP emeritus and former Nobel Peace Prize committee member Gunnar Stålsett once said that literature is the lung by which a nation breathes. Freedom of expression is the oxygen. Peace is the heart of people's dreams. Hope is the energy of life.

Literature plays an important role in human rights and also contributes to democratization and the peace-making process.

It is necessary for such good creative literature to emerge in our country.

We believe that a high literary standard can help us put our country on the road to peace and development.

Good literature has the capacity to give the heart hope, which is required for peace for our people. This is because a good story by one human being can move another human being simply through his words. And in the moment when a person is confronted with a choice, the character and reader are empowered.

However, to encourage imagination and creativity which are essential for the emergence of good literature, we need freedom of the press based on fundamental principles such as the freedom to believe without harming any other person, freedom to think, and freedom of expres-

sion.

Literature can contribute to peace. Peace is not just possible and not just essential: it is a choice that we have the power to make. But the question is, do we believe ourselves when we speak of peace, write about peace, read stories to our children about peace? Even in the face of our bewildering, overwhelming, sometimes disheartening adulthood, do we still believe?

With the press freedom which we have begun to enjoy recently, we should work for the development and peace of our country through our works of good literature.

Literature prepares us to choose peace when it prepares

us to understand and accept ourselves, and also to understand and accept others.

Let us give our people and our children hope with stories that allow them to understand the differences that separate us, and to experience the humanity that connects us.

Let us impart to our people the knowledge that convinces them, over and over again through many stories, that peace is important, possible and worth striving for. At a time when internal peace is so urgently needed in our country, let us all join hands and work for a durable and lasting peace in the land we all love and cherish.

# Civil Service Academy

U Khin Maung  
(A retired diplomat)

## Introduction

It is really a heart-warming news that the opening ceremony of the "Civil Service Academy" was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016, at the Central Institute of Civil Service, Upper Myanmar, Pyin Oo Lwin Township, Mandalay Region. The Civil Service Academy is aimed at providing basic training for cadets and post-graduate management diploma courses for civil servants. His Excellency, the Vice President U Myint Swe has honoured the inauguration ceremony of the Civil Service Academy with his presence and has also made a speech, it was learnt. So, may I present to you the essential points of H.E. Vice President's speech as follows:

"If we are required to make political and economic reforms we need to change the administration sector, which is need to implement those changes. In doing so, it is important to amend laws, rules and procedures and at the same time attitudes and capacities of civil servants play an important role. In any sector, government or private, in a country, resources are very important in implementing any kind of sectors including management and

service.

At present, the Civil Service Academy has two more subjects for the course participants to learn-English and Information Technology which are urgently needed for Civil Service personnel to master these days. They will be added to 5 conventional subjects, management, economics, social science, political science and law. On the same day, i.e, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2016, another Civil Service Academy was inaugurated at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Lower Myanmar) in Phaunggyi, Hlegu Township with the presence of Pyithu Hluttaw, Speaker, U Win Myint. To the credit of these two heart-warming news and to the credit of so many other tasks for peace, economic development, national unity and harmony etc, undertaken by the incumbent government, I would like to say humbly and yet firmly as a retiree and a nonentity, that the democratically elected incumbent government is winning the hearts and minds of the people.

Well, my dear reader, in connection with the process of learning, may I present to you what, I, myself, have learnt from my teachers, scholars, etc, but only in summary.

"There is a concept that learning has the beginning but has no end whereas ignorance

has no beginning but has an end. Now, a new era or a new age is all upon us. It is as we all know, knowledge age or intellectually challenging age. So, in this day and age, what would happen to a country, if it were completely lacking in or devoid of educated and learned citizens. I dare not imagine.

There are so many proverbs or old sayings and writings by many scholars concerning learning and knowledge. MR. Norman Lewis, an American writer, has expressed in his book, "Word Power Made Easy" Quote "no educative process is ever the end, it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living" Unquote.

And concerning the light and power of knowledge, may I present to you a short poem that I have learnt. If loosely translated in English. I think, it will read as follows:

"Of the lights, fire light, moon light and sunlight: moon light is brighter than fire light; sun light is brighter than moon light".

Ah, "the light of knowledge" is the brightest of all. No light is there brighter than the light of knowledge: As such, our Lord Buddha has preached. Therefore, all and sundry, each and everybody should strive to acquire knowledge. A good knowledge is

just like a Badeithabin tree, a tree of plenty, with an inexhaustible store".

Now, so many, many thanks to our incumbent government for the inauguration of Civil Service Academy, one in Pyin Oo Lwin and another in Phaunggyi, Hlegu Township, on the same day, with a noble and high aim to train the civil service personnel to expand their horizons and to instill a love of learning into them, so as toup-date and upgrade themselves.

Well, I am afraid that I might have consumed so much of your precious time. Not blowing my own trumpet, please allow me to mention that I was born and brought up in a small village. When I was ten years old, my much far-sighted father gave me modern education, as mentioned by my father, meaning I was sent to, first, a private school to learn English, and then to State High School in Yamethin. My parents were very, very poor. Father was just a traditional medicine practitioner and mother was a roadside-vendor. So poor was my parents that I was granted best to make a name. Fortunately after graduation I passed the B.C.S competitive examination. B.C.S (Burma Civil Service) hardworking, and especially for my legal knowledge and experience, I was called to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and I served at the Ministry and retired with the rank of deputy director-general.

I am an oldie, in my eightieth years, with one foot in the

grave. In Addition to my pension. I can still earn some other income, by teaching English to the younger generation. And believe me, I am still learning English law, management, and basic information technology. Why? Because I firmly believe that learning is a never-ending process. Therefore, we should learn and grow, intellectually, as the days go by. My sincere advice to all the civil servants, who are generally the age of my grand children. You all are earning for a living, with your knowledge, technological talent, tech-know and management skills. At the same time, my humble advice is; go on learning to upgrade and update yourselves. In essence, "earn and learn" please. An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. Thank you.

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# Women lead unprecedented worldwide mass protests against Trump



Hundreds of thousands march down Pennsylvania Avenue during the Women's March. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of thousands of women filled the streets of major American cities to lead an unprecedented wave of international protests against President Donald Trump, mocking and denouncing the new US leader the day after his inauguration.

Women activists, outraged by Trump's campaign rhetoric and behaviour they found to be especially misogynistic, spearheaded scores of marches in the United States and sympathy rallies around the world on Saturday.

Organizers said they drew nearly 5 million protesters in all, far surpassing crowd expectations.

The demonstrations also highlighted strong discontent over Trump's comments and policy positions toward a wide range of groups, including Mexican immigrants, Muslims, the disabled and environmentalists.

In contrast to the heated, often shrill tone of the presidential campaign, and the grim imagery of "American carnage" Trump evoked in his inaugural address, the mood during Saturday's protests was largely upbeat, even festive.

Chanting such slogans as, "We need a real leader, not a creepy tweeter," and "Hey-hey, ho-ho, Donald Trump has got to go," many marchers wore knitted pink cat-eared "pussy hats" in a reference to Trump's boast, in a 2005 video made public weeks before the election, about grabbing women by the genitals.

While women constituted the bulk of the demonstrators, many were accompanied by husbands, boyfriends and children.

The planned centrepiece of the protests, a Women's March on Washington, appeared to draw larger crowds than turned out a day earlier to witness Trump's swearing-in on the steps of the US Capitol.

No official estimates of the turnout were available, but it clearly exceeded the 200,000 marchers projected in advance by

organizers, filling long stretches of downtown Washington around the White House and the National Mall.

Hundreds of thousands more women thronged New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Denver and Boston, adding to a public outpouring of mass dissent against Trump unmatched in modern US politics for a new president's first full day in office.

So-called Sister March organizers estimated 750,000 demonstrators swarmed the streets of Los Angeles, one of the largest of Saturday's gatherings. Police said the turnout there was as big or bigger than a 2006 pro-immigration march that drew 500,000.

Some 400,000 marchers assembled in New York City, according to Mayor Bill de Blasio, though organizers put the number there at 600,000.

The Chicago event grew so large that organisers staged a rally rather than trying to parade through the city. Police said more than 125,000 people attended, while sponsors estimated the crowd at 200,000, the same tally they reported for Boston, and Denver.

Smaller protests were held in such cities as Seattle, Portland, Oregon, Madison, Wisconsin, and Bismarck, North Dakota.

The protests, mostly peaceful, illustrated the depth of division in a country still reeling from the bitterly fought 2016 election campaign. Trump stunned the world by defeating Democrat Hillary Clinton, a former secretary of state and first lady who made history as the first woman nominated for president by a major US political party.

Pam Foyster, a resident of Ridgway, Colorado, said the atmosphere in Washington reminded her of mass protests during the 1960s and '70s against the Vietnam War and in favour of civil rights and women's rights.

"I'm 58 years old, and I can't believe we are having to do this again," Foyster said.

Although Republicans now

control the White House and both houses of Congress, Trump faces entrenched opposition from wide segments of the public, in contrast with the honeymoon period new presidents typically experience when first taking office.

A recent ABC News/Washington Post poll found Trump had the lowest favourability rating of any incoming US president since the 1970s.

Women-led protests against Trump, who has vowed that US policy would be based on the principle of "America first," also were staged in Sydney, London, Tokyo and other cities across Europe and Asia.

Sister March sponsors boasted some 670 gatherings around the world in solidarity with the Washington event, estimating a global turnout of more than 4.6 million participants tallied through online march registrations, although those numbers could not be independently verified.

Trump, in a Twitter post on Saturday, wrote, "I am honoured to serve you, the great American People, as your 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States!"

Attending an interfaith service at Washington National Cathedral before visiting the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters, Trump made no mention of the protests. But he angrily attacked media reports, including photos, showing that crowds at Friday's inaugural were smaller than those seen in 2009 and 2013, when Barack Obama took the oath of office for his first and second terms as president.

"I made a speech, I looked out, the field was, it looked like a million, million and a half people," Trump said at his CIA visit. "They showed a field where there were practically nobody standing there."

Saturday's march in Washington overwhelmed the city's Metro subway system, with enormous crowds reported and some stations temporarily forced to turn away riders.—Reuters

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### N Korean newspaper reports on Trump's inauguration

BEIJING — Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, on Sunday reported on Donald Trump officially becoming the president of the United States.

A short article appeared at the bottom of the last page of the daily, simply stating that the businessman-turned-Republican politician was sworn in on Friday and that "the inauguration was held in Washington DC" It included no assessment or commentary.

Since Trump's election victory in November, North Korea has refrained from conducting military provocations, apparently in anticipation of the new administration's policy toward Pyongyang.

Meanwhile, Japan, the United States and South Korea remain on alert following North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's recent announcement that his country has entered the final stage of preparing to test-launch a long-range missile.—Kyodo News

### Close aides to Abe, Trump agree to boost bilateral ties

TOKYO — Close aides to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump agreed Sunday to work together to enhance bilateral relations, Japanese government officials said.

Michael Flynn, Trump's national security adviser, told Shoto Yachi, head of the secretariat of the National Security Council, during a telephone conversation that the US president looks forward to meeting with Abe, the officials said. In the first conversation between top American and Japanese officials since Trump was sworn in Friday, Flynn told Yachi that the Trump administration recognizes Japan as an important ally. Flynn called Yachi and they talked for about 10 minutes, according to the Japanese officials.—Kyodo News

### Israel's Netanyahu to speak with Trump on Sunday, Iran on agenda

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he would later in the day hold his first conversation with Donald Trump since his inauguration as US president.

"A telephone conversation will be held this evening between President Trump and me. Many matters face us, the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the situation in Syria, the Iranian threat," Netanyahu said in broadcast remarks at the start of the Israeli cabinet meeting.—Reuters

### Russia should not think sanctions will be lifted soon — PM

MOSCOW — Russia should part with the illusion that Western sanctions against the country will be lifted soon, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Sunday.

"It is obvious that all this will last for a long time. Do not rely on someone else's election, on incoming new foreign leaders," Medvedev told a meeting of the United Russia party, while speaking about the agriculture sector.—Reuters

### Israel municipality approves hundreds of settlement homes in east Jerusalem

JERUSALEM — The Jerusalem municipality approved building permits for more than 560 housing units in three East Jerusalem settlements on Sunday, two days after President Donald Trump took office in the United States.

Chairman of Jerusalem city hall's Planning and Building committee Meir Turgeman told Israel Radio the permits were held up until the end of the Barack Obama administration, which was critical of Israeli settlement activity.—Reuters

### Japanese man among killed in Melbourne car rampage

SYDNEY — A Japanese man in his 20s died in Friday's car rampage in one of Melbourne's busiest shopping areas, Japanese Foreign Ministry sources said Sunday.

The man's name has not been made public at the request of his family. The Japanese Consulate in Melbourne is working to confirm the circumstances of his death. The death toll from the alleged crime has risen to five with the death of a three-month-old boy. Another Japanese man in his 20s suffered minor injuries in the rampage. Around 2 pm on Friday, a 26-year-old man known to police drove his car onto a crowded pedestrian sidewalk at a mall in Melbourne. He is expected to be charged with multiple counts of murder.—Kyodo News

# Syrian army and allies take village from Islamic State

BEIRUT — The Syrian army and its allies on Sunday drove Islamic State from the village of Soran, east of Aleppo, state media and a military media unit run by Hezbollah reported, bringing them closer to territory held by Turkey-backed rebels.

Several overlapping conflicts are being fought in Syria, dragging in regional and global powers as well as the government

and local groups, complicating the battlefield in the north of the country and raising the risk of an escalation in the war.

The main struggle in Syria's civil war is between President Bashar al-Assad, backed by Iran, Russia and Shi'ite militias including the Lebanese Hezbollah, against rebels that include groups backed by Turkey, Gulf monarchies and the United States.

However, both those sides, as well as a separate group of Kurdish-led militias, are also fighting against Islamic State and retaking territory which the jihadist group controls in northern Syria.

The village of Soran is located 16km (10 miles) southwest of al-Bab, which rebels supported by Turkish jets, armour and special forces are attempting to capture from Islamic State after

reaching its outskirts a month ago.

Although Turkey has long been one of the biggest supporters of anti-Assad rebels, its entry into Syria last summer was aimed at pushing Islamic State from its border and at stopping Kurdish groups linking two enclaves they control along the frontier.

After rebels lost their pocket of territory in Aleppo in Decem-

ber, Turkey and Assad's main supporter Russia brokered a ceasefire and peace talks in Syria between the government and insurgents.

Last week, Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek appeared to soften Ankara's position against Assad, saying it was no longer realistic to demand a resolution of the conflict without his involvement.—Reuters

## Suicide attack foiled in Beirut cafe — security source

BEIRUT — Lebanese security forces foiled an attempted suicide bombing at a cafe in Beirut's busy al-Hamra district late on Saturday, a security source said.

The suspected bomber was stopped while wearing an explosive vest as he attempted to enter the cafe and before he was able to detonate it, the source said, adding that he was injured during his arrest and taken to hospital.

Militants have carried out a number of bombings in Lebanon in recent years including some motivated by the war in neighbouring Syria, but no major incidents has taken place for months.

In June, eight suicide bombers targeted a Christian village in north Lebanon near the Syrian border, killing five other people. Twin blasts in November 2015 left 43 dead in the mostly Shi'ite Muslim southern districts of Beirut.

Islamic State, a militant Sunni group that holds extensive territory in Syria, said it was behind those attacks. Some smaller attacks also took place last year that it did not claim.

Attacks in Lebanon risk widening sectarian fissures that lay behind the country's 15-year-long civil war which ended in 1990 and that have been aggravated by the war in Syria.—Reuters



An Iraqi soldier walks next to a wall painted with the black flag commonly used by Islamic State militants, during a battle with Islamic State militants near Arabi neighborhood, north of Mosul, Iraq, on 21 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Islamic State blows up hotel to prevent landing in west Mosul, witnesses say

MOSUL — Islamic State detonated explosives in the largest hotel in western Mosul on Friday, in an attempt to destroy it and prevent Iraqi forces from using it as a landing spot or base in their offensive to capture the city, witnesses said on Sunday.

The Mosul Hotel, shaped as a step pyramid, appeared to be leaning to one side after the explosions, said two witnesses contacted by phone, requesting anonymity as the militants punish by death those caught communicating with the outside world. The Mosul Hotel

sits alongside the Tigris river that cuts the city into two halves. The explosion comes as Iraqi forces appear about to take full control of the eastern side and prepare to attack the western bank. Iraqi forces launched in October a campaign backed by a US-led coalition to

take back Mosul from the hard-line Sunni group which captured the city in 2014, declaring from its Grand Mosque a "caliphate" that also spanned parts of Syria.

Mosul is the last major city stronghold under Islamic State control in Iraq.—Reuters

## 21 killed in blast at market in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least 21 people were killed and 40 others injured in a bomb explosion at a market in a tribal area of northern Pakistan early Saturday morning, officials and media reports said.

The bomb was hidden in a wooden crate of apples in a vehicle parked at the market in Parachinar and detonated remotely, according to police.

The Pakistani Taliban and a branch of the banned sectarian militant group Lashkar-e-Jhang-

vi jointly claimed responsibility for the attack.

An e-mail sent to newspapers by Mohammad Khurasani, central spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban, said the bombing was carried out "to avenge our colleagues in various prisons and those being killed in fake police encounters."

"We will avenge all our martyrs. We are mindful of our brothers who are in government custody," it added.—Kyodo News

## Two suspected al Qaeda members killed in drone strike in Yemen — officials

SANAA — Two suspected members of al Qaeda's Yemen branch were killed on Sunday by what local officials believed was a US drone strike.

If confirmed, it would be the first such attack since US President Donald Trump assumed office on Friday.

The men were killed when a missile hit the vehicle in which they were travelling in southern al-Bayda province, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The United States conducted

dozens of drone strikes throughout Barack Obama's presidency to combat al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, regarded as one of the global militant group's most dangerous branches.

The Trump administration has not yet laid out a clear policy on drone strikes, but Trump has said that he would support an escalation of the fight against Islamist militant groups.

During the Obama administration, the US has regularly used drones to attack Islamic State, al

Qaeda and other militant groups in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan and other countries.

The controversial programme has repeatedly killed civilians and has been criticised by human rights groups. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has exploited Yemen's civil war to carve out a foothold in the Arabian Peninsula's poorest country.

Several leaders of the group have been killed by drone strikes in recent years, most recently in December.—Reuters

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-304	09:50	11:45	Daily
TG-302	15:00	16:55	Daily
TG-306	19:50	21:45	Daily
PG-706	6:00	8:15	Daily
PG-702	10:30	12:25	Daily
PG-708	15:30	17:25	Daily
PG-704	18:20	20:15	Daily
8M-335	7:30	9:15	Daily
8M-331	16:30	18:15	Daily
UB-017	17:45	19:15	Daily
UB-019	8:00	9:30	3,5,7
UB-019	8:55	10:25	1,6

BANGKOK TO YANGON			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
TG-303	8:00	8:45	Daily
TG-301	13:15	14:00	Daily
TG-305	18:05	18:50	Daily
PG-701	8:45	9:40	Daily
PG-707	13:45	14:40	Daily
PG-703	16:45	17:35	Daily
PG-705	20:30	21:45	Daily
8M-336	10:15	11:00	Daily
8M-332	19:20	20:05	Daily
UB-020	10:35	11:10	3,5
UB-018	21:05	21:35	Daily
UB-020	11:30	12:05	1,6

YGN TO DMK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-252	8:30	10:20	Daily
FD-256	12:55	14:40	Daily
FD-254	17:35	19:25	Daily
FD-258	21:40	23:30	Daily
DD-4231	08:00	9:45	Daily
DD-4235	12:00	13:45	Daily
DD-4239	21:00	22:55	Daily
SL-201	11:00	13:35	Daily
SL-207	19:45	21:45	Daily

YGN TO CAN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-713	20:25	01:00+1	1
8M-711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7
CZ-3056	11:35	15:50	3,6
CZ-3056	17:40	22:20	1,5

YGN TO SIN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-231	8:20	12:40	Daily
SQ-997	10:25	15:10	Daily
MI-515	14:20	18:50	1,3,5
MI-519	17:35	22:10	Daily
MI-522	16:20	20:50	4,6
MI-533	13:35	20:50	2
3k-584	19:40	00:10	Daily
3K-582	11:35	16:05	Daily
TR-2823	9:25	13:55	1,2,4,5,7
UB-001	7:15	11:45	Daily

YGN TO NRT			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-814	22:10	06:45	Daily

YGN TO ICN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-472	23:30	7:50	Daily

YGN TO KUL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-505	8:30	12:45	Daily
AK-503	19:10	23:30	Daily
8M-501	16:10	20:10	2
8M-501	11:45	15:45	1
MH-741	11:15	15:40	Daily
MH-743	16:00	20:15	1,4,6,7

YGN TO KMG			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-416	12:30	16:00	Daily
MU-2032	15:30	18:50	Daily
MU-2012	12:55	19:55	3

YGN TO TPE			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7916	10:50	16:10	Daily

YGN TO PEK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	05:50+1	1,3,5,7

YGN TO HAN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-956	19:10	21:30	Daily

YGN TO SGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-942	12:10	14:55	2,3,4,5,7

YGN TO HKG			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-251	1:05	5:25	Daily
UB-8027	09:00	13:30	1,3,5,7

YGN TO DOH			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-919	8:05	11:30	1,3,4,6,7

YGN TO CNX			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-724	13:40	15:35	Daily

YGN TO DAC			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-061	16:45	18:30	1,3,6

MDL TO DMK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-245	12:55	15:15	Daily

MDL TO SIN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-533	15:45	20:50	2
MI-522	14:15	20:15	4,6

SIN TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MI-522	11:30	13:20	4,6
MI-533	11:30	14:50	2

MDL TO BKK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-710	14:10	16:35	Daily

MDL TO KMG			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2030	14:25	17:15	Daily

NYT TO BKK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-722	19:50	22:50	1,3,4,5,6,7

### AIRLINE CODES

8M	= Myanmar Airways International
BG	= Biman Bangladesh Airlines
MH	= Malaysia Airlines
MU	= China Eastern Airlines
NH	= All Nippon Airways
SQ	= Singapore Airways
PG	= Bangkok Airways
UB	= Myanmar National Airlines
VN	= Vietnam Airline
3K	= Jet Star
AI	= Air India
CI	= China Airlines
DD	= Nok Airline
KA	= Dragonair
MI	= Silk Air
TG	= Thai Airways
AK	= Air Asia
CA	= Air China
CZ	= China Southern
FD	= Air Asia
KE	= Korea Airlines
QR	= Qatar Airways
TR	= Tiger Airline

DAY	4	= Thursday
1	= Monday	5 = Friday
2	= Tuesday	6 = Saturday
3	= Wednesday	7 = Sunday

## Heartburn pills tied to serious bacterial infections

DUNDEE — People who take popular heartburn pills known as proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) may be more likely to develop intestinal infections than people who don't take these medications, a Scottish study suggests.

The pills work by stopping cells in the stomach lining from producing too much of the acid that can cause ulcers and reflux symptoms such as heartburn.

Researchers examined data on about 188,000 people who used these drugs and about 377,000 similar individuals who didn't take PPIs. Compared to people who didn't use the drugs, those who did were at higher risk for a severe form of diarrhea caused by the *Clostridium difficile* bacteria. Their odds of this infection were 1.4 times higher when they were hospitalized and 1.7 times higher when they weren't in the hospital.

In addition, PPI users had a 4.5 times greater risk of getting *Campylobacter* infections, a common form of food poisoning, if they were hospitalized and a 3.7 times higher risk when they weren't hospitalized.

"Reducing stomach acid, which acts as a barrier to infection, increases the chance of getting a

GI infection," said senior study author Dr Thomas MacDonald, a pharmacology researcher at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

"The main risk of PPIs are gastrointestinal infections," MacDonald added by email.

MacDonald and colleagues analyzed data on stool samples collected from patients in Scotland between 1999 and 2013.

Overall, there were 22,705 positive test results for bacterial infections. This included 15,273 people with *C. difficile* and 6,590 cases of *Campylobacter*, the authors reported in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*.

Researchers also tested for *Salmonella*, *Shigella* and *Escherichia coli*, or *E coli*, but didn't find an association between PPIs and these infections. One limitation of the study is that it only included data on people who took PPIs with a prescription, even though these drugs have been available in Scotland since 2004 without a prescription, the authors note. Researchers also lacked data on other factors that can influence the risk of bacterial infections such as obesity, smoking and alcohol use.

Previous research on PPIs and infections has produced

mixed results, with some studies suggesting an association and others failing to establish a connection, noted Dr Wojciech Marlicz, a gastroenterology researcher at Pomeranian Medical University in Poland who wasn't involved in the study. Millions of people worldwide take PPIs, which are available without a prescription in Europe and the US, which means even a slight increase in the odds of bacterial infections can still impact a lot of patients.

"The main problem with PPI use is their general overuse," Marlicz said by email. "These drugs are very potent and safe when used according to indication."

"Some patients will gain clear benefits from PPIs as they have stomach problems, such as ulcers which will heal better with less acid," said Dr Claire Steves, a researcher at King's College London who wasn't involved in the study. "However other patients may take these as preventatives, or for mild symptoms," Steves added by email. "This study would prompt us to reassess the risk and benefit for each individual, and in some cases alternatives — such as changing diet or lifestyle — may be better options." —Reuters

## Small moth with yellowish coif named after Donald Trump



A small moth with a yellowish-white coif of scales, dubbed *Neopalpa donaldtrumpi* and named after US President-elect Donald Trump, is seen in an undated combination photo provided by evolutionary biologist Vazrick Nazari. PHOTO: REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO — A small moth with a yellowish-white coif of scales has been named after US President-elect Donald Trump, in honour of the former reality TV show host and real estate magnate's signature hairdo.

The new species, dubbed *Neopalpa donaldtrumpi*, lives in a habitat that spans southern California and Mexico's Baja California and was named by evolutionary biologist Vazrick Nazari in an article published in the scientific journal *ZooKeys*. The moth, the second species of a genus of twirler moths, can be distinguished by the yellowish-white scales on the head of its adults, according to the journal.

"The specific epithet is selected because of the resemblance of

the scales on the frons (head) of the moth to Mr. Trump's hairstyle," Nazari wrote in the article, which was published on Tuesday.

"The reason for this choice of name is to bring wider public attention to the need to continue protecting fragile habitats in the US that still contain many undescribed species," he added. News of the naming came the week Trump is set to be inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States, on Friday. Trump will not be the first president to have an animal named after him. Just last month, a fish native to the coral reefs of northwestern Hawaii was named after current US President Barack Obama in honor of his efforts to protect the fish's habitat. —Reuters



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May arrives at the BBC's Broadcasting House in London, Britain on 22 January, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## May — I will tell Trump when I find something unacceptable

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May said on Sunday she would not be afraid to tell US President Donald Trump when she finds something he has said unacceptable.

May is due to meet Trump in Washington on Friday and said she would use the opportunity to discuss the future trading relationship between the United States and Britain,

as well as NATO and challenges such as defeating terrorism.

Thousands of women took to the streets of European capitals on Saturday to protest against Trump, particularly comments he has made which were seen as demeaning of women.

"I've already said that some of the comments that Donald Trump has made in relation to women are un-

acceptable, some of those he himself has apologised for," May told the BBC.

"When I sit down (with Trump) I think the biggest statement that will be made about the role of women is the fact that I will be there as a female prime minister ... Whenever there is something that I find unacceptable I won't be afraid to say that to Donald Trump."—Reuters

## Taiwan holds conference on reforming troubled pension system

TAIPEI, China — Taiwan held a national conference Sunday on reforming the island's struggling pension system, an event that drew thousands demonstrators, mainly retired public servants who fear being unfairly targeted by the reform.

Opponents of the reform initiative had earlier vowed to mobilize at least 20,000 people to attend rallies in the vicinity of the Presidential Office, where one of the gatherings was held. The police estimated that about 12,000 people turned up.

Strict security measures were in place in the area, with barricades erected at all entry points and a huge contingent of police officers deployed.

Speaking at the opening ceremony at the Presidential Office, President Tsai Ing-wen, who vowed

while running for president to spend one year reaching a consensus on the reform measure, said she noticed the protesters outside, but pledged to push ahead with the reform initiative.

"If we don't do it today, we will regret it tomorrow," she said.

Pointing out the failed attempt that former President Ma Ying-jeou made to revamp the system, Tsai said Taiwan cannot afford another failure. She added that the longer the process lasts, the more painful it will be, emphasizing her administration's reform initiative is "mild" and "gradual."

"If the reform is successful, the pension system will not collapse but instead will remain healthy for about 25 years," she said, adding that she hopes the pension system will be examined every five to 10

years. At the closing ceremony, she said if the pension reform can succeed, other reforms will also be successful.

Saying all reforms are a long process, she pledged to continue communicating with the public, but at the same time insisting on the principle of the reform and minimizing the impact.

Ideas mooted at Sunday's meeting will be integrated into a government proposal. President Tsai hopes the integrated version will proceed to the legislature for further debate before 20 May, the first anniversary of her inauguration.

Taiwan's pension system is extremely complicated. All citizens are covered by different programs, depending on their professions. Except for the national pension program which began only in 2008,

all others are suffering financial losses.

The military pension fund is estimated to go bankrupt in 2020, with the labor sector's fund expected to do so in 2027, public school educators' in 2030 and civil servants' in 2031.

While the military pension program will be dealt with in the second phase of the reform, an ad hoc pension reform committee established under the Presidential Office began in June last year the reform plan of the pension programs of labor workers, civil servants and public school teachers.

Over the past six months, the committee has held 20 meetings and organized four regional forums in northern, central, southern and eastern Taiwan soliciting opinions from all walks of life.

On Thursday, Vice

President Chen Chien-jen, who serves as the convenor of the committee, unveiled details of a draft reform plan to be discussed at Sunday's national conference, which was held at the Presidential Office and two other locations.

Under the plan, the longstanding issue of the controversial 18 percent preferential interest rate for retired public sector employees will be phased out over a period of six years. However, those whose monthly pension is below the specified floor will retain the preferential rate.

The plan also tackles other issues such as individuals' contributions into the funds, income replacement rate, the retirement age to collect pensions, management of the funds, transfer of the fund programs and others.—Kyodo News

## British missile test malfunctioned last year off US coast — Sunday Times

LONDON — A test firing of an unarmed British nuclear Trident missile from a submarine off the coast of Florida malfunctioned last June, the Sunday Times newspaper reported.

The paper quoted an unnamed senior naval source as saying the missile may have veered off in the wrong direction toward the American mainland.

The paper said it was the only test firing of a British nuclear missile in four years and came shortly before Theresa May became Prime Minister last year in the wake of Britain's vote to leave the European Union. It said May had omitted any mention of the failed test when she persuaded parliament to spend 40 billion pounds on new Trident submarines in her first major speech before parliament last July.

Parliament, which in 2007 agreed in principle to replace the deterrent system, last year voted to approve the building of four submarines to ensure Britain can have nuclear weapons continuously on patrol at sea. Trident missiles have been test-fired only five times by UK submarines this century because they cost 17 million pounds apiece, the paper said.

May's office and Britain's Ministry of Defence said in a joint statement: "In June, the Royal Navy conducted a routine unarmed Trident missile test launch from HMS Vengeance, as part of an operation which is designed to certify the submarine and its crew."—Reuters

## French primary vote to leave two in running for Socialist presidential nomination

PARIS — Voting was under way on Sunday to whittle down Socialist candidates for the French presidential ticket to two from seven, with ex-prime minister Manuel Valls facing an outside risk of failing to make the runoff vote in a week's time.

Opinion polls suggest no Socialist has much chance of winning the presidential election this Spring,

but they show the outcome of the beleaguered ruling party's primary potentially determining which of the other candidates can replace Francois Hollande at the Elysee palace.

While Valls struggles to defend his government's record, candidates to his left, such as former education minister Benoit Hamon and ex-economy minister Arnaud Montebourg, are nip-

ping at his heels in the polls.

Polling stations opened at 0800 GMT and are due to close at 1800 GMT. A runoff will then be held on 29 January to pick a candidate for the two-round presidential election on 23 April and 7 May.

Organisers said 400,000 people had voted by midday based on data obtained from almost two-thirds of the polling sites, compared with

744,500 at the same time in the first round of the last primary in 2011. The Socialist party, for decades one of the main political forces in France, has become marginalised with support for Hollande evaporating as he has failed to turn the economy around and alienated left-wing voters with his economic policies.

The Socialists' choice of presidential candidate

will be key for the chances of popular independent Emmanuel Macron, who is attracting middle ground voters who Valls also appeals to.

Polls indicate conservative former prime minister Francois Fillon is most likely to emerge as the winner of the presidential election in a runoff against far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen.—Reuters

### INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Quotation is issued. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Ref No	Description of Goods or Services	Quantity	Units
G.14	Vehicles (2No.) for union PMO	2	Nos
G.15	Survey Equipment for Mini-Grid Project	31	Nos
G.16	Laptops for Union Staffs	34	Nos
G.10	MIS Server for Union	2	Nos
G.11	Microsoft Office 2016	70	Nos

Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION. Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest the dead line, after which no Quotations will be accepted. The goods will be contracted in 5 (Five) separate contracts. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011. Please submit Sealed Quotations to: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409413 and email to ksaung@gmail.com.



**Yangon Sailing Club**  
**Annual General Meeting**

All members of Yangon Sailing Club are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting to be held as follows:

Date : 29 January 2017  
Place : Yangon Sailing Club  
Time : 10:30 hrs

**Hon. Secretary**  
**Yangon Sailing Club**

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### 8 firefighters injured as fire engines collide while rushing to blaze

CHIBA, (Japan) — Eight firefighters sustained injuries on Saturday night when two fire engines collided in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, police said.

The two pumper trucks collided at an intersection in the city of Narashino around 11:20 pm as they were rushing to a fire, the police said.

Both vehicles were severely damaged after hitting the wall of a nearby condominium and a tree, leaving the eight men in their 30s to 50s on board injured, they said. The driver of a fire engine that entered the intersection on a red light told the police he failed to ensure the crossing was safe because he was rushing to the fire. The fire engine that entered under a red light impacted the other vehicle that had entered the intersection on green, the police added. According to the Narashino municipal fire department, other fire engines attended the site of the fire and the accident did not cause a delay in extinguishing the blaze.—Kyodo News

# Pope Francis says 'wait and see' on Trump

ROME — Pope Francis on Sunday said he would not make an opinion of Donald Trump until he first had a chance to see specific policies the new US president would implement.

On Friday, as Trump was taking office, Francis had urged him to be guided by ethical values, saying he must take care of the poor and the outcast during his time in office.

"I think that we must wait and see. I don't like to get ahead of myself nor judge people prematurely," the Pope told Spanish newspaper El Pais in an interview.

"We will see how he acts, what he does, and then I will have an opinion. But being afraid or rejoicing beforehand because of something that might happen is,

in my view, quite unwise. It would be like prophets predicting calamities," he said.

Francis also warned the Europeans against populism, saying they should not repeat the same mistakes as in the 1930s when they turned to "saviours" to resolve the economic and political crisis only to end up at war.

"Crises provoke fear, alarm. In my opinion, the most obvious example of European populism is Germany in 1933... A people that was immersed in a crisis, that looked for its identity until this charismatic leader came and promised to give their identity back, and he gave them a distorted identity, and we all know what happened," the Pope said.

"In times of crisis, we



Pope Francis celebrates a Mass to mark the closing of a Jubilee year for the 800th anniversary of the official foundation of the Dominican Order in Saint John Basilica in Rome, Italy on 21 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

lack judgment, and that is a constant reference for me... That is why I always try to talk to one another," he added.—Reuters

## M7.9 quake strikes Papua New Guinea, tsunami warning issued

TOKYO — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.9 struck the Papua New Guinean island of Bougainville on Sunday, according to the US Geological Survey. A local tsunami alert was triggered for Papua New Guinea and the neighboring Solomon Islands.

The quake occurred at around 3:30 pm local time at a depth of 136 kilometres, 41 km west of the town of Panguna, which itself is approximately 970 km northeast of the capital Port Moresby on New Guinea island.

There were no immediate reports of casualties

or damage.

The USGS initially put magnitude of the massive earthquake at 8.0 before downgrading it to 7.9.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center issued an alert saying "hazardous tsunami waves are forecast for some coasts," and that

"tsunami waves reaching 0.3 to 1 metres above the tide level are possible for some coasts of the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea."

The centre's earlier warning encompassed Nauru, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Vanuatu, Chuuk, and Indonesia.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said there is no tsunami risk for Japan.

Papua New Guinea, located just north of Australia, forms part of the so-called "Ring of Fire" around the edge of the Pacific, a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.—Kyodo News

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော  
**MECHANICAL CAR PARKING**

Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.  
Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.  
Plan View: 21'6" width, 7'2" depth.  
Front View: 14'4" height, 21'6" width, 7'2" depth.

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: 09.259.81.37.37  
: 09.259.81.46.46

အမှတ်(၃၁)၊ အခန်း (၅)၊ ၇မိုင်၊ ပြည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်။

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Dated: 18-01-2017

## I was arrested for joyriding at 15: Tom Hardy

LONDON — Actor Tom Hardy has revealed that he was arrested for joyriding a stolen Mercedes when he was just 15.

The 39-year-old actor grew up in the suburb of East Sheen in South West London, and has said his “privileged and peaceful” upbringing pushed him to want to mess everything up, reported Daily Mirror.

“It’s the suburbs, the life is so privileged and peaceful and so dull, it gives you the instinctive desire to want to mess everything up. “I got arrested at 15 for joyriding in a stolen Mercedes. And for good measure there was a gun in the car. I just had to endanger myself — it was a kind of self-harming,” Hardy said.—PTI



Cast member Tom Hardy. PHOTO: PTI

## Gracious of Sushmita to join ‘Wild at Heart’ campaign: Lynn

MUMBAI — Media personality Lynn de Souza says it was great having Bollywood actress Sushmita Sen as part of the “Wild At Heart” campaign which aims to celebrate the wildlife.

In the 2-minute short film titled “I am the forest” the actress has delivered a message about man’s unbreakable bond with the forest, written in the form of a poem by Harshal Shetye.

The film features footage of Indian forests and wildlife. Lynn, founder of Social Access who is backing the ‘Wild At Heart Forest and Wildlife conservation campaign’, says Sushmita’s “love for the wild is completely from the heart.”

“She is a very generous person, and lives on her own terms, choosing to adopt two daughters and go through the trouble of real parenting instead of just posing in ads and events as most other celebrities do,” Lynn told PTI.

“We wanted a genuinely humane celebrity to speak up for the human-animal bond, someone with a distinctive earthy voice, and instantly thought of Sushmita,” she added.

The film will be shown at all the cinema screens of UFO Moviez apart from another video of Sushmita appealing to conserve forest.

“There will also be a special two and a half minute video sound bite that Sushmita Sen has given with her extra special message to all digizens (people online) to contribute in their own individual way to the preservation of the forest,” Lynn said.

The team has been working for the Wildlife Conservation Trust of India since the past one year and came up with the ‘Wild at heart’ campaign in an attempt to showcase people from all walks of life celebrating their love and association with nature.

Though they have the 41-year-old actress on board for the campaign, Lynn says “anyone who associates with causes” must come out in support.

“The forest doesn’t need us, we need the forest. Bollywood celebrities tend to trivialise a cause when they over-promote it. It’s ok for the audience at first to be small but sensitive and form there on for the awareness to spread out in circles.” —PTI



PHOTO REUTERS

## Priyanka Chopra shows support for anti-Trump Women’s March

LOS ANGELES — Actress Priyanka Chopra extended her support for the Women’s March that was organised in Washington DC, a day after Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States of America.

Priyanka Chopra: Imitation

is the best form of flattery but you need to have your own identity.

The 34-year-old actress could not be a part of the peaceful protest due to her busy shooting schedule. However, Priyanka took to Twitter to say, “So proud of all my sisters and the men that are at the #WomensMarch I’m

so upset I couldn’t go. #girllove #womensrightsarehumanrights.”

Priyanka is currently in Los Angeles to resume shoot of her Hollywood debut ‘Baywatch’, which stars Dwayne Johnson, Zack Efron and Alexandra Daddario. —PTI

## Ferguson film ‘Whose Streets?’ aims to show humanity of community



A protester marches through the streets as he demonstrates against what they say is police brutality after the Ferguson shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed black teenager, by a white police officer, in St. Louis, Missouri, on 14 March, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARK CITY — The filmmakers of “Whose Streets?,” chronicling the uprising in Ferguson, Missouri after the 2014 police killing of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown, said the documentary attempts to show the humanity behind a community in crisis.

“Whose Streets?” premiered at the Sundance Film Festival this week and follows the Ferguson community as they protest-

ed Brown’s death, which led to weeks of tense unrest that drew worldwide interest.

The film, co-directed by Saabah Folan and Missouri resident Damon Davis, combines social media and amateur footage with original footage depicting the actions of key people in the community.

“When mainstream media isn’t committed to solving these problems but is more committed

to ratings, when politicians are so partisan that they’re confusing us, it becomes up to artists to show people the way,” Folan said.

At this year’s festival, four films in the documentary competition delve into the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement that rose out of killings of Brown and other black men by police in various US cities in the past years. —Reuters

# Melania Trump channels Jackie Kennedy but Conway grabs fashion headlines



Melania Trump arrives on the West Front of the Capitol. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEVNICA — New US first lady Melania Trump channeled style icon Jacqueline Kennedy on Friday but the Inauguration Day fashion headlines were stolen by a military-style coat worn by one of her husband's aides.

Trump, 46, the White House's first former model, chose American designer Ralph Lauren's baby blue cropped jacket with cowl neckline and matching dress for the swearing-in ceremony in Washington.

She later wowed on-lookers in a sleek, off the shoulder white gown, slit to the thigh, designed by French-born Herve Pierre, for a formal inaugural ball where she and newly-elected President Donald Trump danced to the song "My Way," made famous by the late Frank Sinatra.

But the outfit grabbing most attention was the patriotic red hat with red, white and blue coat

with brass buttons worn by Kellyanne Conway, senior aide to Trump.

The \$3,600 double-breasted Gucci coat evoked the American Revolution era and took social media by storm with ridicule, memes and comparisons ranging from Paddington Bear to Napoleon and a nutcracker.

Conway described it "Trump revolutionary wear" in an interview with NBC television. The satirical "Daily Show" commented on Twitter that Conway was "dressed as the era Trump wants to take America back to."

Style website Racked, however, complimented Conway as "the most high-fashion person in Washington" on Friday.

By contrast, Melania Trump's outfit, worn with long matching gloves, stiletto shoes, and her long hair swept up in a loose bun, had a 1960s vibe.

The outfit, like other

presidential inauguration dresses, will later be sent to the Smithsonian Museum.

Fashion magazine Elle said Melania's choice "takes a very literal page" from Kennedy's inaugural look in 1961.

"It's a look that, overall, is very safe, if a bit costume-y (dye-to-match pumps!). As our first reality TV president enters office, this is a family that is undeniably aware of what works on TV, and this look is very on-the-nose, Jackie Kennedy-inspired, 'presidential,'" wrote Elle's Leah Chernikoff.

Melania Trump's Inauguration Day outfits had been the cause of much speculation after Tom Ford, Marc Jacobs and other leading designers said publicly they would not dress the 5-foot-11-inch (1.8-m) former model for her big day because they opposed her husband and his policies.

Lauren and his eponymous corporation (RL.N) became synonymous with American style through his preppy line of Polo shirts, casual slacks and shorts in the 1970s.

The company's Facebook page filled on Friday with both praise and dismay at his decision to dress Trump for the swearing-in ceremony.

He also designed the signature pantsuits worn by Trump's rival, Democrat Hillary Clinton, both during the 2016 election campaign and on Friday.

Elsewhere, white was the dominant colour.

Ivanka Trump, who has her own fashion line, donned a white pantsuit with an asymmetrical cut designed by Oscar de la Renta.

Clinton went for a cream coat over a more traditional pantsuit, and Tiffany Trump wore a white double breasted coat over a white dress.—Reuters

## Rev. Bro. Anselm Balthazar 86 years (28.8.1931 - 21.1.2017)

Rev. Bro. Anselm Balthazar, F.S.C., served in the De La Salle high schools in Myanmar, Malaysia and Singapore as a teacher for over 50 years.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul rest in peace! Funeral Mass will be on January 23, Monday 11:00 AM at St Mary's Cathedral.

His bereaved brothers and sister, nephews and nieces, grand nephews and grand nieces and great grand nephews.

## Russian art on display in N China

TAIYUAN — A collection of over 300 works of art from Russia's State Historical Museum has gone on show in north China's Shanxi Province.

The items on display in Shanxi museum include oil paintings, sculptures, costumes, jewelry, gold and silver ware and glass objects from the 18th and 19th centuries.

"Every item shows rich and diverse heritage including the artists' thoughts, aesthetics and world view," said Aleksei Levykin, cu-

curator of the State Historical Museum.

The collection shows the lives, beliefs and aesthetics of Russians in the period, helping Chinese visitors get to know Russian culture, said Shi Jinming, curator of Shanxi Museum. Last November, a collection of items from Shanxi was exhibited in Moscow. The exhibition, free to the public, began Saturday and will last until 7 May when the exhibit will move on to Jiangsu and Guangdong provinces.—Xinhua

## US internment camp history marked at Arizona park



Kenso Zenimura, an 89-year-old former Japanese professional baseball player, points to a photo showing him held at an internment camp for Japanese immigrants and Japanese-Americans during World War II in Chandler, Arizona as the city unveils on 21 January, 2017 a series of panels with information about the area's wartime history. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CHANDLER, Arizona —

A city in Arizona memorialized an internment camp for Japanese immigrants and Japanese-Americans on Saturday by unveiling a series of panels with information about the area's wartime history. "I felt desperate after I was taken to the camp at 15, but baseball was my hope," Kenso Zenimura, 89, told a ceremony in Nozomi Park in Chandler, Arizona, referring to his time at the Gila River camp US authorities established nearby during World War II.

"I secretly took water from a tap at night and sprinkled it in the outfield to grow the grass," said Zenimura, a former infielder who played for the Hiroshima Carp after the war. Internees were permitted to play baseball while

detained at the facility.

The city held the ceremony at the complex of baseball parks and swimming pools ahead of the 75th anniversary of the 19 February, 1942, signing by President Franklin Roosevelt of an executive order which resulted in the incarceration of Japanese immigrants and US citizens of Japanese descent.

The city set up panels telling the history of wartime internment in the park that takes "nozomi," the Japanese word for hope, as its name. Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraeny said in his address at the ceremony that what happened 75 years ago was a "difficult" part of the United States' history but it is "important" to learn the state had hosted a camp of this type.—Reuters

## mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(23-1-2017 07:00am ~ 24-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)
07:42	Am	He can do it
07:53	Am	A Traditional Doctor
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	MOYINGYI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
08:46	Am	Moe Hnyin Than Buddha, The Unique Pagoda In Monywa
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
09:51	Am	Wet Market in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Clam Farming
10:42	Am	Sai Ye Kwan
10:51	Am	A Precious gift from waste

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday 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
07:25	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-10)(Part-2)
07:47	Pm	Gold from Garbage
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	The Korean Treasure, Kimchi, Black Garlic & Apple Wine
08:48	Pm	Buddha Image Built Of Bamboo Strip

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday 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](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

# World number one Murray downed by Zverev in Melbourne

MELBOURNE — Andy Murray's hopes of finally getting his hands on the Australian Open title were ended for another year when the top seed and world number one was tied up in knots and flung out of the fourth round by Mischa Zverev on Sunday.

With reigning champion Novak Djokovic having been knocked out in the second round, a grand slam will head into the second week without its top two men's seeds for the first time since the 2004 French Open.

German Zverev, in the fourth round at a grand slam for the first time after a career ravaged by injury, flummoxed his contemporary with his unorthodox serve-volley game and broke the Wimbledon and Olympic champion eight times over the contest.

The world number 50 was helped by a below-par performance from Murray but thoroughly deserved his 7-5, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 victory over three and a half hours on Rod Laver Arena, which earned him a quarter-final meeting with Roger Federer or Kei Nishikori.

"He deserved to win because he played

great when he was down and also in the important moments," said Briton Murray.

"(He) kept coming up with great shots, there's not too much you can do about that. Sometimes you got to say, 'well played'. It was obviously disappointing to lose. But he did some good stuff out there."

Murray prides himself on the variety of weapons at his disposal but some, like his lob, deserted him on Sunday, while others were undermined by the lack of pace Zverev offered him to work with.

Zverev served solidly and came up with 52 winners, charging the net 118 times and breaking the world number one five times in the first two sets alone.

"Honestly, I was in a little coma, just serve and volleying my way through," said Zverev.

"There were some points I don't know how I won. But somehow I made it."

He served up his first ace to take the first set but Murray recovered to bring the match back to parity with a backhand winner down-the-line on his fifth set point in the second.—Reuters



Germany's Mischa Zverev serves during his Men's singles fourth round match against Britain's Andy Murray at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia on 22 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Liverpool, Tottenham drop points, Rooney record

LONDON — Liverpool's defensive gremlins returned again as their Premier League title ambitions suffered a painful body blow in a shock 3-2 home defeat by relegation battlers Swansea City on Saturday.

In what turned out to be a great day for leaders Chelsea without kicking a ball, second-placed Tottenham Hotspur battled back to draw 2-2 at fifth-placed Manchester City and Manchester United were held 1-1 at Stoke City.

Wayne Rooney salvaged a point for United with a sublime free kick that made him the club's record scorer with 250 goals, one ahead of Old Trafford great Bobby Charlton.

Rooney's curler four minutes into stoppage time cancelled out an own goal from Juan Mata as United remained in sixth spot.

"It means a hell of a lot. It is a great honour and I am very proud," the 31-year-old Rooney said.

"It is difficult at the minute to be over-pleased because of the result but in the grand scheme it is huge honour."

Gylfi Sigurdsson's 74th-minute winner ended Liverpool's 17-match unbeaten league run at Anfield and left Juergen Klopp's side seven points behind leaders Chelsea who can widen their lead against strugglers Hull City on Sunday.

Spain striker Fernando Llorente scored twice shortly after halftime to put Swansea in charge but Liverpool retaliated and two goals by Roberto Firmino dragged them level.

Klopp's side were the first

top-flight team to score 50 goals this season but their defensive deficiencies again proved a thorn in their side as memories of a 4-3 defeat at Bournemouth in December came flooding back minutes later.

A Liverpool victory had looked the most likely outcome with half an hour left but Swansea had other ideas and from a rare foray forward the ball fell to Sigurdsson and the Iclander coolly put the Welsh side back ahead.—Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Guardiola blames missed chances, not referee for City draw

LONDON — Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola disguised any feelings of injustice behind criticism of his side's finishing after watching them waste a chance to make up ground at the top of the Premier League on Saturday.

Guardiola must have been fuming inwardly after his side were denied a clear penalty when leading 2-1 against Tottenham Hotspur, 60 seconds before the visitors equalised to secure a 2-2 draw.

However, rather than attack referee Andre Marriner for his failure to punish Tottenham right back Kyle Walker for a clear shove on Raheem Sterling in the penalty area, Guardiola again tangled with a BBC reporter.

Asked for his opinion on the pivotal incident, Guardiola response echoed his tetchy post-match interview after his side beat Burnley last month.

"The first question is about the referee?," the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich coach

said.

"This is the prestigious BBC, we have to talk about the football, no? Not the referee."

Guardiola clearly wanted to change the subject and was more forthcoming about his team's vibrant display which should have earned them more than a draw against second-placed Spurs.

"It was an outstanding performance. It's a pity but it's a copy of what's happened this season. We created more chances, we conceded few, but we are not able to win the right decisions in the right moments. But you have to score goals.

"When we don't miss a lot of chances, the referee doesn't matter. We created too many chances, so many chances, and after that against a top team like Tottenham, they shoot two times and scored two goals. It's impossible." City were in complete control in the first half but a combination of poor finishing, Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris and desperate defending kept them at bay.—Reuters