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Gov't steps up nutrition programme efforts



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, right, at a gathering yesterday at Sanpyaygi village, Pakokku, where she spoke of the importance of a nationwide nutrition programme. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA (MNA)

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has called for conducting a survey to collect data on nutrition in order to effectively carry out a national nutrition strategy in the country.

Speaking at the Cross-Ministry co-ordination meeting on national nutrition strategy held at the Pyitharyar Hall in Pakokku, Magway Region yesterday, the State Counsellor urged the ministries and departments taking part in the nutrition programme to take the opinions of the people about the programme into consideration so as to achieve success in the drive.

In performing educative tasks, the target cannot be reached

as expected if it is one-sided. It needs to give due regard to our citizens so that we can perform the progress of the citizens effectively. And, in implementing the tasks, systems suitable to the regions need to be utilized, she added.

“The programme to provide nutritious food is a part of the process of our country’s development,” she said, adding that supplying sufficient nutrition to children is largely concerned with the situation of parents.

She has also urged fathers to get involved in the programme, as the nutrition of children and mothers is closely tied to that of the fathers.

The State Counsellor also

The government is not even at the neonatal stage. However, we are not hesitant to do our work and we will exert efforts to the satisfaction of everybody.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

stressed the need to hold such meetings frequently so as to be able to decide which types of projects need to be implemented, as no research work has been found on nutrition in the country.

Afterward, Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Myint Htwe, Dr Win Myat Aye and Chief Ministers Dr Aung Moe Nyo, Dr Zaw Myint Maung and allied organizations clarified further processes to be implemented on nutrition in the

years to come.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also visited Sanpyaygi village in Pakokku township and attended an event in the monastery that explained to pregnant women the importance of supplying nutritious food to infants under 2 years of age, and also inspected exhibits on nutrition for expectant mothers and infants.

During the visit, the State Counsellor met with expectant

mothers and members of an international microfinance banking service organisation, enquiring about education and health in the region.

She visited houses of expectant mothers and infants under two, asking about education and health matters.

At the meeting with mothers and local peoples, she clarified that nutrition is meant for the life-long period of a child.

Most regard bringing up children as a mother’s duty. In fact, every member of the family is responsible for the development of the health of the family. Only if parents are conscientious will offspring be brought up with conscientiousness, she said.

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VP U Myint Swe receives Vice Chairman of General Electric

U Myint Swe, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received a delegation led by Mr. John G. Rice, Vice Chairman of General Electric (GE) based in United States, at 9 am on Wednesday at Credential Hall of the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they

discussed matters concerning human resources developments and improvement in leadership skills in energy, electricity and health sectors. Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electrical Power and Energy and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe poses for photo together with the General Electric's delegation. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets with Speaker of Britain's Lower House



Speaker U Win Myint is welcomed by Mr John Bercow. PHOTO: MNA

U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, who is currently in Britain, had discussions with the Rt. Hon. Mr. John Bercow, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Britain,

at the guest room of the Lower House at Westminster Tuesday afternoon.

In the meeting, the two Speakers talked about increased cooperation and friendship between the two Parliaments, the

development process of the parliaments and legislative work of the Parliament.

Present at the ceremony were U Saw, chairman of the Hluttaw committee on the original rights of citizens, members of the Drafting Law U Zaw Win, U Sai San Thein, member of the Hluttaw Opportunity Committee, Dr Shwe Pon, member of the international relations committee, U Kyaw Zwa Win, the Myanmar ambassador to Britain and responsible officials from Hluttaw Office.

In the evening, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw spoke with HE Mr Alok Sharma, deputy minister for Foreign Affairs and Common Wealth at the office of FCO Minister, attended by U Saw and U Kyaw Zwa Min.

In addition, the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and party discussed with Rt. Hon. Mr. David Evennett MP and Mr Roy Stone, Principal Private Secretary to the Government Chief Whip at Portcullis House of the Lower House at 11:30 am and in the afternoon with Rt. Hon. HE Mr. Charles Walker, MP, chairman of Procedure Committee on Parliament affairs and legislation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives IPU Technical Cooperation Program Manager

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the Technical Cooperation Program Manager, Ms. Norah Babic, from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), at 1:30 pm yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed providing of assistance for Hluttaw development by IPU. The meeting was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Ms. Norah Babic from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of service organisation appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Min Chit Oo, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Union Minister's Office, Ministry of Transport and Communications as Principal of the Central Institute of Transport and Communication on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Maung Maung Lynn concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Cyprus

THE PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Maung Maung Lynn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the State of Israel, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Cyprus.—*Myanmar News Agency*

U Myint Swe presents credentials to President of South Africa

U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of South Africa, on 24 January 2017, in Pretoria.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman receives GE delegation



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Mr John G Rice. PHOTO: MNA

Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw received Mr John G Rice, Vice-President of the US-based General Electric-GE Company, at the Hluttaw Affairs Building-I-1 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed the Myanmar Investment Law and its rules, matters related to cooperation in electric, energy, health and aviation sectors, human resource development and progress in democratic transition in Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Gov't steps up...

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According to the records of the research work, any child under two has higher development of the brain if they are supplied with nutritious food.

"As for the government as well, it is responsible for giving support to families, likewise parents. It is the responsibility of the people to utilise government assistance in the most effective manner," said the State Counsellor.

She also called for every family member to take part in the effort for the development of a family, saying that it is of great importance to feed nutritious food from conception in mother's womb up to the age of two years, for the mental and physical development of a child.

Moreover, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said their government cannot even be said to be at the neonatal stage. However, they are not hesitant to do their work. She said they will exert efforts to the satisfaction of everybody. She also made a request, saying, the people say what should be said, and also do what should be done. But people should also be patient when they should be and they should not exercise patience where they should not be. If they are too patient, the Chief Minister will feel bored. You're all requested to push him where relevant and provide assistance to us."

She went on to say that he became the Chief Minister as people elected him and they, the people, therefore, have the right to push him to work hard.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Government cracking down on illegal trading

THE Union government is planning to take stringent measures against illegal trading in order to prevent the smuggling of contraband, which causes a great loss of revenue, said U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance.

"It is essential for the nation to control contraband but it must be carried out in a systematic way by taking lessons from previous arrangements. We firmly believe it will be successful if arrangements are made in collaboration with the Customs Department, respective regions, state cabinets and aligned departments," said U Kyaw Win at a meeting on coordinating arrangements for controlling contraband at the Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday.

"Due to the smuggling of contraband, the State has suffered a great loss of revenue. And these contraband goods include food-stuff that is hazardous to health and commodities of bad quality," he added.

In addition, illegal smuggling is harming the benefits of local businesses and industries. Within the flow of these illegal goods, there can be drugs, arms and weaponries, and goods that will harm the security of the nation and national morality, U Kyaw Win said.

With plans to establish a checkpoint in Yepu, Shan State, and Mayanchaung in Mon State, the Union minister said critical reports of traffic jams, corruption and damage to perishable goods



Union Minister U Kyaw Win addresses the meeting on coordinating arrangements for controlling contraband at the Ministry of Planning and Finance yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

can also be alleviated with the opening of the two checkpoints.

"The criticism that there can be bribery and corruption cases has been reported. Arrangements have been made to solve the critical reports. For traffic jams not to take place at the checkpoints, multiple teams will be formed as necessary to check at the gates, instead of one team," he said.

Following the approval of the Government of the State, the team will carry out the tasks — issuing daily press releases through media, recording by CCTVs, using Mobile-X-ray equipment, checking trucks carrying goods that become easily

spoiled at the place of loading and unloading, examining in detail upon receipt of tip-offs given by informants, posting examiner teams at designated places to stop incidences of bribery, allowing media to observe at the check-points, issuing daily press releases of arrests and seizures of contraband and awarding bounties of up to 50 per cent to informers whose information leads to an arrest.

Kyaikhtiyoe pilgrimage vehicles will not be examined unless information has been received that there is contraband aboard. Sale and purchase of contraband in the country will result in arrest in accord with

the tax laws.

Merchants who fail to abide by the rules and laws will be arrested, and if staff has been found to have been involved in bribery and corruption, they will be severely punished, the minister said.

The Union minister has urged regional and state governments and departments to co-operate for the success of the project.

Present at the co-ordination meeting were Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, ministers from Cabinets of Kayin State, Bago Region, Mon State and Shan State and responsible officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

National Level Political Dialogue for Regions (Taninthayi Region) successfully concludes

NATIONAL Level Political Dialogue for Regions (Taninthayi Region) continued for the third day at Dawei University yesterday morning.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for National Level Dialogues for Taninthayi Region U Saw Lu Kar delivered an opening speech at the meeting, saying that peace is the goal of the national people and it is necessary for ethnic armed groups to participate in political dialogues as all provisions of the political road map for the union peace are not difficult for them to abide by, before thanking organizers of the dialogue.

Political papers, economic papers and papers on land and natural resources submitted with additional comments on the second day of the dialogue were read out at the meeting.

Afterwards, Vice Chairman Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win of the UPDJC thanked all those involved in organizing the dialogue and said that peace does not necessarily mean an end to war but the security

of ethnic people in their daily lives and peace and national reconciliation and improvement of lives of ethnic people are synonymous.

Then, Chairman of the Peace Commission Dr Tin Myo Win said that the political dialogue is important and the political dialogue are being held in accordance with the provisions of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement before saying that he was glad to witness that participants discussed the voice of the public. The dialogue concluded with remarks by the Chief Minister of Taninthayi Region Dr Lei Lei Maw.

The chief minister and regional ministers of the region, the vice chairman and secretaries of the UPDJC, members of the organizing committee for regional level political dialogues, members of the JMCs, representatives of ethnic peoples, members of the Peace Commission, Hluttaw representatives, political parties, civil society organizations and official participated in the discussions.—*Taninthayi Region IPRD*

Training course for voting booth supervisors conducted

A TRAINING course on the process for voting booth in-charges for the by-election in April was opened at the Office of the Union Election Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the opening ceremony, U Hla Thein, chairman of the UEC said: "In 2015, a working manual for in-charges and deputy in-charges of voting booths was issued. Based on the manual with amendments revised, the present course will be conducted for the by-election in 2017. For an election to be successful, there are two parts divided for voting booth in-charges and deputy in-charges to perform. Only

if the two parts are in harmony with each other, will the election be successful. Courses on the working process for sub-commissions at different levels to perform were conducted. Now is the time for in-charges and deputy-in-charges of voting booths. In holding free and trustworthy elections, efforts and rightful performance of in-charge and deputy in-charge play an important role, similar to the sub-commissions at different levels. Due to failure to perform as described in the manual in the 2015 general election, there were some weaknesses. In the 2017 by-election, there are 2.15 million voters for the

19 vacant posts in 22 townships. As there are 2,000 voting pools, 4,000 in all — 2,000 in-charges and 2,000 deputy in-charges will be given training courses. For the 2017 by-elections, courses will be conducted two times to two divided groups. Today's training will be attended by 46 people representing sub-commissions at different levels in regions and states, while the second course will be conducted for 40 people."

To be discussed at the course will be: assessment of the basic knowledge of the by-election; the types of conducting courses and lessons; responsibilities and authorities of in-charge and deputy-in-charge of voting booths; preparations for the election; opening and closing of the voting booths; the process of voting and supervising voters to enter booths in queues with discipline; confirmed and objected votes; counting votes and tasks after counting votes.

Trainees, including in-charges and deputy-in-charges, will have to undergo this process again in March, in which a demonstration will be conducted in order to be very clear about the process, it is learnt.—*Myanmar News Agency*



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein speaks at training course on process for voting booth in-charges for the by-election. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, China discuss stability, rule of law in border areas

THE 14th Myanmar-China border areas management and cooperation contract implementation meeting was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Zeyar and Director-General of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Af-

fairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ouyang Yujing acted as co-chairmen of the meeting.

At the meeting, they discussed stability and rule of law, management, border affairs, border trade and economic cooperation in border areas.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Officials of Myanmar and China hold a meeting on border affairs. PHOTO: MNA

Fundraiser on 28 January to provide healthcare for Naga people

POPULAR singers and models will perform at a fundraising show to be held in Yangon later this month to raise money for rehabilitation relief to the Naga people who have been adversely affected by serious infectious diseases, organisers say.

In cooperation with the Council of Naga Affairs, Mari Cole, a model and actress, will organise the charity event on 28 January at the National Theater on Myomakyaung Street.

"I wish to help my people through both long-term and short-term plans.

I want to try my best for them, planning to show the culture and tradition of our people

through this event," Mari Cole said.

"This is the main reason to hold the fundraising event to the best of my ability."

Between June and August of last year, 45 people were killed by measles, a highly infectious viral illness, in Naga-Self Administered Zone in Sagaing Region, according to a spokesperson of the council, saying that people in the area also experienced several fire accidents and loss of farmlands.

"Infants and senior citizens die every year because of lack of health-related knowledge, shortage of food and adequate healthcare in the far-flung area," said

U Naw Aung Hsan, a member of the council. He added that it takes two or three days for information about the health situations in villages to reach larger towns due to poor transportation and telecommunications.

Tickets for the event are now available. The price of tickets are Ks5,000, Ks10,000, Ks20,000, Ks30,000 and Ks50,000. Well-wishers may dial 09 450028339 and 09 774354893 of Mari Cole.

The fund has already received Ks100,000 contributed by Orchid Hotel and Ks20,000 from another philanthropic organisation at a recent press conference.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

High prevalence of elephantiasis found in Amarapura

AMARAPURA, a township in Mandalay Region, has been identified as an area with a high prevalence of elephant leg disease (elephantiasis), said Dr Tint Wai, head of the Vector Borne Disease Control Department (Mandalay).

During medical examinations in the township, the team led by Dr Tint Wai found about 60 residents out of 320 were infected with elephantiasis, a disease caused by filarial worms which are transmitted by mosquitoes.

The high prevalence of the communicable disease is directly linked to the wastewater drainage

around the township, which have become major breeding sites for mosquitoes, the doctor said.

The lymphatic filariasis (elephant leg disease) can be divided into eight stages starting at stage zero, which shows no symptoms, according to the World Health Organisation. But at stage one, symptoms begin, which include massive swelling of the extremities.

Under the government's programme to control the spread of lymphatic filariasis across the country, the Ministry of Health and Sports will distribute drugs among public between 20 and 29

January.

The healthcare providers target 4.6 million residents of the Mandalay Region to provide drugs to help prevent chronic infectious diseases under this programme.

Among others, PyinOoLwin District has been recognised as a zone without elephant leg disease.

According to a worldwide study, more than 120 million people are infected with lymphatic filariasis and about 1.4 billion people are at risk of the disease in 73 countries.

It is most common in tropical Africa and Asia.—*Nadi Hlaing*

New housing for growing YCDC staff

THE Yangon City Development Committee wants to expand housing plans to offer a range of accommodations to its staff, depending on the budget, according to a spokesperson for the YCDC's Pollution Control and Cleansing Department. Although the YCDC developed staff housing in 33 townships in Yangon Region, the accommodation requirements of the employees continued to increase. The committee continues

to establish three or more housings a year through its budgets.

Sanitation staff have been appointed at the Pollution Control and Cleansing Department, with the majority of them from the countryside. Collection of waste materials in municipal areas has been carried out by the committee three times a day. Male employees usually have a duty to gather garbage from markets and disposal sites.—200

Japan Grants US\$ 398,795 for road upgrading and one school construction

MR. TATESHI HIGUCHI, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, and Chairpersons of the Construction Committees from Magway and Ayeyawady Regions signed the grant contracts for three projects on 24 January. Under these contracts, Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme will provide a total of US\$ 398,795 for the Project for Construction of Par Yaik Basic Education Branch Middle School in Wakema Township, Ayeyarwady Region (USD

120,663); the Project for Upgrading of Sat Su Wa Village Access Road in Aunglan Township, Magway Region (USD 145,870); and the Project for Upgrading of Kayin San Village Access Road in Aunglan Township, Magway Region (USD 132,262). In order to provide a proper learning environment for students, the Japanese Government will support construction of a two-storey Reinforced Concrete Construction (R.C.C.) building with well-furnished 8 classrooms.—*GNLM*



Mr. Tateshi Higuchi shakes hands with a responsible personnel from Wakema Township. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Crime NEWS

Opium oil seized in Shan State

A combined team comprising officers and staff seized opium oil from a passenger on board a bus near Khae Nin toll gate, Shan State (North) on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the combined team stopped and searched the passenger bus that was en route to Mandalay from Lashio near Khae Nin toll gate, Naung Mon village and found opium oil weighing 3.182 kilograms from Daw Law

Kyo, 63.

"She said she bought it from Lashio town. Daw Naw Kyo was allegedly abusing and be trafficking the drugs," said an official from the No. 24 anti-narcotic police unit.

Police have filed charges against her under sections 15/19(A)/20(A)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Man killed in Myawady hunting accident

AUNG Htay, alias Kyay Mon from Inn Gyin Myaing village, Myawady township was shot to death on Tuesday by a friend in a hunting accident, according to Myawady Myoma Police.

According to police, Aung Htay went hunting with friends Sithu, Aye Lin and Kyaw Moe. During the hunting trip, Sithu apparently thought Aung Htay

was an animal of prey and fired his gun, critically wounding his friend. The other members of the hunting party confirmed to investigators that Sithu mistook Aung Htay for an animal and fired his weapon.

The three friends brought Aung Htay to Mae Sot hospital, but Aung Htay died shortly after his arrival at the hospital.

A combined team comprising officers and staff from DKBA ethnic army group from Thae Phyu Chaung village arrested Sithu on Tuesday evening when he escaped from the scene.

The offender has had action taken against him under section 302 of the Penal Code by the police.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

LOCAL Business

MAEX making efforts to be listed on YSX

Myanmar Agro Exchange Public Limited (MAEX) may soon become a listed company on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX).

Stock trading was approved for MAEX by the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar under the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 11th Jan 2017, but there are still technical and legal changes to be accomplished.

“We will make efforts to be listed on YSX as we have already established ourselves as a public company. We will prepare to be in accordance with the rules and regulations of YSX,” said Director U Thurein Aung from MAEX.

Currently, four companies -- First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB) — are trading shares on YSX. YSX gave a trading qualification to these securities: Myanmar Security Exchange Center Company Limited; KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities Co., Ltd; CB Securities Ltd; AYA Trust Securities Co., Ltd; KTZ Ruby Hill Securities Co., Ltd and Amara Securities Co., Ltd.



A visitor looks at the electronic board showing the stock exchange rate at Yangon Stock Exchange on 6 January 2017. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Shares of MAEX can now be purchased through local securities companies at a share price of Ks10,500.

The company was formed

in 2015 with 21 original shareholders, putting in investments of Ks15.72billion. The company, which is mainly engaged in construction, is developing

the fruits, vegetable and flower wholesale market and also preparing for opening of cold storage warehouses, it is learnt. — *Myitmakha News agency*

Myanmar sesame price jumps Ks20,000 per bag due to demand from India

THE price of Myanmar's sesame, known locally as Pan Hnan, surged to Ks88,000 per three-basket-bag from Ks68,000 due to increased demand from India, said U Soe Win Myint of the Soe Win Myint depot in Mandalay.

It is expected for the price of a commodity to increase slightly when there is more demand, but this month's jump is unusual, experts said.

“It is a rare case that the price will jump Ks20,000 per bag in only three weeks. The price of this sesame variety hit a four-year record high of Ks130,000 per bag,” U Soe Win Myint said.

Local consumption of sesame oil is still lower than that of peanut oil. Sesame oil, however, reportedly has more health benefits than the imported palm oil. Sesame plants prefer cold weather, so they are mainly cultivated in areas along the upper Ayeyawady River, Bhamo areas and southern and northern Shan State.—*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)*

Vessels to run for Kalatan multi-purpose project to arrive Sittway on 27th January

THE vessels used for the Kalatan comprehensive project will arrive in Sittway on 27th January, according to the Department of Marine Administration.

Six ships were constructed by Rakhine Inland water transport, with two leaving for Sittway on 21st Jan. The other four will transfer in February. Those ships will be

run for the Kalatan comprehensive project, said an official from the Department of Marine Administration. The ships, 144-foot long and 30-foot wide, have a capacity of about 350 tonnes. Once the project starts, the ships will be used for the transport of commodities from the Sittway jetty to the Paletwa jetty.—*200*

Newly harvested pea production results in rise in green gram price

WITH peas already harvested, the price of green grams went up a bit this week, according to the Mandalay depot. The price of green grams previously placed on the market was higher compared to that in the previous week after newly harvested peas entered the market.

Additionally, there is a gap of around Ks10,000 per bag between old and new green gram prices. The new green grams fetch Ks115,000 per bag whereas the old ones attain Ks105,000 per bag.

The chick pea market has remained relatively steady. The

price of new chick peas (V2) is Ks108,000 per bag, whereas old chick peas fetch Ks110,000 per bag. The prevailing price of new chick peas (Taiwan) is Ks90,000 and the price of the old one is Ks95,000 per bag. Similarly, the pigeon pea market is also steady and normal, with a prevailing price of Ks76,500 per bag. Nevertheless, the price of mung bean dropped a bit compared to last week, resulting from a cool market. The market price of mung bean is Ks980,000 per bag, down by Ks2,000 from last week's price.—*Mon Mon*

Myanmar Citizens investments totalled over Ks1.4 trillion as of second week of January

WITH the addition and subtraction of Myanmar Citizens investments, investments hit over Ks1.4trillion as of second week of January, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar Citizens investments are in the following sectors: manufacturing; transport; real estate development; hotel and tourism; construction; in-

dustrial estates; power; mining; livestock and fisheries; agriculture and others.

Manufacturing, transport and real estate are the top three most-favoured sectors for investment.

This fiscal year, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) permitted foreign direct investments of over US\$4.4billion, according to DICA.

Seven foreign and local

enterprises were permitted to invest US\$1.4million, creating 5,533 job opportunities, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting held on 21st Jan.

The MIC permitted investment proposals only after scrutiny of environmental and social impact assessments and sector-specific developments, in keeping with the existing laws.—*Ko Htet*

Foreign investments meet the target in 2016-2017 FY

Foreign investments into Myanmar in the second week of January met the target of US\$6 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for the 2016-2017 financial year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

If Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) grants permission to investors by March, the FDI could easily reach US\$7 billion, the head of DICA said.

“This year, FDI met the expected target. We will try our utmost to check the proposals and grant permission not later than

the end of March to reach the target of US\$7 billion,” said U Aung Naing Oo, director-general from DICA. The communications sector accounted for about 47.07 per cent of FDI, with 25.5 per cent in the industrial sector, 17.5 per cent in the electricity sector, 3.03 per cent in the real estate sector, 2.82 per cent in the hotels and tourism sector, 2.5 per cent in the livestock breeding sector and 1.59 per cent in other industries, according to MIC.

“We granted permission to the foreign companies based on the old law. We've disposed of pending cases in December, and

the granted investments amount to US\$3 billion. But the proposals are still being submitted, said U Aung Naing Oo.

The Myanmar Investment Commission has approved US\$5788.575 million worth of FDA to 106 international companies and 41 local companies in the current fiscal year.

Among foreign investors, Singapore-based companies have invested the most, with Chinese companies taking second place. Hong Kong occupies third place, followed by Thailand and Japan, according to MIC.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Thai junta gives go-ahead to buy Chinese submarine and tanks

BANGKOK — Thailand's military government has approved 13.5 billion baht (\$380 million) to buy a submarine from China after putting the purchase on hold last year, Thai officials said on Wednesday.

While the Thai army will purchase 10 tanks and auxiliary vehicles from China, in addition to 28 main battle tanks ordered from China last year.

Relations have been strengthening between China and America's oldest ally in Southeast Asia, particularly since ties with the United States cooled after a 2014 coup.

The purchase of the submarine was put on hold last year in the face of public criticism and questions as to whether Thailand really needed a submarine.

Thai navy officials said negotiations with the Chinese government were nearly finalised and the budget had been earmarked to pay for the submarine over six years.

"We are in the process of negotiating but this year there will definitely be a signing agreement

as we have the budget," Navy spokesman Admiral Jumpol Loompikanon told Reuters.

Jumpol said the submarine would allow the navy to study tactics and how submarine warfare may be used against Thailand.

Maritime security is a hot issue in Southeast Asia given competing claims over the South China Sea, but Thailand is not involved in that dispute.

The Thai army has also set aside two billion baht over three years to buy 10 tanks and auxiliary vehicles from China, according to General Chatudom Thittasiri, the deputy permanent secretary at the Ministry of Defence.

The purchase is in addition to 28 main battle tanks ordered from China last year. China was the first major power to acknowledge Thailand's ruling junta following a 2014 coup. The United States responded to the coup by freezing \$4.7 million of security-related aid and cancelling some security agreements.—Reuters

China foreign minister says wants to manage disputes with US



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi addresses a new year reception held by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for foreign diplomats and representatives of international organizations in Beijing, capital of China, on 24 January, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

BEIJING — China wants dialogue with the new US administration to manage disputes and promote bilateral relations, but only on the basis of respecting each other's core interests, like the "one China" principle, China's foreign minister said.

US President Donald Trump, who was inaugurated on Friday, upset Beijing before taking office by casting doubt on the "one China" principle, under which Washington

acknowledges Beijing's position of sovereignty over self-ruled Taiwan.

China views Taiwan as a wayward province, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. However, proudly democratic Taiwan has shown no interest in being ruled by Beijing.

Speaking at a reception for the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the future direction of Sino-US ties had "attract-

ed attention".

"We are willing, on the basis of strictly abiding by the 'one China' principle and respect of each other's core interests, to have dialogue with the new US government," Wang said, in comments posted on the ministry's website late Tuesday.

China is willing to "increase mutual trust, focus cooperation, manage and control disputes and promote the healthy development of China-US rela-

tions, to bring even greater benefits to both peoples", he added.

Separately, state news agency Xinhua quoted Chinese ambassador to Washington, Cui Tiankai as saying that while the Trump administration has yet to formulate a China policy, the general trend of China-US cooperation cannot be reversed as it is "the only right choice" for both.

In any trade war, both countries would suffer, he added.

"Currently, the world economy needs a strong engine to lead to stronger development and faster growth, it's inescapable responsibility for China and the United States to do this, rather than heading toward a trade war," Cui said.

With Trump's decision to quit the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership (TPP), Cui said China cannot take over the US role as the global leader who makes trade rules.

"I think this is a misleading notion, because international trade rules cannot be made by the United States or China alone, and rather, they should be made and implemented by all nations in the world," Cui said.—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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Japan's budget surplus goal elusive with worsening fiscal health



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L), alongside Finance Minister Taro Aso, speaks in a meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy in Tokyo on 25 January, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Japan foresees a bigger-than-expected primary deficit of 8.3 trillion yen (\$73 billion) in fiscal 2020, highlighting the daunting challenge of achieving a surplus that year, the latest estimates by the Cabinet Office showed

on Wednesday.

The figure is a sharp revision from its previous forecast of a 5.5 trillion yen deficit in July. The government expects tax revenues to be smaller than initially projected in the face of slowing income growth and slug-

gish consumer spending.

The Cabinet Office said the ratio of the primary balance deficit, which excludes debt-servicing costs and revenue from new debt, to nominal gross domestic product will be 1.4 per cent in fiscal 2020, higher than the 1.0 per cent estimated in July.

The estimates were presented to a meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

With an eye to achieving 600 trillion yen in nominal GDP, the government has been struggling to ensure both economic growth and fiscal rehabilitation.

Abe has touted growth in tax revenue in recent years as one of the achievements of his "Abenomics" policy mix. But the yen's advance in the run-up to the election in November of US President Donald Trump has cast a shadow on Japanese companies' earnings and the outlook for tax revenue.

Japan's fiscal health is

the worst among major developed countries. Its gray-ing society is expected to boost social security costs further, raising the bar for drastically reducing total spending.

Even before fiscal 2020, Japan faces difficulty in attaining its medium-term goal of reducing the primary deficit ratio against nominal GDP to around 1 per cent in fiscal 2018.

In the latest estimates, the Cabinet Office said the ratio would be 2.4 per cent, rather than the 1.9 per cent in the July projection, anticipating a much larger primary deficit of 13.8 trillion yen rather than 10.5 trillion yen.

The latest projections were based on the scenario that the Japanese economy will grow 3 per cent or higher in nominal terms and 2 per cent or higher in real terms. In the July-September quarter of 2016, the world's third-largest economy expanded an annualized real 1.3 per cent.—Kyodo News

North Korean elite turning against leader Kim — defector



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives a New Year address for 2017 in this undated picture provided by KCNA in Pyongyang on 1 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL— The North Korean elite are outwardly expressing their discontent towards young leader Kim Jong Un and his government as more outside information trickles into the isolated country, North Korea's former deputy ambassador to London said on Wednesday.

Thae Yong Ho defected to South Korea in August last year and since December 2016 has been speaking to media and appearing on variety television shows to discuss his defection to Seoul and his life as a North Korean envoy.

"When Kim Jong Un first came to power, I was hopeful that he would make reasonable and rational decisions to save North Korea from poverty, but I soon fell into despair watching him purging officials for no proper reasons," Thae said during his first news conference with foreign media on Wednesday.

"Low-level dissent or criticism of the regime, until recently unthinkable, is becoming more frequent," said Thae, who spoke

in fluent, British-accented English.

"We have to spray gasoline on North Korea, and let the North Korean people set fire to it."

Thae, 54, has said publicly that dissatisfaction with Kim Jong Un prompted him to flee his post. Two university-age sons living with him and his wife in London also defected with him.

North and South Korea are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. The North, which is subject to UN sanctions over its nuclear and missile programmes, regularly threatens to destroy the South and its main ally, the United States.

Thae is the most senior official to have fled North Korea and entered public life in the South since the 1997 defection of Hwang Jang Yop, the brains behind the North's governing ideology, "Juche", which combines Marxism and extreme nationalism.

Today's North Korean system had "nothing to do with true

communism", Thae said, adding that the elite, like himself, had watched with unease as countries like Cambodia, Viet Nam and the former Soviet Union embraced economic and social reforms.

Thae has said that more North Korean diplomats are waiting in Europe to defect to South Korea.

North Korea still outwardly professes to maintain a Soviet-style command economy, but for years a thriving network of informal markets and person-to-person trading has become the main source of food and money for ordinary people.

Fully embracing these reforms would end Kim Jong Un's rule, Thae said. Asked if Kim Jong Un's brother, Kim Jong Chol, could run the country instead, Thae remained sceptical.

"Kim Jong Chol has no interest in politics. He is only interested in music," Thae said.

"He's only interested in Eric Clapton. If he was a normal man, I'm sure he'd be a very good professional guitarist".—Reuters

Indonesia to probe arms smuggling claims against peacekeepers in Sudan

JAKARTA — Indonesia will on Wednesday send a team to Sudan to investigate allegations that its peacekeepers stationed there with the United Nations tried to smuggle arms out of the country, officials said.

Authorities in Sudan last week stopped 139 Indonesian police officers from flying out of the Darfur region after security scans found guns and ammunition in luggage believed to belong to them.

Indonesian police have denied their officers were trying to smuggle arms.

"What's clear is the bags that contained the weapons did not belong to the Indonesian unit," police spokesman Boy Raffi Amar said in a text message.

"An investigation is ongoing involving the UN, Sudan authorities and Indonesian police," he said.

The Indonesian police officers were part of a United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur and were due to return to Indonesia after completing a tour.—Reuters

Woman at centre of South Korea scandal shouts out her innocence

SEOUL — The woman at the centre of a corruption scandal gripping South Korea angrily protested her innocence on Wednesday, shouting that she had been made to confess as she was forcibly summoned for questioning.

Choi Soon-sil, who has been indicted for meddling in state affairs through her friendship with impeached President Park Geun-hye, made the protest at the special prosecutor's office, before being pushed into an elevator by correctional officers.

The dramatic scenes came as the outgoing chief judge of the Constitutional Court urged the bench to wrap up Park's impeachment trial by 13 March, when the retirement of another judge will reduce the nine-judge court to seven and could raise questions about the verdict.

His comments were the clearest indication of the timing of a decision on Park, either to remove her from office with an election to be called 60 days later, or for her to be reinstated.

Park was impeached amid the influence-peddling scandal that has engulfed her administration over recent months. If the impeachment is upheld, she will become the first democratically elected leader to be removed from office.

Choi was brought into the special prosecutor's office on an arrest warrant after refusing to answer several summons.

"I am being forced to confess committing crimes jointly with the president," she shouted to reporters. "I don't deserve to be treated like this. And my baby

and my grandson," she said as guards pushed her into the elevator.

The special prosecutor's office dismissed her protests.

"Regardless of such groundless claims of hers, the special prosecutor will thoroughly carry out the investigation by law and principle," office spokesman Lee Kyu-chul told a regular briefing, adding that Choi was trying to discredit the investigation.

As part of their investigation, prosecutors are looking into Samsung Group's [SAGR.UL] sponsorship of the equestrian riding career of Choi's daughter, Chung Yoo-ra, 20, who was arrested in Denmark after being sought by South Korean authorities.



Choi Soon-sil, the woman at the centre of the South Korean political scandal and long-time friend of President Park Geun-hye, arrives for a hearing arguments for South Korean President Park Geun-hye's impeachment trial at the Constitutional Court in Seoul, South Korea, on 16 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Chung has been accused of criminal interference related to her academic record and other unspecified charges.

Park was impeached by parliament in December after accusations that she colluded with Choi to pressure big businesses, including Samsung, to donate to two foundations set up to back the president's policy initiatives.

Park, 64, remains in office but has been stripped of her powers while she awaits her fate.

Park, Choi and Samsung have all denied wrongdoing.

Prosecutors said on Wednesday they had summoned Samsung Group President Kim Jong-jong and Samsung C&T Corp (028260.KS) President Kim Shin for questioning as witnesses.

The prosecution has now summoned seven different executives at Samsung Group or an affiliate of the country's top conglomerate and have so far identified two of them — leader Jay Y Lee and Samsung Group Vice Chairman Choi Gee-sung — as suspects in the widening graft scandal. Chief Judge Park Hanchul, who retires on 31 January, urged the Constitutional Court to wrap up the impeachment trial by 13 March, when the retirement of another judge will reduce the nine-judge bench to seven.

Speaking on the ninth day of the hearing, the chief judge said the retirement of two judges may distort the impartiality of the court.

"If another judge's seat is vacated, that is not just a matter of one vacated seat but could distort the outcome of the decision," he told a public hearing.

The court has previously stressed the need to balance a speedy resolution of the crisis with proper deliberation, but this was the first time the court has mentioned a specific timeline.

Seven sitting judges are the minimum required by law to rule on an impeachment, with six needed to vote to uphold the motion for Park to be removed.

Sources with intimate knowledge of the court's inner workings told Reuters that seven judges, for a landmark ruling such as this, were too few and could invite questions of the ruling's legitimacy, especially if it is not unanimous.

The sources declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.—Reuters

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 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.

Youths, Reading Habits, Aesthetic Literature and Moral Development

Khin Maung Oo

NOWADAYS, there is a place attracting most of us. This place is none other than our TV sets with numerous channels broadcasting foreign movies. Being language illiterates, we can enjoy the movies through Myanmar subtitles. When the time comes, we automatically seat ourselves before our televisions. TV audiences outnumber literature readers.

There are many reasons for today's youths to be less interested in Myanmar literature. They already have easy access to the social networks such as Facebook and other interesting sources of knowledge on the WWW (World Wide Web). They can entertain themselves spending their time playing on-line games, chatting with friends, or delving into different subjects on various websites for their self-development. In fact, youths are very astute. With each passing day, their knowledge horizon increases, but they begin to neglect reading Myanmar literary works. Here I do not mean to say that they have turned away from books altogether. Though being more interested in informative and educative pieces of writing, they still enjoy reading amusing stories. Very often, I find some boys and girls laughing aloud, while read-

ing books and watching movies. This shows that they have not lost their sense of humor or their feelings.

Making youths read more books is really not a very easy task. The Government or any institution alone cannot perform this duty, without public co-operation. In academic education, reading Myanmar tales, stories, poems and novels—classics and modern—should be compulsory and these should be included in the syllabus. School authorities in collaboration with Parents and Teachers Associations need to make students take part in debates, literary talks and poem-recitation contests with famous writers and special guests invited to supervise and observe. School wall-chart magazines as well can help grow seeds of reading and writing in students. Awarding prizes to outstanding Myanmar language enthusiasts can also encourage their hobbies. This is not a day-dream. There used to be such activities in our schools when we were young. I wish we could bring such practices back to life in our schools nationwide. Nowadays students are vying for scoring high marks to be admitted to their favorite professional institutes and colleges. Hence high school students and

their parents may take no interest to participate in those movements, presently.

It is heartening for us to see some media, institutions and interested persons take an active part in launching activities for the progress of our Myanmar language. Simultaneously, it is essential for the government to give necessary assistance and encouragement to the above-said organizations.

Books can educate us what to do and what not to do in our daily lives and guide the ones who go astray to choose the right path. They can tame the cruel to become kind to others.

Also, books can guide morally corrupt men to become respected citizens in our society. Why are we saying repeatedly to read Myanmar aesthetic literature today? This is because Myanmar youths seem to be losing sight of Myanmar culture and traditions and their knowledge of Myanmar vocabulary is growing weaker with each passing day.

For our youths to savor our Myanmar literature, it will be of great benefit to disseminate our literary works through the Net as soon as possible. Otherwise, a new type of literature would replace our valuable cultural heritage before we recognized it. This

does not mean that we do not accept the new.

We could take moral lessons from books throughout our lives. From the literary works we read, we learnt to love heroes and men of power, and simultaneously to hate villains and mischievous people. Biographies and auto-biographies inspired us to emulate them. Detective stories taught us how to reason and provided us with different lines of reasoning. And it taught us that crime does not pay. What was conceived in our minds was that violation of the law would lead us to being punished for sure. Most parents did not encourage their children to read love stories, regarding these as forbidden literature. But reading this kind of book gave us tender feelings. It is just a matter of time before the human race becomes extinct if we are devoid of love.

Literary experts, writers, entrepreneurs who have the spirit of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), non-governmental organizations, academicians, teachers and all interested persons should actively take part in launching a well-planned campaign for sustainable progress of our Myanmar language and literature under the leadership of the Union government.

Morals, Manners, Dignity and Honour

Khin Maung Myint

FROM day one of my schooling, which started right after the Second World War, we were taught the **Morals and Manners** lessons as an extra-curriculum subject. Since then I knew how to behave and act properly and understood the values of dignity and honour, and observed them until today. The dignity and honour are the two most important attributes that an individual should possess. Without dignity there wouldn't be honour and without honour, wealth, ranks and positions mean nothing. Though they may be feared, people without dignity and honour wouldn't get the respect of others.

Today, not only in our country, but all over the world, we are witnessing the deteriorations in morals, manners, dignity and honour at all levels right from the top down to the lowest levels in every society. To be more blunt, even some heads of states do not

observe the norms of dignity and honour expected of them. Their bad mannerisms and low moral values reflect their dignity and honour. However, I will not be going into detail about their bad mannerisms and low moral values as they do not directly concerned us.

As for our country, in the past, most people irrespective of their wealths or positions were very conscious of their morals and manners and went to great lengths to observe them and maintained their dignities and honours. They would rather die than let their dignity or honour being degraded. Thus they maintained their dignity and honour at all costs. During the colonization period, many people won't stoop down to the imperialists. Their dogma was "**It's better to die than to be enslaved**" and had risen up against foreign aggressions though they knew they were outnumbered and outgunned and were no match to the enemies. They upheld their dignity and honour by sacrificing their lives.

Over the years, the characters of most of our people have deteriorated. Many people do not seem to know that dignity and honour are the extensions of their morals and manners. The morals and manners of an individual reflect that individual's character. This character is the foundation of one's dignity that defines one's honour. No one will have respect for a person who lacks dignity or honour.

There used to be many dishonourable persons in every field--be it in the government administration, judiciary, education, medical, business, or many endless number of professional fields. Such persons would do anything for their gains without any regards to their honour and respectability. People in high positions should be more careful how they behave, speak and act. Though many may not know, these bad manners portray their moral values and are indicators of their low level of dignity and hence affect adversely on their honourability and respectability. If they

want to be respected they should behave, speak and act properly.

I consider any form of misconduct that is not inline with work ethics is detrimental to a person's dignity and honour and would tarnish the image and diminish one's respectability. While in the service, I abide by the maxim that "**leaders must set good examples for the subordinates**". However, such behaviourism as mentioned above would give wrong signals to the subordinates that such things are legitimate and acceptable. In fact they are not by any means. I sincerely hope these people would sooner come to realize their misbehaviours and repent. Only then such undesirable conducts would rapidly vanish from our civil services, various professional fields and business sectors.

Allow me to repeat myself again. Disregards for morals and manners would lead to misbehaviour, which in turn leads to misconduct that would diminish a person's dignity and hence lessens the honourability and respectabil-

ity. My opinion is, one doesn't need to pull rank and demand respect, but if one nurtures dignity and honour by behaving properly, respect would come automatically. By pulling ranks they would earn only fear and disdain, but not respect, from the subordinates and the public. Respect must be earned, not demanded.

To sum up, personal character, conduct, dignity, honour and respect are the extensions of the morals and manners or in other words the moral values and the mannerism of an individual. All these attributes are co-related to one another. Thus people, especially those who are in high positions, should have the decency to strictly maintain their dignity and honour by observing the morals and manners that would shape their characters and guide their conducts, if they want to be successful and respected. Also intimidating and bullying the subordinates and the public will not bring respect but would be counter-productive.

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 4 January.

**From H.E. Mr. Michel Temer,
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency, in my name, in the name of the people and of the Government of Brazil, the most cordial and warm congratulations, with renewed wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

**From H.E. Mr. Enrique Pena NIETO,
President of the United Mexican States
Excellency,**

On behalf of the people of Mexico. It is an honour to express to you my warmest congratulations on another year of celebrations for the National Day of the Republic

of the Union of Myanmar.

I would like to renew to you, my firm commitment to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation between both our countries for the mutual development and well-being.

As I express to you the assurances of my distinguished consideration, I convey a warm regards.

**From H.E. Mr. Hassan Rouhani,
President of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Your Excellency.

Bearing in mind the existing capabilities and facilities, I do hope that our bilateral relations will improve more than ever.

I wish good health and success for Your Excellency and prosperity and welfare for the people of Myanmar.

**From H.E. Mr. Klaus Werner Iohannis,
President of Romania
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar I have the distinguished pleasure to convey to Your Excellency and to the people of Myanmar the most sincere wishes of health, happiness and prosperity.

I avail myself of this opportunity of express the trust that the relations between our two countries will continue to be strengthened bilaterally, as well as multilaterally, to the mutual benefit of the two friendly nations.

Receive, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest appreciation.



Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck of Bhutan sees mural paintings in Bagan. PHOTO: AUNG YE THWIN

Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck of Bhutan visits ancient pagodas in Bagan

HER Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck of Bhutan visited ancient pagodas in Bagan yesterday.

During the tour, the Queen Mother and royal family also took a hot-air balloon trip over

Bagan, enjoying the scenic vistas of Bagan.

They paid homage at the Shwezigon Pagoda and offered flowers, water and candlelight. The queen also signed the visitors' book and donated

cash to the pagoda's board of trustees.

They then paid homage to Shwesandaw and Alodawpyae pagodas and made similar offertories. —Myanmar News Agency

Woman ploughing field shot in Namkham

A GUNSHOT fired by a member of an unidentified armed group wounded a civilian in the arm as she ploughed a field in northern Shan State on Monday.

The injured woman, Daw Yar Mon of Kyusai Village, has been receiving treatment at Namkham People's Hospital in Shan State (North).

Officials of the Defence Ser-

vices and the police visited Daw Yar Mon at the hospital Tuesday morning.

Daw Yar Mon said she was ploughing land with other villagers when she was shot. She was brought back to her home, but her condition worsened, requiring her to be brought to the hospital, where it was determined that surgery would be

necessary.

After surgery, it was discovered that the bullet that imbedded in her arm was from an M-21, a semi-automatic sniper rifle commonly used by the armed ethnic groups.

Columns of government troops continue to conduct clearance operations in the area.—Myanmar News Agency

Tatmadaw clashes with KIA troops in Shan State

A TATMADAW column clashed with a 10-strong Kachin Independence Army (KIA) ethnic group near Kyugok (Pansai) town, northeastern Shan State.

The engagement between the Tatmadaw column and KIA

troops took place while the members of the Tatmadaw were conducting area clearance operations near Kyugok town in Shan State. One member of the Tatmadaw was injured during the skirmish. Tatmadaw troops seized one

RPG launcher and five bombs, four M-22 guns, 18 magazines, 1,422 bullets, 13 hand grenades, and one land mine. Tatmadaw troops continue to conduct area clearance operations in the area.—Myanmar News Agency

Foreign Head of State sends felicitations to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The following is message of felicitations from Foreign Head of State / Government sent to State Counsellor, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 4 January.

**From H.E. Mr. Jose Serra,
Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Excellency,**

On the occasion of the celebration of the 69th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, let me express to your Excellency my most cordial congratulations and wishes of happiness and prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

Speaker of the Senate of parliament and Speaker of the House of Commons, parliament of Canada send felicitations to Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and Speaker the Amyotha Hluttaw U Mahn Win Khaing Than

The following are messages of felicitations from Speaker of the Senate of parliament and Speaker of the House of Commons, parliament of Canada sent to Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, on the occasion of the 69th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 4 January.

**From H.E. Mr. George J. Furey
Speaker of the Senate of Parliament, Canada
Dear Colleagues,**

On the occasion of your Independence Day, it is our distinct pleasure to extend to you and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar our warmest congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the Parliament of Canada. National days offer an opportunity to reflect with pride on past accomplishments and to look with confidence to the future.

As presiding officers, we attach great significance to the value of parliamentary diplomacy. Co-operation between our two parliaments stands to make an important contribution to the strengthening of our bilateral relations. We look forward to future opportunities to further solidify the ties between our institutions.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration, as well as our continued good wishes for peace and prosperity for the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From H.E. Mr. Geoff Regan,
Speaker of the House of Commons, Parliament of Canada
Dear Colleagues,**

On the occasion of your Independence Day, it is our distinct pleasure to extend to you and the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar our warmest congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the Parliament of Canada. National days offer an opportunity to reflect with pride on past accomplishments and to look with confidence to the future.

As presiding officers, we attach great significance to the value of parliamentary diplomacy. Co-operation between our two parliaments stands to make an important contribution to the strengthening of our bilateral relations. We look forward to future opportunities to further solidify the ties between our institutions.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration, as well as our continued good wishes for peace and prosperity for the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Children, pregnant women in Maungtaw, Buthidaung receive vaccinations

A VACCINATION program is being carried out in Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships, giving inoculations to children and pregnant women in the two villages in Rakhine State to prevent 10 debilitating, and sometimes fatal diseases.

The vaccines given in the two villages prevent tuberculosis, polio, hepatitis, whooping cough,

lockjaw, German measles, measles and pneumonia.

Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister Dr Chan Thar and officials visited the vaccination activities at Zeditaung and Nyaungchaung villages in Buthidaung Township yesterday.

“We are giving the vaccination to children and pregnant women from both communities

in the villages and explained to locals about the importance of the vaccinations,” said Dr Than Tun Kyaw, Buthidaung Township Medical Officer.

The vaccination programme is being conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports, local religious leaders and townselders.— *Maung Zaw (MNA)*



Children receive vaccination at Zeditaung Village in Buthidaung Township. PHOTO: MAUNG ZAW (MNA)

Illegal migrant deported to Bangladesh

A MIGRANT from Bangladesh handed over to Bangladeshi authorities yesterday.

After serving jail term at Buthidaung Prison under the Immigration Law, Mammud Tarak was handed over to A bul Russel Siddique, Addidir, the officer of Bangladeshi border force No.12 in Teknaf, Bangladesh by Myanmar immigration team led by U Aung Kyaw Sein, Staff Officer of the Maungtaw Township Immigration and Population Department.— *Zaw Nay (MNA)*



Officers of Bangladesh and Myanmar sign agreement on deporting Bangladeshi national. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Vice Chairman of General Electric

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received a delegation led by Mr. John G. Rice, Vice Chairman of General Electric (GE) based in United States, on Wednesday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning the

electric power production technological sector and the health services support apparatus production sector by the General Electric (GE) Company. The meeting was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Stinky factories temporarily shut down in Dawei

SOME manufacturing plants yielding unpleasant odours in Dawei were temporarily suspended from production as departmental officials investigated in Dawei in Taninthayi Region, according to the officials from Dawei Township Development Department in Taninthayi Region.

Acting on complaints made by locals, officials investigated the malodorous manufacturing centres during the second week of January. Some plants

were temporarily suspended as the stench had spread out to Welkyun Hteinthit and Nyaung Yan Wards in Dawei.

“We investigated the plants and gave (factory supervisors) necessary directions. If they don’t follow these directions, we will take action by closing the plants permanently,” said an official from Dawei Township Development Department.

Two rubber plants and one cool storage plant were directed to build storage buildings and fil-

tering ponds within one month. If construction is not completed during the prescribed period, the plants will be shut down, according to the department.

“We will be satisfied if the plants are deodorised. We are worried about our health in the long run. We do not intend to hurt the entrepreneurs,” said a local residing at Welkyun Hteinthit ward. Development Department officials will investigate other plants, officials said.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Mr. John G. Rice, Vice Chairman of General Electric (GE). PHOTO: MNA

Villager wounded in mine explosion

A VILLAGER was wounded by shrapnel when a land mine exploded on Monday morning in Mong Ngaok Township in northern Shan State. Sai Ngwe Lin, from Pan Hu

village, Mong Ngaok Township, hit a mine planted by an unidentified armed group near Lwal Pyet village when he was returning from Kunkha village by motorcy-

cle at 11:30 am on Monday.

The victim is undergoing medical treatment at Kyaukme Township People’s Hospital.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar students can apply for ASEAN Tourism Scholarships

MYANMAR university students specialising in tourism can apply for scholarships granted by the ASEAN Tourism Scholarships Programme, according to a meeting between Myanmar Tourism entrepreneurs and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism held at the Myanmar Tourism Federation’s office in Yangon on Monday and a press briefing on ASEAN Tourism Forum to

be held in Singapore.

“We will invite the university students specialising in the tourism discipline in Myanmar. Applications for ASEAN tourism scholarships can now be submitted to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and relevant departments not later than 31st March 2017,” said Director Daw Khine Mi Mi Tun from the Ministry of Hotels and Tour-

ism. In addition, preliminary selections for the scholarships will be held in April with the results announced in August.

The students who are awarded scholarships will be selected by the relevant universities, the board of ASEAN Tourism Research Association, ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Tourism board.—200

Improvised Explosive Devices of TNLA seized

A TATMADAW column seized a hand-made land mine and related equipment on Tuesday morning near Namtu in northeastern Shan State.

The Tatmadaw column found six remote-controlled Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) commonly used by TNLA armed

groups, six detonators, a 12-volt battery and related equipment six miles northwest of Namtu at about 10 am on Tuesday.

Members of the Tatmadaw deactivated the IEDs and the Tatmadaw column continues to conduct area clearance operations.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Somali militants ram car bomb into hotel, killing at least 15

MOGADISHU — Islamist militants rammed a car bomb into the gate of a hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on Wednesday and stormed inside, killing at least 15 people, government officials said.

Gunfire rang out as fighters entered the Dayah Hotel, which is popular with politicians. A second blast shook the area shortly afterwards, injuring several journalists and others nearby.

Colonel Abdiqadir Hussein, a police officer, told Reuters that security forces eventually managed to secure the building.

"We have rescued the people and concluded the operation at Dayah hotel. The security forces are now inside the hotel and we shall give further details of casualties later," he said.

Duniye Mohamed, a doctor at Madina hospital, said some of the people taken there were very seriously wounded.



Somali government soldiers secure the scene of an explosion in front of Dayah hotel in Somalia's capital Mogadishu, on 25 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The preliminary casualty figure is 15 people dead including four security forces and 11 civilians; 51 others were wounded in

the two blasts at the hotel," Security Minister Abdirizak Umar told reporters at the scene.

Reuters pictures showed a

huge flame immediately after the blast. Several cars and buildings were destroyed by the explosion.

Islamist group al Shabaab,

which until 2011 controlled much of Somalia including Mogadishu, claimed responsibility for the attack.

"Well-armed mujahideen (fighters) attacked the hotel, and now they are fighting inside the hotel," said an announcer on Andalus radio, which is linked to al Shabaab.

The insurgents often launch bomb and gun attacks in the capital in their quest to topple the Western-backed government and impose their strict interpretation of Islamic law on the nation.

In the past two years, African Union and Somali forces have driven the group out of key urban strongholds but it remains active from bases in rural areas.

Somalia swore in nearly 300 members of parliament last month.

The lawmakers are due to pick the president but that vote has repeatedly been postponed.

—Reuters

Kuwait executes prince convicted of murder and six others

KUWAIT — Kuwait hanged seven people at its central prison on Wednesday, including a prince in the ruling Al-Sabah family, according to a statement carried by state news agency KUNA.

It appeared to be the first time a member of the royal family has been put to death in Kuwait, where the emir has ultimate say over affairs of state.

Sheikh Faisal Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was sentenced to death in 2010 for killing his nephew, another prince, ac-

cording to Kuwaiti newspapers.

Al-Sabah's crime was "premeditated murder and possession of a firearm and ammunition without a license," KUNA added.

Another Kuwaiti man convicted of murder was also executed.

The other four men and one woman also hanged hailed from Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia and the Philippines and were convicted of offences ranging from murder, attempted murder, kidnapping and rape. —Reuters

Jihadists crush Syrian FSA rebel faction in attack — FSA officials

BEIRUT — The jihadist group Fateh al-Sham has taken over areas held by a Free Syrian Army rebel faction in northwestern Syria, effectively crushing it, two FSA officials said on Wednesday.

Fateh al-Sham, formerly known as the Nusra Front, launched a major attack on FSA groups in northwestern Syria on Tuesday, includ-

ing the Jaish al-Mujahideen group which the FSA officials said had been wiped out.

Fateh al-Sham was al Qaeda's official affiliate in the Syrian war until it officially broke the ties with it last year. The factions it attacked on Tuesday had representatives at a Russian-backed peace conference in Kazakhstan. —Reuters

Belgium holds seven in hunt for returning Syria militants

BRUSSELS — Security officers detained seven people in Brussels on Wednesday as part of an investigation into whether militants were returning from Syria, prosecutors said.

The people were held for questioning after police searched houses in about eight locations around the Belgian capital, authorities said. No explosives or weapons were found, they added.

"The investigation relates

to the issue of possible returning Syria fighters," federal prosecutors said in a statement.

A judge would decide whether to keep them detained over the course of the day, prosecutors added, without giving further details.

Europeans fighting alongside jihadist groups in Syria and Iraq have become a major source of concern for European authorities.

Studies have said about 350

Belgians have travelled to join Islamist groups in Syria, making the country one of the largest per capita contributors of jihadist fighters in the conflict.

Prosecutors said the raids and detentions were not linked to ongoing investigations into the November 2015 attacks in Paris and March 2016 bombings in Brussels, when suicide bombers killed 32 people at Brussels Airport and the city's metro system. —Reuters

German police search homes in crackdown on far-right extremists

BERLIN — About 200 German police searched a dozen homes in six states on Wednesday as part of an investigation into a far-right extremist group suspected of planning armed attacks against police, Jews and asylum seekers, the chief prosecutor's office said.

The prosecutor's office said the early morning raids included searches of the homes of six people believed to have founded the new group, and that of a seventh person who is suspected of helping the group obtain supplies.

"The goal of today's search measures was to obtain further evidence of the actual creation of a formal group, as well as the alleged planned criminal acts and any potential tools," the office said in a statement.

There were no details of any arrests. The prosecutor's office

was not immediately available to comment.

It said the suspects were largely connected via social media and were believed to have begun planning armed attacks in the spring of 2016. The prosecutor's office did not name the group but German media reported the raids were directed against members of a group calling itself "Reichsbuerger", or Citizens of the Reich.

The group does not recognise modern Germany as a legitimate state and maintains that the former, far larger "Deutsche Reich" is still alive despite Nazi Germany's defeat in World War Two. Germany's BfV domestic intelligence agency warned last year about a rise in far-right violence after the influx of more than a million migrants and called for

concrete steps to avert the emergence of what it called "right-wing terrorist structures".

The number of far-right extremists jumped to 12,100 in 2016 from around 11,800 in 2015, according to a report in the Tagesspiegel German newspaper which cited security sources. Officials at the BfV intelligence agency had no immediate comment on the reported numbers. German authorities broke up a suspected ultra-right militant group known as "Oldschool Society" last year but have warned about the emergence of similar groups elsewhere.

Wednesday's raids occurred in Berlin and the states of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Brandenburg, Lower Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate and Sachsen-Anhalt. —Reuters

Russian Defence Ministry to build over 100 facilities in Arctic region

MOSCOW — Russia's Defence Ministry plans to build over 100 infrastructure facilities in the Arctic region by the end of 2017, the ministry's press service said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Over 100 facilities in the Russian part of the Arctic will be put into operation by the end of 2017. The facilities are located on the territory of the Russian Defence Ministry's Arctic military bases on the Franz Josef Land Archipelago, the Novaya Zemlya Archipelago, Sredny Island, Cape Schmidt, Wrangel Island and Kotelny Island," the statement reads.

Over 30 facilities are

planned to be built on the Alexandra Land Island (the Franz Josef Land Archipelago), including the Nagurskoye airfield.

"Besides, The Arktichesky Trilistnik (or Arctic Trefoil) administrative and residential compound, a unique facility built at a latitude of 80 degrees, is currently under construction in this area," the statement adds.

In the Rogachevo settlement (on the Novaya Zemlya Archipelago), several technical and social facilities are under construction as well as an airfield.

Over 30 military and social facilities are expected to be put into operation



New facilities built in the Russian part of the Arctic will be put into operation by the end of 2017. PHOTO: ITAR TASS

on Cape Schmidt (Chukotka Autonomous Area). Nearly 30 facilities will be delivered on Wrangel Island before the end of the year.

A number of facilities, due to come on stream in 2017, are located on Sredny Island (the Severnaya Zemlya Archipelago).

The Defence Ministry also said that during an ecological clean-up carried out in 2016, Russian troops had collected a total of 6,054 tonnes of scrap metal, 4,778 tonnes of which was moved to the mainland.

On the whole, an area of 161 hectares was cleaned up.—ITAR TASS

Ahead of China's New Year, Xi pushes for clean, reformed military

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping has used a traditional visit to outlying regions before the Lunar New Year to urge the military to ensure they are free from corruption and following party orders on reform and training.

Chinese leaders generally use the time around the festival to make inspection trips around the country where they flag important policy initiatives or areas of concern for the year ahead.

The week-long holiday, starting on the eve of the new year, on Friday, is the most important in the Chinese calendar, when millions of people travel home, many for the only time in the year.

Visiting troops based in Zhangjiakou, a city in Beijing's neighbouring Hebei province, Xi pressed home his message about the importance of fighting corruption, especially in the armed forces.

"Fully and thoroughly purge the pernicious influence of Guo Boxiong and Xu Caihou," state television paraphrased Xi as saying, referring to two senior former officers felled in the government's fight on graft.

Guo and Xu were both vice chairmen of the powerful Central Military Commission, which Xi heads. Guo was jailed for life last year. Xu died of cancer in 2015 before he could face trial.—Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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For THE SIAM COMMERCIAL BANK PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED,

53/55, Mahabandoola Garden Street, Yangon, Myanmar

Phone: 372174

Dated: 26th January, 2017.

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (PROCUREMENT OF GOODS)

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
NCDDP – NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:H-814MM

Contract Title: MOTORCYCLES LOW GROUND CLEARANCE for 17 TOWNSHIPS for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Reference No.: International Competitive Bidding (ICB): G-79

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of Motorcycles low ground clearance for 17 townships 2017-2018.

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the procurement of 1,575 (thousand five hundred and seventy five) motorcycles with low ground clearance (scooter type). The motorcycles will support the daily operations of the facilitators the DRD will deploy in 17 (seventeen) townships spread over the national territory. 575 (five hundred seventy five) of the motorcycles will be delivered in the DRD central warehouse in Nay Pyi Taw (CIP Nay Pyi Taw) and 1,000 (one thousand) will be delivered in the Regional DRD warehouse in Yangon (CIP Yangon) from where they will be distributed to the township clusters. The delivery time is spread over 3 (three) months at a monthly rhythm of 525 (five hundred twenty five) units per month. The delivery time starts 60 (sixty) days to be counted from the date of signature of the contract, or 1 June 2017, whichever dates comes first.

Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Rural Development (DRD), Mr. Kyaw Swa Aung, Director of the Procurement and Logistic Section, (ksaung@ncddpmyanmar.org) (gorksaung@gmail.com) (unioncddprocurement@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 16.00 Hrs at the address given below.

A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be sent by e-mail only.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Monday 13 March 2017 10.00 Hrs Myanmar time**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on 13 March 2017 11.00 Hrs Myanmar time.

All bids must be accompanied by a "Bid Securing Declaration".

The address referred to above is:

Department of Rural Development

Attn: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General

Office N° 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Union of the Republic of Myanmar

For Detailed information please contact:

Mr. U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section

Tel:+95(0)67.40.90.71 (office) or +95(0)9.43.43.33 (mobile)

Email: (unioncddprocurement@gmail.com)

Web site: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org

US adds extra aircraft to Marine force in Australia

SYDNEY— The United States will send extra military aircraft to Australia's tropical north this year, a US Marine Corps spokesman said on Wednesday, bolstering its military presence close to the disputed South China Sea.

The Marines' deployment in the strategic city of Darwin, agreed in 2011, was a critical part of former US President Barack Obama's "pivot" to Asia amid China's increased assertiveness in the region. The move also cemented close ties with staunch ally Australia and gave the US a foothold in the area. President Donald Trump's new administration has struck a hawkish tone over Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea Asia, but it has abandoned the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact negotiated by Obama.

Marine Corps spokesman Major Chris Logan said there would be an increase in aircraft this year, including sending four MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor planes, which boost the range of the marine force and five AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters.



An MV-22 Osprey, belonging to the US military, flies during the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force's (JMSDF) fleet review at Sagami Bay, off Yokosuka, south of Tokyo on 18 October, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Logan added that Marine numbers would remain at 1,250. "The size and composition of each Marine rotation to Australia is mutually determined ... and is balanced against other resource commitments and respective national priorities," Logan said. The number of soldiers sent to Australia's north has stalled well behind plans for a force of 2,500 by 2020, a goal that was delayed last year from 2017 as originally intended. Australia and the US agreed last October to share more than A\$2 billion (1.2 billion pounds) in

infrastructure investment and other costs linked to the 25-year deployment. They have also discussed basing US long-range B-1 bombers in Darwin, a move which drew concern from China's foreign ministry. Australia's defence department did not respond to a request for comment, but said in October that both nations intend to reach the 2,500-marine target "over the coming years". Euan Graham, director of the International Security Program at Sydney-based think tank the Lowy Institute said the delay in ramping up

troop numbers was unsurprising, given slow progress in negotiations on costs. "The infrastructure that will accommodate the enhanced marine presence couldn't be done before the cost sharing was agreed, and that's not going to ramp up overnight, that will have to be a steady progression," he said. Training exercises in 2016 included joint manoeuvres with soldiers from Japan and China and a programme involving officers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines, the department said then.—Reuters

British police arrest man over abuse directed at Brexit court challenger

LONDON — British police said on Wednesday they had arrested a man on suspicion of sending racial abuse to the woman who won the court battle that means Prime Minister Theresa May must get parliament's approval before starting the Brexit process.

The Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that lawmakers must pass an act giving May the authority to invoke Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty and begin two years of divorce talks, backing the case led by investment manager Gina Miller.

Miller, 51, who was born in Guyana, received a catalogue of death threats, racist and sexist abuse on social media since her legal challenge became increasingly high-profile last year and it received negative coverage from pro-Brexit supporting newspapers.

Miller said last November she had spent 60,000 pounds (\$75,500)

on her own protection including dealing with attacks on the website of her business.

Britons backed leaving the European Union in a referendum last June after a bitter and divisive campaign, with personal attacks from both camps continuing long after the vote.

On Wednesday, police said they had arrested a 50-year-old man in Knightsbridge, an upmarket area of London, on suspicion of racially aggravated malicious communications.

"The arrest is in connection with a complaint made to police on 6 November by a 51-year-old woman relating to threats made online and a second unrelated comment believed to have been made by the same suspect in August 2016," police said in a statement.

Miller confirmed to Reuters the arrest related to the abuse she had suffered.—Reuters



A general view shows the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, in Moscow, Russia on 20 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian parliament backs draft law easing penalty for domestic violence

MOSCOW — The Russian parliament on Wednesday gave its overwhelming backing to a draft law that would ease some penalties for domestic violence, alarming women's rights campaigners who fear it will encourage abuse.

The law, which the State Duma or lower house of parliament, passed in its second of three readings by 385 votes to two, would reduce battery of a relative to a civil offence instead of a criminal offence in first instances, when the victim suffered no serious harm.

Those who support the proposed change, including members of President Vladimir Putin's

United Russia party, say they want to protect parents' right to discipline their children and to reduce the state's ability to meddle in family life.

"This is a historic vote because in certain countries the state's role in family life is way too much," said Andrei Isayev, a deputy representing United Russia. "Today's vote will end such practices in the Russian Federation."

Supporters of the amendment say anyone who inflicts serious physical harm will still be criminally liable.

But women's rights campaigners say it is a retrograde step.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AAL FREMANTLE VOY. NO (16008)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AAL FREMANTLE VOY. NO (16008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(S'PORE) PTE LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HALONG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HALONG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (138N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (138N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC JAVA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC JAVA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Trainspotting author sees 'bleak dystopia' in real life too

EDINBURGH — The author of “Trainspotting”, a grim comedy about young Scottish drug addicts that proved a huge hit in the 1990s and still enjoys cult status, sees “bleak dystopia” in the age of Donald Trump and Britain’s Brexit vote.

The novel by Scottish writer Irvine Welsh, depicting an underclass hit by industrial decline and scornful of conventional values, looks as relevant as ever in an era marked by popular rejection of establishment politics.

“We seem to be in a very bleak dystopian era of ultra-nationalism, and the world has become smaller and suspicious of strangers,” said Welsh, who has published another 10 books since “Trainspotting”, his first novel.

Britain voted to end its 40-year membership of the European Union last June in a shock referendum result many saw as a protest against the established order. Trump’s victory in the US presidential election has been viewed in the same way.

Welsh told Reuters in an interview that such outcomes provided rich material for a writer but said it was “terrible” for ordinary citizens.

Commenting on Trump’s combative inauguration speech, in which he pledged to “put America first”, Welsh compared the president to a “drunken uncle” who gate-crashes a wedding party and makes the groom’s speech for him.

Welsh is back in the headlines this week with the release of “T2 Trainspotting”, a film by director Danny Boyle that picks up the story 20 years later.

It is loosely based on Welsh’s novel “Porno” and is a sequel to “Trainspotting” in which the four anti-heroes — Renton, Sick Boy, Spud and Begbie — question their loyalties and grapple with the consequences of their mispent youth.

The first “Trainspotting” movie, also directed by Boyle, became an era-defining hit after its 1996 release.

Author Irvine Welsh and his wife Beth Quinn pose as they arrive at the world premiere of the film ‘T2 Trainspotting’ in Edinburgh, Scotland, Britain, on 22 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



With its hallucinatory visuals and pulsating soundtrack, the movie shocked many with its scenes of casual and desperate drug taking, brutally exposing a segment of society that had been left behind by the mainstream.

Welsh, 59, said that since he wrote the book, the impact of automation on jobs had further widened the impact of industrial decline so that it had now spread

beyond traditional blue collar communities.

He is from the run-down part of Edinburgh where “Trainspotting” is set, though he now lives in Chicago, returning to Scotland for around three months a year. He said he was not part of the literary scene, preferring to spend time with people from other walks of life.

Welsh said he hoped the cur-

rent political mood would pass.

Though no fan of Brexit, he said the upheaval it had brought provided an opportunity for a deeper and potentially beneficial public debate.

“In the long run it’s going to be ... is there room for everyone, or just the elites? Those are the big questions we are going to have to ask ourselves.”

—Reuters

Key nominations for the 2017 Oscars

LOS ANGELES — Nominations were announced on Tuesday for the 2017 Academy Awards, the highest honors in the movie industry.

The Oscars will be handed out at a 26 February ceremony in Hollywood hosted by Jimmy Kimmel.

Following is a list of nominations in key categories;

Best Picture

- “Arrival”
- “Fences”
- “Hacksaw Ridge”
- “Hell or High Water”
- “Hidden Figures”
- “La La Land”
- “Lion”
- “Manchester by the Sea”
- “Moonlight”

Best Actor

- Casey Affleck, “Manchester by the Sea”
- Denzel Washington, “Fences”
- Ryan Gosling, “La La Land”
- Viggo Mortensen, “Captain Fantastic”
- Andrew Garfield, “Hacksaw Ridge”

Best Actress

- Isabelle Huppert, “Elle”
- Ruth Negga, “Loving”
- Natalie Portman, “Jackie”



Oscar nominees for Best Actor are shown in this combination of file photos (L-R) Casey Affleck, Andrew Garfield, Ryan Gosling, Viggo Mortensen, Denzel Washington. PHOTO: REUTERS

- Emma Stone, “La La Land”
- Meryl Streep, “Florence Foster Jenkins”

Best Director

- Denis Villeneuve, “Arrival”
- Mel Gibson, “Hacksaw Ridge”
- Damien Chazelle, “La La

- Land”
- Kenneth Lonergan, “Manchester by the Sea”
- Barry Jenkins, “Moonlight”

Best Supporting Actor

- Mahershala Ali, “Moonlight”
- Jeff Bridges, “Hell or High Water”

- Lucas Hedges, “Manchester by the Sea”
- Dev Patel, “Lion”
- Michael Shannon, “Nocturnal Animals”

Best Supporting Actress

- Viola Davis, “Fences”
- Naomie Harris, “Moonlight”
- Nicole Kidman, “Lion”

- Octavia Spencer, “Hidden Figures”

- Michelle Williams, “Manchester by the Sea”

Best Original Screenplay

- Taylor Sheridan, “Hell or High Water”
- Damien Chazelle, “La La Land”
- Yorgos Lanthimos and Efthimis Filippou, “The Lobster”
- Kenneth Lonergan, “Manchester by the Sea”
- Mike Mills, “20th Century Women”

Best Animated Film

- “Kubo and the Two Strings”
- “Moana”
- “My Life as a Zucchini”
- “The Red Turtle”
- “Zootopia”

Best Foreign Language Film

- “Land of Mine,” Denmark
- “A Man Called Ove,” Sweden
- “The Salesman,” Iran
- “Tanna,” Australia
- “Toni Erdmann,” Germany

Best Documentary Film

- “Fire at Sea”
- “I Am Not Your Negro”
- “Life, Animated”
- “O.J.: Made in America”
- “13th”.—Reuters

AKB48 to have sea-based sister group

HIROSHIMA — The Japanese all-girl idol group AKB48 is launching yet another sister group, this time to be based in the Seto Inland Sea area.

STU48 stands for Setouchi, the Japanese name of the coastal areas surrounding the sea in western Japan. It will have its theater on a boat that will tour around the body of water, according to the official website of the planned group.

Applications to become members of the new idol group are being accepted until 5 February. Females aged 12 to 22 are eligible.

To drum up applicants, AKB48 members

Yuki Kashiwagi and Mayu Watanabe shared the job of visiting the governments of seven prefectures in the area — Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Ehime, Hyogo, Okayama, Tokushima and Kagawa — on Monday.

“AKB is an idol group comparable to something indispensable to the lives of the Japanese people. I hope the new group will tour the region and add excitement,” said Hiroshima Gov. Hidehiko Yuzaki after meeting with Kashiwagi.

The AKB48 family of all-girl pop groups includes SKE48 in Nagoya, NMB48 in Osaka, HKT48 in Fukuoka, NGT48 in Niigata and JKT48 in Jakarta. —Kyodo News



Mayu Watanabe (R), a member of the Japanese all-girl idol group AKB48, visits Kagawa Governor Keizo Hamada at the prefectural government offices in Takamatsu on 23 January, 2017, to solicit applications to become members of STU48. Standing for Setouchi, the Japanese name of the Seto Inland Sea area, STU48 will be the latest sister group of the AKB48 family of all-girl pop groups and will have its theater on a boat that will tour around the body of water. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Sumo: Kisenosato formally promoted as sumo's 72nd yokozuna

TOKYO — Kisenosato officially became the 72nd grand champion in sumo history on Wednesday after the Japan Sumo Association finalized his promotion at its executive committee meeting. JSA ex-

ecutives rubber-stamped the promotion of the 30-year-old Kisenosato based on the recommendation unanimously made Monday by members of the Yokozuna Deliberation Council, an advisory

body to the association, after he won his maiden title at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament.

“I accept (the promotion) with great humility. I will devote myself and try

not to disgrace the yokozuna name,” Kisenosato said in a formal ceremony to notify him of his promotion.

“I want to be even more focused,” he said after the ceremony. “I have grown also as a person and I want to become a yokozuna that is respected.”

“I have to be conscious (of my position) and winning the championship title at the next tournament (is my next goal),” he said. Kisenosato becomes the first Japanese wrestler to be promoted to sumo's top rank of grand champion since Wakanohana in 1998. Kisenosato won his first championship title on Sunday with a 14-1 mark.

Eight of the last nine yokozuna secured promotion by winning their preceding two tournaments. Mongolian Kakuryu, the last to be promoted to yokozuna ahead of the May 2014 meet, lost in a playoff that January despite finishing 14-1, but won the title in March. —Kyodo News



Kisenosato (C front), flanked by his stablemaster Tagonoura (R front) and the stablemaster's wife, lifts a sea bream, a fish eaten during celebrations in Japan, after meeting with messengers from the Japan Sumo Association who informed him of his promotion to yokozuka in a ceremony at a Tokyo hotel on 25 January, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Paris Fashion sparkles in Chanel's hall of mirrors

PARIS — Paris sparkled under Chanel's stage lights on Tuesday as the French house created a hall of mirrors to showcase its latest couture collection at Paris Fashion Week.

With a reflective runway and mirrored pillars topped with white lilies, Paris's fashion pack could see themselves and enjoy designer Karl Lagerfeld's creations from all angles.

They included suits in pastel shades that were given a twist with a tulip silhouette and concealed pockets, complete with brimmed hats worn off the back of the head.

Elsewhere, a se-

quined silver cocktail dress with touches of purple and pink, belted below the bust, melted into a pink feather skirt dusted with metallic leaves.

Model and Chanel muse Lily-Rose Depp, daughter of actor Johnny Depp and French singer Vanessa Paradis, closed the show in a dusky pink gown, its bouncing ruffles tumbling to the floor.

Depp did a lap of honor with Lagerfeld at the end of the show but the designer, who has headed up the house for over three decades, declined to give any post-show interviews for the first time in many years. —Reuters



German designer Karl Lagerfeld appears with actress and model Lily-Rose Depp at the end of his Haute Couture Spring/Summer 2017 fashion show for Chanel in Paris, France, on 24 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV Programme Schedule (27-1-2017, Thursday)

6:00 Am ♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	1:05 Pm ♦ Myanmar Video (Part-1)
7:00 Am ♦ Breakfast News	2:35 Pm ♦ Weekly Sport Info
7:30 Am ♦ NRC Programme	3:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
8:30 Am ♦ NHK Programme "The wonder of Water" (water as a solvent)	4:35 Pm ♦ Myanmar Series
9:30 Am ♦ Beautiful ASEAN	5:15 Pm ♦ Documentary (Traveller)
9:30 Am ♦ Beautiful ASEAN	5:35 Pm ♦ Applied Financial Knowledge
9:35 Am ♦ ASEAN Spotlight South China Sea (Vietnam) Maritime Security (Philippines)	6:15 Pm ♦ Football Magazine
10:30 Am ♦ MRTV Worker's Programme	6:15 Pm ♦ Current Affairs
11:35 Pm ♦ Documentary (Human Traffics)	7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
12:35 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series	8:00 Pm ♦ News/International News/ Weather Report
	9:00 Pm ♦ News/ Weather Report
	9:00 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series
	9:00 Pm ♦ Talk on Old Film (part-1)

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(26-1-2017 07:00am ~ 27-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- I)
07:40	Am	Products of Myanmar - Pictures Decorated With Seashells And Gemstones
07:51	Am	Myanmar's Export: Mango
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Pole Star for the Blind
08:55	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products of Myanmar — Craft Blacksmithing
09:52	Am	Thin Byu Mat
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Shan Novices To Be.....
10:42	Am	Yangon Markets: Nyaung Pin Lay Market
10:50	Am	A Star for Great Achievement
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
Prime Time		
07:03	Pm	New
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: "Anyar Myay" or Upcountry (Part- I)
07:50	Pm	Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-I)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar — Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Entrepreneur: Soe Nyi Nyi
08:50	Pm	Horse Cart Driver
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday 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)		

Serena leads semi-final charge of thirtysomethings



Serena Williams of the US celebrates winning her Women's singles quarter-final match against Britain's Johanna Konta at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia on 25 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MELBOURNE — Only three women can now prevent Serena Williams from clinching a 23rd grand slam title on Saturday, her sister Venus, a younger compatriot and a 34-year-old Croatian she last played nearly two decades ago.

The quartet take to Rod Laver Arena on Thursday with Serena playing Mirjana Lucic-Baroni and Venus facing Coco Vandeweghe at the business end of an Australian Open where upsets have been a daily occurrence.

The seedings have not proved much of a guide in the women's draw this year, with world number two Serena the sole survivor of the top 12 at the start the tournament.

The head-to-head will not provide much help either when assessing Serena's matchup against Lucic-Baroni, given their last meeting came in 1998 at Wimbledon when they were both 16.

"It was on Centre Court. That's all I remember. I remember winning. I was so excited because I was so young. She obviously was super young, too. That's all," Serena said on Wednesday after beating Johanna Konta in the quarter-finals.

"We have totally different games now, the both of us. We

both have gone through a lot. We both have survived, and here we are, which I think is a really remarkable story."

As six-times Melbourne Park champion, Serena will be clear favourite, of course, more so because she has reached her 34th grand slam semi-final without losing a set.

Lucic-Baroni's path to the last four has been more of a battle, as befits a woman who has overcome huge adversity to get back to the top of the game after years in the wilderness.

While Serena missed the back end last season with a shoulder problem, Lucic-Baroni has more immediate concerns about an injury to her left leg.

"I'm going to be just fine," said the world number 79. "I'm going to recover, do some therapy, and I'll be fine. I'll just put some extra tapes on and hopefully it will hold me together. I'll fight hard. I'll be okay."

The first semi-final is an all-American affair pitching Venus, the oldest woman in the draw, against 25-year-old surprise package Vandeweghe.

Venus does not have an Australian Open crown in her collection of seven grand slam titles and has reached the final just once, losing to Serena in 2003.

—Reuters

Midfielder Romeu signs new contract with Southampton

LONDON — Southampton midfielder Oriol Romeu has signed a new four-and-a-half-year contract that will keep him at the club until 2021, the Premier League team have said.

The 25-year-old joined Southampton from Chelsea in August 2015 and has made 30 appearances in all competitions under manager Claude Puel this season. He has featured in all but one of their Premier League games so far.

"I couldn't be any happier to have this new contract with the club," the Spaniard told Southampton's website. —Reuters

Midfielder Coutinho extends contract with Liverpool

LONDON — Brazil international midfielder Philippe Coutinho has extended his contract with Liverpool, the Premier League side said on its website (www.liverpoolfc.com) on Wednesday.

Although no official details of his new contract were revealed, media reports said the 24-year-old signed a five-and-a-half year extension that will keep him at Liverpool until 2022 and make him the club's highest-paid player.

"I will work much harder to repay the belief shown in me. I signed this new contract to stay here for a few more years because it's a great honour for me," Coutinho said.

"It gives me great happiness because I was welcomed here with open arms by everyone at the club and the supporters right from my first day." Coutinho has scored 34 goals in 163 appearances since he joined the Merseyside club from Inter Milan in January 2013 and has played a pivotal role in Liverpool's solid first half of the season.

Liverpool are fourth in the Premier League standings after 21 games, 10 points behind leaders Chelsea, who they face at Anfield next Tuesday. —Reuters

Toronto FC star Giovinco gets China offer, says agent

ROME — Italy international Sebastian Giovinco has received "concrete proposals" from two clubs to play in China, Italian media reported on Tuesday.

Giovinco, who will be 30 on Thursday, was the second highest earner in North American Major League Soccer (MLS) last year, receiving more than \$7 million from Toronto FC.

"The figures mentioned are far beyond Sebastian's current wages and that's an issue because the career of a professional football player is not that long," agent Andrea D'Amico told Mediaset Premium television, according to the Football Italia website. However, a spokesman for Toronto FC told Reuters that the club had not been contacted by any Chinese Super League teams. Former Chelsea and Scotland defender Craig Burley has advised Giovinco and his agent to drop the China talk.

"If you're that good, go and play somewhere proper," Burley said on ESPN. "Go and see if you can get a game in Italy again where you couldn't get a game before coming to Major League Soccer. "Never mind all this China



Toronto FC forward Sebastian Giovinco (10) kicks the ball against Seattle Sounders midfielder Nicolas Lodeiro (10) during the second half in the 2016 MLS Cup at BMO Field. PHOTO: REUTERS

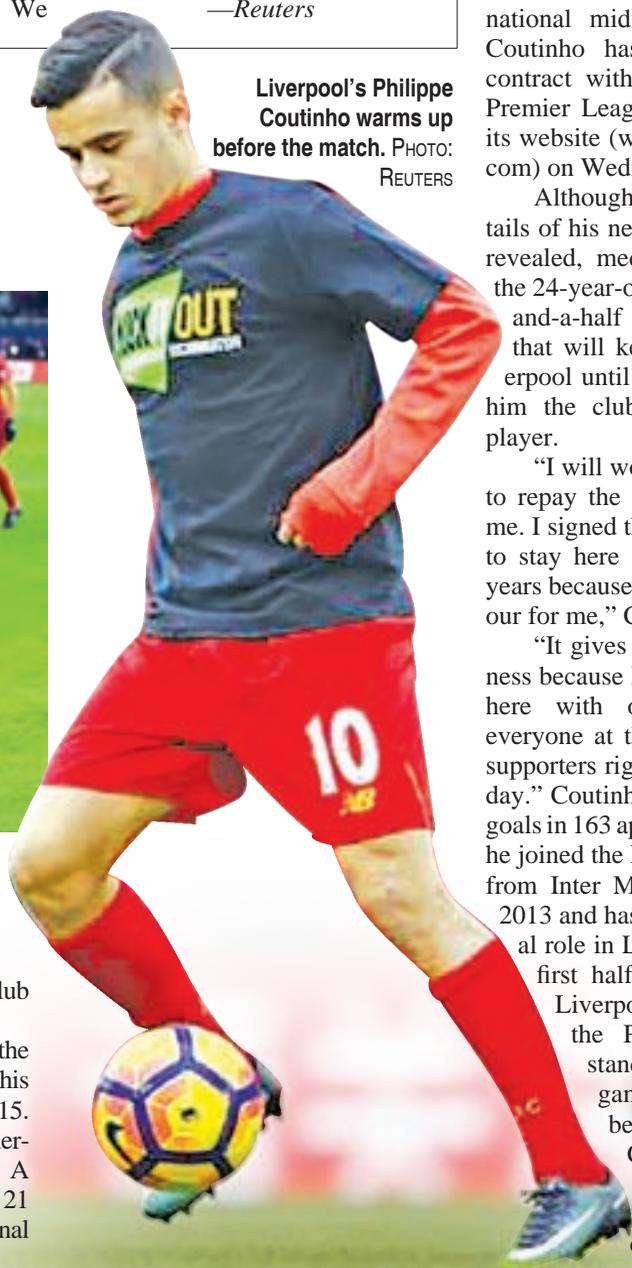
nonsense. He's getting paid well enough at Toronto to do what, play against players who are nowhere in the same league."

The cash-rich Chinese Super League has lured several big name players recently, most recently Argentine Carlos Tevez, who joined Shanghai Shenhua for a two-year deal reportedly worth

over \$80 million, though the club has not confirmed the figure.

Giovinco was voted the MLS most valuable player in his first season with Toronto in 2015.

He moved to North America two years ago from Serie A team Juventus. He has made 21 appearances for the Italy national team. —Reuters



Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho warms up before the match. PHOTO: REUTERS