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Memorial for U Ko Ni, revered High Court Lawyer, and U Nay Win, heroic taxi driver

At a memorial yesterday for U Ko Ni, the slain high court lawyer, and U Nay Win, the taxi driver who gave his life trying to apprehend the assassin, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the respected attorney's intellect and high ideals would be missed, and the taxi driver's bravery would not be forgotten.

The memorial service at the Royal Rose Hall in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday afternoon began with short biographies of U Ko Ni and U Nay Win read out loud by the master of ceremonies.

The State Counsellor then gave words of condolence and said the two men represented the highest ideals of Myanmar society. "U Ko Ni belonged to the supportive group for legal affairs in the National League for Democracy Party to help for rule of law with firm beliefs and energy. We greatly respect and value U Ko Ni not only as a comrade but also as a legal advisor. Only if our country abounds with such persons like him will the practices of what we want to do within the framework of law be strengthened in our country," she said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi described U Nay Win as a hero who upheld the ideals of a decent society. "I firmly believe U Nay Win acted bravely with the belief that heroism and selfless acts should not be neglected in a society where rule of law must be exercised."

U Ko Ni was shot to death outside Yangon International Airport on 29 January upon his return from a meeting in Indonesia. U Nay Win was also fatally shot as he attempted to apprehend the fleeing gunman. Three men are in



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi give words of condolence at the memorial service for U Ko Ni, the slain high court lawyer, and U Nay Win, the taxi driver who gave his life trying to apprehend the assassin. PHOTO: ZAW GYI



Daw Yin Nwe Khaing, daughter of U Ko Ni (Right) looks at a baby in the arms of Daw Tin Tin Aye, wife of U Nay Win, at the memorial service. PHOTO: NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY FACEBOOK

"We must encourage ourselves to be brave by keeping in our minds that we have martyr-like heroes and good citizens among our prestigious NLD Party"

custody for the killings.

The State Counsellor pointed out that both U Ko Ni and U Nay Win were proud members of the National League for Democracy.

"It is a great honour and satisfaction for our NLD Party to possess such persons as U Ko Ni and U Nay Win. We will never ever forget them. I hereby express my wish that we must encourage ourselves to be brave by keeping in our minds that we have martyr-like heroes and good citizens among our prestigious NLD Party members, at times when we are afraid to do what we should do and when we are afraid to do the things we should not do," she said.

The State Counsellor added that the accomplishments and actions of U Ko Ni and U Nay Win should inspire the country to keep striving toward its goals.

"For every citizen living in the country to be healthy and happy is our principle and simultaneously the aims and beliefs of all beings. A period of ten month or one year is in fact short for a government and a country. In a short period of time, we had had a considerable amount of satisfaction."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi then gave words of encouragement and condolence to the bereaved families. The memorial service was held a day after the authorities of the Ministry of Home Affairs held a press conference on the assassination. At the press conference, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe said personal antagonism and extreme nationalism was behind the assassination of legal adviser to the ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) U Ko Ni.—Ko Moe and Zaw Gyi (Panita)



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Myanmar Software for people with impaired eyesight

SOFTWARE version 2 with Myanmar pronunciation is being programmed for people with impaired eyesight to use easily the application software. Upon the completion of the software, the software will be distributed free of charge, according to Myanmar National Association of the Blind.

"We've already distributed the version 1. But, it is difficult for the persons with impaired eyesight to use the version 1. So, we need to make it user friendly especially for the blind. Currently, we are writing the version 2," said U Aung Ko Myint, chairman of Myanmar National Association of the Blind.

tion of the Blind.

"IT programmers and technicians are cooperating to draw the software for use with impaired eyesight. But, we need more donors to contribute the money and technology, said U Aung Ko Myint.

The version 1 launched in 2015 and 80 per cent was used with the computer. But, we need to upgrade the software. Currently, the vision 2 is being drawn with the assistance of Japan Nippon Foundation as well as international organizations.

"We will try to upgrade the version 2 not only for the computers but also for the mobile ap-

plications," said U Aung Naing Tun, a member of Myanmar National Association of the Blind.

"Those with impaired eyesight need to use the IT materials to develop the general knowledge. The IT businessmen and the technicians also need to consider the people with disability in production of application softwares," said U Aung Naing Tun.

Currently, 100 out of 100,000 who have impaired eyesight in Myanmar can use the IT technology equipment, according to Myanmar National Association of the Blind.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Export of agricultural products up by \$266 million

THE value of agriculture export during this financial year increased by US\$266 million compared with the same period last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Last fiscal year, the export value from April through mid-February reached \$2.170 billion, but this year's export value increased to \$2.437 billion, the vast majority of total agriculture exports being from the private sector.

The total export value over the past 10 and half months hit \$9.862 billion; an increase of more than \$310 million matched against last year.

Myanmar predominately exports animal products, minerals, aquaculture, forest and agriculture products, while she imports capital goods, construction materials, personal

goods, agricultural machineries and raw materials and electronic devices.

According to the official figures, animal products, which are worth \$8.398 million, marine products worth over \$480 million, mineral products worth over \$820 million, industrial goods worth \$4.569 billion, forest products worth \$207 million and others worth \$1.331 billion were sold to partner foreign buyers between April and mid-February of this FY.

The value of export of agriculture, fishery, forest and animals products increased while mineral and finished industrial products decreased this FY.

The government put forth sustained efforts to raise export in each of the sector.—*Shwe Khine*

Himalaya Airlines launches commercial flights to Yangon



Himalaya Airlines has re-established direct links between Myanmar and Nepal on Mondays and Fridays.

HIMALAYA Airlines on Friday launched scheduled commercial flights to Yangon, Myanmar, its fourth destination since the operations started last year.

The airline said the flight to Myanmar is part of their initiative to strengthen direct connections with around 300,000 people of Nepali origin residing there.

The flight took off from

Tribhuvan International Airport at 10:55 (local time) and touched down at Yangon International Airport, Yangon, at 14:15 (local time).

With the launch of twice weekly (Mondays and Fridays) flights, Himalaya Airlines has re-established direct links with Myanmar after a long gap. Previously, Union of Burma Airways

used to operate flights between Yangon and Kathmandu.

Myanmar's Ambassador to Nepal U Lwin Oo, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Joint Secretary Suresh Acharya and Himalaya Airlines Vice President - Administration Vijay Shrestha were also onboard among passengers of the first flight.—*GNLM*

Five sub-centres to be developed in uptown Yangon

FIVE more sub-centres will be established in uptown Yangon, the country's largest commercial city, under the strategic urban development plan, a spokesperson of the Yangon City Development Committee.

Those sub-centres will be created around the area of 10-15 kilometers radius from the central business district, with an aim to decentralize the urban center, said U Toe Aung, deputy head of the YCDC's Urban Planning and Land Management Department.

The proposed areas include Yankin Township, intersection of Dagon Myothit (South) and (North), Dagon Seikkan Township, area near the Bago River and Thilawa area.

A sub-centre is a place with theaters, commercial and office buildings, shopping malls and trading centres.

Currently, the YCDC is implementing its plan to establish a sub-centre in Min Dhamma area in Mayangon Township in Yangon, with Yankin Township set

to become the second sub-centre.

According to the latest national census conducted in 2014, Yangon was home to more than 5.7 million people. In 2014, in order to cope with the clustering construction in Yangon, The First Myanmar Company was given authority to construct office buildings in the 36 acre land on the corner of Min Dhamma Road and Taw Win Road in Mayangone Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Over 200 jade mine licences in Kachin's jewelry land to expire in March

THE licences of over 200 jade mining blocks in Lonekhin, Hpakant and other sites in jewelry land in Kachin State will expire next month, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

It is announced that licences of 76 jade mines in Lonekhin and Hpakant jewelry land, 110 in Mohnyin, eight in Mogkok, four in Mongshu and 12 in Hkamti will expire in March of this year.

The ministry granted permits to jade mining companies to operate in Mohnyin and Hkamti in 2011 and it issued permits to the companies in Mogkok in 2012 and 2014. The mining companies in Mongshu sought permis-

sion from the authorities in 2014. Some companies have been operating jade mining business through 76 sites in Lonekhin and Hpakant since 2009.

More than 2,700 licences for jade mining sites located in Lonekhin, Hpakant, Hkamti, Mongshu, Mogkok and Nant-yaseik mining areas in Kachin State expired between July of last year and January of this year.

The ministry granted seven-year permits and five-year permits to jade mining companies to operate in Lonekhin and Hpakant jewelry land. The majority of similar businesses in Mohnyin and Hkamti mining areas obtained licenses in 2011.—*Khine Khant*

Eel fishermen doing well despite unstable market

DESPITE an unstable domestic market, eel fishermen in Yedashe Township in Bago Region are prosperous with the mud eel during the irrigation period, according to the local market.

The fishermen use traditional methods to catch eels in the fields and the ponds. A night fisherman usually earns more than Ks10,000 nightly from the eel sales weighing above a viss.

When eel fishing became a popular business, the production of big-sized eels has obvi-

ously decreased in the region, locals say.

The current prices of eel reached around Ks8,000 per viss (1.65 kilograms), a decrease of over Ks2,000 compared with recent days.

A broker from Thabyaydan Village said the prices of eel are unstable in local markets and it is mainly based on the demand from Muse and Mandalay.

Myanmar mainly exports mud eels, which are particularly popular in China.—*Ko Lwin (Swa)*

Yangon Book Plaza hopes to inspire Myanmar literature

UNION Minister Dr Pe Myint of the Ministry of Information, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and Chairman of Yangon Book Plaza and Daw Thet Thet Naing cut the ribbon yesterday that officially opened the Yangon Book Plaza yesterday. The ceremony was held on the fifth floor of Than Zay Market in Lamadaw Township, Yangon.

Author Maung Thway Thit read a poem during the opening ceremony.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint said book lovers enjoy the environment of bookshops, and that the Yangon Book Plaza has a similar feel reminiscent of international bookstores. The minister's wish is for the Yangon Book Plaza to inspire Myanmar Literature and lift Myanmar's book world to the next level. Yangon City's Mayor



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and officials visit the book shops following at the opening ceremony of Yangon Book Plaza. PHOTO: MNA

U Maung Maung Soe also spoke at the gathering before, the Union Minister and others posed for photos and visited the displays in the Yangon Book Plaza.

Yangon Book Plaza is the first and biggest bookshop in Myanmar and is open from 10 am to 9 pm

daily. It has a playground for children, a coffee shop, a souvenir shop, a restaurant, two big book shops, book stalls from 30 publishers, an entertainment platform, old book stalls, an English-language bookshop and public spaces. In celebration of its opening,

those who buy books from 26 February to 7 March receive a discount of between 10 and 50 per cent.

The committee of Yangon Book Plaza will select the best 12 books of the year and offer an honourable prize to the authors. —Myanmar News Agency

Cambodian deputy PM arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

CAMBODIA'S Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Hor Namhong arrived yesterday evening at Nay Pyi Taw international airport.

The Deputy Prime Minister and his delegation were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Zeya and other officials.

The visit is made at the invitation of H.E. U Myint Swe, Vice President of Myanmar, according to

a statement by the Office of the Council of Ministers in Cambodia.

During his stay in Myanmar, H.E. Hor Namhong will pay courtesy calls on President U Htin Kyaw, Vice President U Myint Swe and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

In addition, H.E. Hor Namhong will visit tourist attractions in Nay Pyi Taw, Bagan, and Mandalay. —Myanmar News Agency



Speaker of Parliament of Sweden Mr Urban arrives at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

Swedish parliamentary delegation concludes visit

A Swedish delegation led by Speaker of Parliament of Sweden Mr. Urban Ahlin visited Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon yesterday before returned home.

The delegation also visited the Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) on Pansodan Street yesterday and

toured downtown Yangon seeing colonial-era buildings.

At the invitation of U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, Mr Urban Ahlin arrived Myanmar on 22nd February. —Myanmar News Agency



Khami ethnics in Maungtaw attacked with knife, axe

TWO members of the Khami ethnic group in Rakhine State were attacked with a knife and an axe by three unknown people in a village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State.

The attack occurred as the two villagers were hunt-

ing for food at the edge of a forest near Thayaykonebaung (Natala) village in Maungtaw. Aung Kyaw Sein, 46, was wounded on the right side of his back and received treatment at Buthidaung Hospital. The injury was not considered serious,

officials said.

The second victim, Tun Thar Maung, 28, ran from the scene. Security forces have been searching for him.

Police forces continue to investigate the case and are searching for the attackers. —Myanmar News Agency

Outstanding undergraduates awarded UOB scholarships

FIFTEEN students from the University of Yangon and the Yangon University of Economics on Friday have been awarded scholarships offered by the United Overseas Bank Ltd under its University Scholarship Programme.

Those recipients, including five students from

YU and 10 from YUE, all of whom are in their first year of undergraduate studies, were chosen based on their academic achievements, language proficiency and career aspirations. According to the programme, the UOB will fully fund their tertiary studies.

"We hope that through

the UOB University Scholarship programme, we can continue to help develop these young minds to their full potential and to give them the skills needed to contribute to Myanmar's economic future," said Mr Loi Kai Cheow, Executive Director and Country Manager,

UOB Myanmar.

Launched in February 2015, the scholarship programme aims to help top students from all backgrounds, including those who are less privileged, to realise their potential. The programme has helped 45 outstanding students so far. —GNLM

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LOCAL Business

Government will provide loans in 2017 to develop the SMEs

JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will provide Ks 15 billion loan through the government to develop small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in 2017, according to Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department under the Ministry of Industry. JICA will provide the loan with the low interest. The loan will be in the form of two- step loan. Then, the loan will be granted through Myanmar Economic Bank (MEB).

“The loan from JICA will be provided with two- step loan system. JICA will provide Ks 15 billion officially. They have planned to provide further assistance. We are monitoring the development of SMEs and services as well as whether enterprises are receiving the loans or not,” said Daw Aye Aye Win, Director-General from the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection Department.

The SMEs businessmen need to apply for the loan to the Small



The business of making harps by hand is one of Myanmar's SMEs, which is in need of loans in order to survive and prosper.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

and Medium Enterprise Development Department mentioning the current business situations and the future programmes.

The government has been providing the training course for developing of human resources, marketing and management with

the assistance of the expatriate experts. The SMEs businessmen also need to be well prepared so that they can get the loans.

“Myanmar SMEs businessmen don't dare to cooperate with foreign SMEs business men. So, we need to create a friendly environment which facilitates co-operation between foreign and local SMEs businessmen,” said Mr. Yoshito Sengoku, Vice chairman from Japan Myanmar Association. “We are thinking of the ways to reduce the bank interest rate of 13 per cent per annum. If we can reduce the interest rate, it will be of benefit to the local SMEs businessmen. We are also discussing in Pyithu Hluttaw to reduce the interest,” said Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win at the meeting of the SME entrepreneurs held on 18 February. Small and Medium Enterprise Development Department is giving recommendation to the SMEs businessmen to get the loan from MEB. The local banks give loans especially those medium businesses which are doing well. — Myitmakha News Agency

Myanmar-Thailand border trade value up by over US\$170million

THE value of trade at the Myanmar-Thailand border as of 17th Feb in the current Fiscal Year 2016-2017 increased by US\$174.135million when compared to that in the similar period of last FY, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar-Thailand border trade value from 1st April to 17th Feb in this FY hit US\$1.13 billion which was up from \$960.3 million during last FY. The trade between Myanmar and Thailand is flowing in and out of the border trade camps in Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maw Taung and Maese.

Out of seven border trade camps, Kawthaung and Htee Khee are found to have a smaller trade value than that of last FY. The remaining trade camps managed to bolster up border trade from last year. The trade values as of 17th Feb in this FY were \$66.683mil in Tachilek, \$774.3mil in Myawady, \$105.2mil in Kawthaung, \$174.2mil in Myeik, \$11mil in Htee Khee, \$2.6mil in Mawtaung and \$299,000 in Maese.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products and manufacturing goods whereas capital goods, raw industrial ma-

terials and personal goods were imported into Myanmar. Myanmar is conducting border trade with neighbouring countries via specific border trade camps: trading with China through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung; with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Htee Khee and Mawtaung border gates. The border trade value as of 17th Feb this FY totaled \$6272.63mil, which slumped a bit by over US\$8million compared to last FY, with an export value of \$3,880.542mil and import value of US\$2,392.088mil. — Mon Mon

Yoma Strategic Holdings and German wholesaler establish joint venture for food distribution in Myanmar

YOMA Strategic Holdings based in Singapore formed a joint venture with Germany's METRO Group Wholesale and Food Specialist Company to set up METRO Wholesale Myanmar for a one-stop food distribution platform in Myanmar, according to an announcement released by Yoma.

METRO Wholesale Myanmar will offer more than 3,300 food and non-food items to hotels, restaurants, catering firms, independent small retailers and food enterprises.

METRO Group is an international specialist in wholesale and food retail, covering 35 countries

with more than 150,000 employees around the world. Together with its other sales lines such as Real Hypermarkets and Metro Cash and Carry operating in 25 countries across Asia and Europe, it attained sales of 37 billion euros in 2015/2016.

Yoma will hold 15 per cent of the stake while METRO Group will hold the remaining. Yoma's CEO Melvyn Pun said the group is confident about its partnership with METRO, which will bring global know-how in modern wholesale distribution and contribute to bringing reliable and safe food to Myanmar. — Ko Htet

Import value down by US\$1.7billion this FY

THE import value of capital goods from 1st April to 17th Feb during this Fiscal Year 2016-2017 plunged by US\$1.73billion when compared to that in the last FY, according to official figures provided by the Ministry of Commerce. Capital goods, raw industrial materials and personal goods are flowing into the country. The import value of raw industrial materials was up by US\$988.9mil and the import value of personal goods increased by US\$560.578mil compared to those in the similar period of last FY.

The total import value as of 17th Feb in this FY was down by \$187.113million against that in last FY. The imports during this FY hit \$14.35 billion whereas the last year import value amounted to 414.53 billion. However, despite the drop in import value, there was a trade deficit of US\$4.48billion so far in this FY when import surpassed export.

There were trade deficits of US\$91.9million in 2012-2013, US\$2.55 billion in 2013-2014, US\$4.91billion in 2014-2015 and US\$5.40billion in 2015-

2016, according to statistics released by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO). The government is putting a concerted effort into reducing the trade deficit by scrutinising luxury items, except for essential ones, according to the second five-year National Development Plan. The external trade value in the same period of the current FY reached \$24.21 billion, which is over \$130million higher than last FY, with normal trade performing better this fiscal year, unlike border trade. — Mon Mon

Import volume of industrial trucks and minibuses declined

THE import of industrial trucks and minibuses in early 2017 dropped while the import of agricultural equipment such as tractors and harvesters remained steady, said merchants in the Myawady border trade camp.

With an appreciation of the Thai baht against the U.S. dollar, the price of trucks went up by Ks200,000 to 500,000 per vehicle, said car importers.

This has resulted in a decline of imports of commercially used minibuses and trucks, said

the car brokers.

The sales of other goods has remained steady or increased in the border market. According to 2017 car import policy, those who imported the cars which are not in compliance with the set rules are being fined and the cars are even confiscated, it is learnt.

The news of the tax hike on imported cars next FY affected the auto market, prompting the slip price to soar to Ks700,000-800,000. — Ko Khant

Sequoia Fund wins dismissal of lawsuit over huge Valeant stake

NEW YORK — A New York state judge has dismissed a lawsuit accusing the Sequoia Fund, known for its ties to Warren Buffett, of recklessly making a huge, disastrous investment in Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc (VRX.TO), causing billions of dollars of losses.

Justice O Peter Sherwood of the State Supreme Court in White Plains, New York, said Sequoia shareholders failed to show it would have been futile, prior to suing in January 2016, to demand that the mutual fund's directors step in to unwind the investment because of their alleged conflicts of interest.

The judge said the shareholders could try to amend their complaint, but that this appeared to be "a fool's errand."

Sherwood issued his ruling during a 15 February hearing. A transcript was made public eight days later.

Sequoia shareholders had sued Sequoia's investment adviser Ruane, Cunniff & Goldfarb;

portfolio managers Robert Goldfarb and David Poppe; and three directors including author and chairman Roger Lowenstein.

The defendants were accused of gross negligence for letting Sequoia plow nearly one-third of its assets into Valeant, despite a policy capping its stake at 25 per cent.

Lawyers for the shareholders did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Friday.

Valeant shares have tumbled 93 per cent in the last 1-1/2 years amid criticism of the Canadian drug company's pricing and business practices, and regulatory and congressional probes.

Goldfarb, who co-managed Sequoia for 36 years, retired as Ruane, Cunniff's chief executive last March.

Sequoia sold its last Valeant shares in June, but its losses have left it still trailing 98 per cent of its peers over five years, while assets have shrunk by more than half to \$4.2 billion, Morningstar said on Friday.



The headquarters of Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc is seen in Laval, Quebec in this file picture taken on 9 November, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Amy Roy, a lawyer at Ropes & Gray, which represents Sequoia, said its independent directors were gratified that Sherwood "recognized the central oversight role of mutual fund boards."

Poppe, who remains at Sequoia, told shareholders last July that the fund had experienced "interesting times," and that "our goal is to be much less interest-

ing" in the future.

Ruane, Cunniff's late founder, William Ruane, was a friend and classmate of Buffett. When Buffett shut his investment partnership in 1969 to focus on Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N), he recommended that clients invest with Ruane.

Sequoia's largest current investment is Berkshire. Buffett

last April called Valeant's business model "enormously flawed," and Berkshire Vice Chairman Charlie Munger last week called Valeant's story "too good to be true."

The case is Epstein et al v. Ruane, Cunniff & Goldfarb Inc et al, New York State Supreme Court, New York County, No 650100/2016.—Reuters

Scientists turn to Chile's Atacama desert to study life on Mars

SANTIAGO — Astrobiologists seeking to understand where life might be found on Mars, and what form it might take, are finding that the Atacama desert in Chile, the driest in the world, may hold some important clues.

Since a 2003 study that examined microbial life in the 'Mars-like soils' of the Atacama, astrobiological research — the study of life on Earth to understand how it may form elsewhere in the universe — in the desert has grown dramatically.

"It is much cheaper than traveling to Mars," said Armando Azua, a Chilean astrobiologist at the BI Marble Space Institute in the US, who grew up in one of the Atacama's few populated areas.

"It is the driest and oldest desert in the world, a unique place where life had no choice but to adapt to the lack of water."

Still, even in this harsh environment, scientists have found life — usually at the microbiological level — clinging on.

"We think that even in

those places on Mars where previously it was thought life would not be found, because they were too dry for anything to survive, well we've found places just like that on Earth and there are still different kinds of microorganisms," said Azua.

Scientists are currently investigating if fungi or other organisms could adapt and harvest high levels of ultraviolet radiation as an energy source, in the way that fungi found near the site of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster was apparently feeding off the area's high levels of radiation.

Azua's team identified a patch of the Atacama that was the driest of all, where centuries may pass without any rainfall.

They dug down, and found a whole host of thriving bacteria.

"If we can show that in the Atacama desert, life is capable of tolerating extreme dryness...that will open up tremendously the possibilities of finding life not only on Mars but elsewhere in the universe," he said.—Reuters

Details emerge of Republicans' plans to replace Obamacare

WASHINGTON — Details of potential Obamacare replacements by US House Republicans emerged in news reports on Friday, as Republican lawmakers have vowed to introduce new legislation in the coming weeks.

Republicans have yet to agree on a single detailed policy proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, the signature domestic policy of former Democratic President Barack Obama.

Still to be worked out are details including the future of Medicaid, the government health insurance programme for the poor that was expanded in more than 30 states under Obamacare, and how a new healthcare law would be funded.

One emerging scenario among Republicans is that the millions of people who received health coverage through the expansion of Medicaid would be "grandfathered in," according to the Washington Post. States that did not expand Medicaid could receive more money through increased federal "disproportionate share" payments used to help hospitals that serve a large number of uninsured patients.

And a draft Republican replacement plan for Obamacare, which news outlet Politico uploaded to its website, would cap the amount of money given to

states for Medicaid and end tax subsidies based on income for the purchase of individual plans in 2020.

House staffers would not comment on the authenticity of the document, which was dated 10 February. President Donald Trump and Republicans have said they would present a plan for repealing and replacing Obamacare in the coming weeks.

It is not clear whether there is sufficiently broad support among Republican lawmakers for all of the measures in the draft proposal, or how the plans might change as they move through congressional committees. The draft "addresses the major issues and is a serious proposal for transitioning out of Obamacare," said Ed Haislmaier, a senior research fellow and healthcare policy expert at the Heritage Foundation who was on Trump's transition team.

"Clearly the details will continue to evolve and we'll be watching as they do," he said in an emailed statement to Reuters.

US health insurance executives, many of whom have lost hundreds of millions of dollars on the Obamacare individual insurance markets, are due to meet with Trump on Monday, according to a Bloomberg report. A Blue Cross Blue Shield Association spokeswoman confirmed it was invited

to the meeting and will attend.

Republicans have repeatedly pledged not to "pull the rug out" from millions of Americans who gained access to healthcare under the law, and recent polls show more respondents favouring Obamacare than opposing it.

The Kaiser Family Foundation found broad bipartisan support for maintaining federal funding for the Medicaid expansion, with 84 per cent of respondents saying it was important to do so, according to a survey released on Friday. The poll also found the law has record levels of support, with more Americans now viewing it favorably than unfavourably.

"Obamacare has failed. We welcome any and all efforts to repeal and replace it that put patients first," said Caitlin Oakley, a spokeswoman for the US Department of Health and Human Services. Democrats decried the draft proposal on Friday and said it would cause millions of Americans to lose their health insurance.

"The deeply harmful path House Republicans have laid out would spell disaster for families nationwide," US Senator Patty Murray, a Washington state Democrat, said in a statement. "President Trump, who promised families he would provide insurance for everyone, should be the first to oppose it."—Reuters

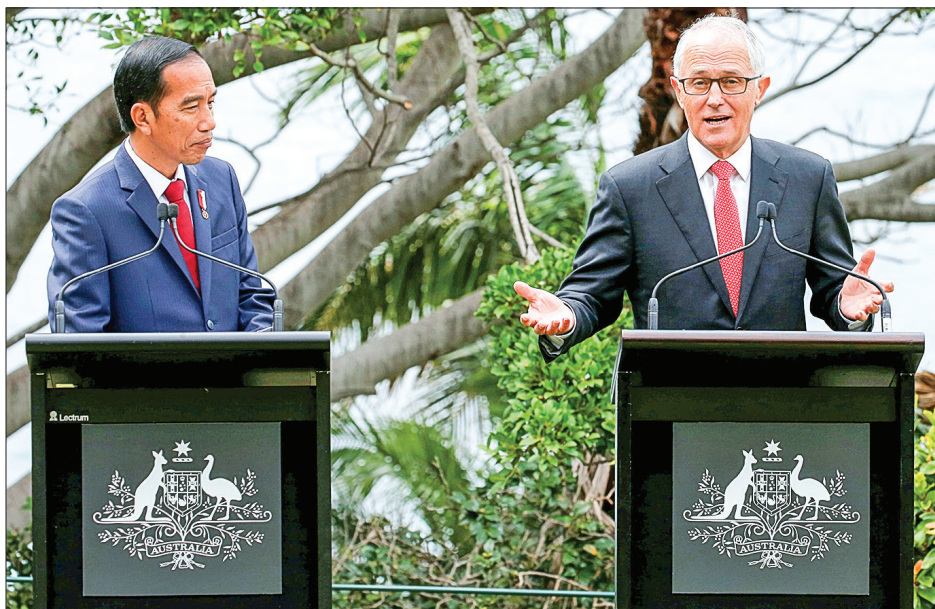
Australia, Indonesia restore full military ties, see progress on trade

SYDNEY — Australia and Indonesia said on Sunday that full military ties between the two countries had been restored, after Indonesia's military suspended cooperation in January because of "insulting" teaching material found at an Australian base.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull made the announcement alongside Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who arrived in Australia on Saturday for his first visit as president.

"President Widodo and I have agreed to full restoration of defence cooperation, training exchanges and activities," Turnbull said at a news conference in Sydney.

Widodo's visit to Australia comes less than two months after military ties were suspended, an event that sparked a minor diplomatic spat and led to an apology from Australia's army chief in February.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo (L) participates in a joint press conference with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in Sydney, Australia, on 26 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Military cooperation between the two countries has ranged from joint training and counterterrorism cooperation to border protection.

The "insulting" material suggested that In-

donesia's Papua province should be independent and mocked the nation's state ideology.

Indonesia and Australia have a history of patchy ties, but both leaders were keen on Sunday to empha-

sise their commitment to a strong relationship.

"That robust relationship can be established when both countries have respect for each other's territorial integrity, non-interference into the domestic

affairs of each other and the ability to develop a mutually beneficial partnership," Widodo said.

While the primary focus of the visit was on security and economic issues, including the finalisation of a bilateral free trade deal by the end of the year, talks touched on tourism, cyber security and social links.

Widodo met Australian business leaders on Saturday, telling them that investor confidence in Indonesia was strong and reassuring them that Indonesia was a stable country in which to do business.

Following one-on-one talks, Turnbull said tariffs would be cut for Australian sugar and Indonesian pesticides and herbicides. He also praised changes to the export rules for live Australian cattle.

Widodo told The Australian newspaper this week he would like to see

joint patrols with Australia in the South China Sea if they did not further inflame tensions with China.

China — which claims almost the entire sea region — irked Indonesia last year by saying the two countries had "overlapping claims" to waters close to them, an area Indonesia calls the Natuna Sea.

The leaders stopped short of announcing joint patrols on Sunday, but stressed the importance of resolving disputes peacefully and in accordance to international law.

"As maritime nations and trading nations, Australia and Indonesia are natural partners with common interests," Turnbull said.

Collaboration on counterterrorism, especially the return of foreign fighters from the Syrian and Iraq conflict zone, would continue, Turnbull said.—Reuters

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Malaysia declares airport safe for travel after nerve agent attack

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia on Sunday declared its international airport a "safe zone" after completing a sweep of the terminal where the estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was assaulted with a deadly chemical last week.

Kim Jong Nam died on 13 February after being smothered at the airport's budget terminal with VX nerve agent, classified by the United Nations as a weapon of mass destruction.

Since then, tens of thousands of people have passed through the terminal, with the location of the assault remaining accessible.

The police forensic team, fire department and Atomic Energy Licensing Board swept the budget terminal of Kuala Lumpur In-

ternational Airport (KLIA2) at 1 am on 26 February (1700 GMT on 25 February). "We confirm, number one, there is no hazardous material found in KLIA2, number two, KLIA2 is free from any form of contamination of hazardous material and thirdly, KLIA2 is declared a safe zone," Abdul Samat Mat, the police chief of Selangor state who is leading the investigation, told reporters at the airport.

The location of the assault was cordoned off during the sweep but the rest of the terminal remained open.

Security camera footage released by Japanese broadcaster Fuji TV showed the moment two women assaulted Kim Jong Nam with a cloth authorities suspect was laced with the nerve agent. In later clips Kim is

seen asking airport officials for medical help. Airport authorities said he complained of dizziness and died on the way to hospital.

Authorities have said there have been no anomalies in medical cases reported at the clinic since the incident. They also said medical staff at the clinic are in good health.

The two women — one Indonesian and one Vietnamese — have been detained, along with a North Korean man. Seven other North Koreans have been identified as suspects or are wanted for questioning, four of whom have since left for Pyongyang, police said.

Police are also sweeping other locations in Kuala Lumpur that suspects may have visited. Police chief Abdul Samah said on Sat-

urday authorities raided an apartment in an upscale Kuala Lumpur suburb earlier this week in connection with the death, and were checking for any traces of unusual chemicals in the apartment.

Kim Jong Nam, who had been living in exile with his family in Macau under Chinese protection, had spoken publicly in the past against his family's dynastic control of the isolated, nuclear-armed state.

South Korean and US officials said he was assassinated by North Korean agents. North Korea has not acknowledged his death.

Malaysia's health minister Subramaniam Sathasivam said at a press conference on Sunday that autopsy findings were consistent with police reports.

The minister said the chemical caused "serious paralysis which led to the death of the person in such a short period of time."

The Indonesian attacker, Siti Aishah, was reported to be unwell, possibly due to contact with the chemical.

Subramaniam said authorities were running tests to ascertain whether Siti was affected by the chemical. At another event Subramaniam said Kim Jong Nam would have died within 15-20 minutes after VX was applied on his face. He added that identifying the body officially is still a challenge.—Reuters



A Hazmat team conducts checks at KLIA2 airport terminal in Sepang, Malaysia, on 26 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wary of Trump unpredictability, China ramps up naval abilities

BEIJING — The PLA Navy is likely to secure significant new funding in China's upcoming defence budget as Beijing seeks to check US dominance of the high seas and step up its own projection of power around the globe.

China's navy has been taking an increasingly prominent role in recent months, with a rising star admiral taking command, its first aircraft carrier sailing around self-ruled Taiwan and new Chinese warships popping up in far-flung places.

Now, with President Donald Trump promising a US shipbuilding spree and unnerving Beijing with his unpredictable approach on hot button issues including Taiwan and the South and East China Seas, China is pushing to narrow the gap with the US Navy.

"It's opportunity in crisis," said a Beijing-based Asian diplomat, of China's recent naval moves. "China fears Trump will turn on them eventually as he's so unpredictable and it's get-



China's Liaoning aircraft carrier with accompanying fleet conducts a drill in an area of South China Sea in this undated photo taken December, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ting ready."

Beijing does not give a breakdown for how much it spends on the navy, and the overall official defence spending figures it gives — 954.35 billion yuan (\$139 billion) for 2016 — likely understates its investment, according to diplomats.

China unveils the defence budget for this year at next month's annual meeting of parliament, a closely watched figure around the

region and in Washington, for clues to China's intentions.

China surprised last year with its lowest increase in six years, 7.6 per cent, the first single-digit rise since 2010, following a nearly unbroken two-decade run of double-digit jumps.

"Certainly, the PLA Navy has really been the beneficiary of a lot of this new spending in the past

15 years," said Richard Bitzinger, Senior Fellow and Coordinator of the Military Transformations Programme at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

"We don't how much they spend on the navy, but simply extrapolating from the quantity and the quality of things that are coming out of their shipyards, it's pretty amazing."—Reuters

In India, regional rival takes on Modi at his own game

LUCKNOW, (India) — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi out-campaigned all-comers in the 2014 general election but, as he faces his biggest mid-term test, he is up against a rival determined to beat him at his own game.

In Uttar Pradesh his opponent, Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, has been repackaged as a youthful and media-savvy go-getter who seeks to steal a unique selling point of Modi's - development.

"I am taking it a bit beyond Modi: I work," Yadav told Reuters in an interview in Lucknow, capital of the state of 220 million that is holding the biggest democratic election anywhere in the world this year.

"My work speaks for itself. Modi's empty promises do not," said the 43-year-old leader of the Samajwadi, or Socialist, Party.

Yadav entered the vast election, being held over the course of a month, as a narrow favourite: He had just emerged from a power struggle with his domineering father and struck a pre-poll alliance with the Indian National Congress.

While Modi excels as a stump speaker who can deliver an hour-long address without notes, Akhilesh has sought to connect with the youth vote via new media, taking personal control over his social media accounts and doing a Facebook Live with one of India's best-known TV journalists.

He has even climbed on a bicycle — his party's symbol — for another prime-time interview that gave him a chance to showcase the newly landscaped riverfront in the state capital. Yadav's campaign has been backed by his wife Dimple, a federal lawmaker, who has courted women voters and helped create an image as a political 'power couple'.

Throughout, Yadav has stayed firmly on message. Asked about endemic crime, he says he has set up a new police hotline that is ensuring quicker response times.

On developing his poor state where incomes average less than \$750 a year, he highlights his achievements in building an expressway to Agra, site of the Taj Mahal, and a new city metro in Lucknow.—Reuters

မြန်မာ့ရှေ့ဆောင်ဘဏ်လီမိတက် ဥက္ကဋ္ဌ ဦးချစ်ခိုင် သိစေရန်

မန္တလေးတိုင်းဒေသကြီးနေ ဦးဝင်းဆွေ (၉/မရမ (နိုင်) ၀၃၇၁၀၅) က အောက်ပါအတိုင်း ကြေညာအပ်ပါသည်။
မြန်မာ့ရှေ့ဆောင်ဘဏ်လီမိတက်ဥက္ကဋ္ဌဖြစ်သူ ဦးချစ်ခိုင်က မြန်မာ့ရှေ့ဆောင်ဘဏ်အား စတင်ထူထောင်စဉ်အချိန်တွင် ဘဏ်အတွက် မတည်ရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံရန် ငွေလိုကြောင်းကမ်းလှမ်းလာ၍ ဦးဝင်းဆွေမှ လိုအပ်ငွေ စုစုပေါင်း ၁၀၀၀,၀၀၀,၀၀၀/- (ကျပ်သန်းတစ်ထောင်တိတိ)ကို ၂၀၁၀ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လတွင် ကနဦး မတည်ရင်းနှီး အစုရှယ်ယာငွေအဖြစ် ထည့်ဝင်ခဲ့ပါသည်။
မည်သည့်အထောက်အထားမှ ပေးထားခြင်းမရှိဘဲ ကြိမ်ဖန်များစွာ တိုက်တွန်းတောင်းဆိုခဲ့ရပြီး နောက်ပိုင်းတွင် (၃၀.၃.၂၀၁၁) ရက်နေ့စွဲဖြင့် တစ်စုလျှင် ကျပ်တစ်သန်းတန် အစုရှယ်ယာနံပါတ် (၂၇၇၀၀) မှ (၂၆၇၀၀) အထိ အစုရှယ်ယာ စုစုပေါင်း (၁၀၀၀)ကို သင်းဖွဲ့မှတ်တမ်း၊ သင်းဖွဲ့စည်းမျဉ်းများနှင့်အညီ ပိုင်ဆိုင်ကြောင်း အစုရှယ်ယာလက်မှတ်

SHARE CERTIFICATE ကို မြန်မာ့ရှေ့ဆောင်ဘဏ်လီမိတက်က ထုတ်ပေးခဲ့ပါသည်။
အခြားမည်သည့် စာရွက်စာတမ်းမျှလည်း မပေး၊ မည်သို့မျှလည်း မသိရ၊ မည်သည့်နှစ်ပတ်လည် အစည်းအဝေးမျှလည်းမခေါ် ပွင့်လင်းမြင်သာခွင့် လုံးဝမရရှိခဲ့သည်မှာ ငါးနှစ်ကျော် ခြောက်နှစ်ထဲရောက်ရှိလာခဲ့ပါ၍ ကိုယ်စားလှယ်စေလွှတ်ခဲ့ရာမှ မြန်မာ့ရှေ့ဆောင်ဘဏ်လီမိတက်၏ အသင်းအဖွဲ့မှတ်တမ်း၊ သင်းဖွဲ့စည်းမျဉ်း စာအုပ်များ၏ ဓါတ်ပုံမိတ္တူများနှင့် MYANMAR APEX BANK LIMITED ၏ FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (JUNE 14, 2010 to MARCH 31, 2011) (APRIL, 1,2011 to MARCH 31, 2012) (APRIL 1, 2012 to MARCH 31,2013) (APRIL 1, 2013 to MARCH 31,2014) နှင့် (APRIL 1, 2014 to MARCH 31,2015) ဟူ၍ ငါးနှစ်စာ ဓါတ်ပုံမိတ္တူများ ရရှိခဲ့ပါသည်။

ဦးဝင်းဆွေက ဥပဒေပါ အခွင့်အရေးများကို အချိန်နှင့် တပြေးညီရရှိလိုပါ၍ အကြောင်းကြားစာ ပေးပို့ခဲ့ရာ မြန်မာ့ရှေ့ဆောင်ဘဏ်လီမိတက်အကျိုးဆောင်မှ နောက်ဆုံးတွင် ဦးဝင်းဆွေထံမှ “ရငွေစာရင်းတွင် ဖော်ပြထားသည့်ထည့်ဝင်ငွေအတွက်၊ မတည်ရင်းနှီးငွေ (Capital Account) တွင်ပါဝင်သူများနည်းတူ တန်ဖိုးတူသော အကျိုးခံစားခွင့် ကျပ်-၂၈၆၂၄၈၈၈၃.၀၄ ကို ပေးရန်ရည်ရွယ်ထားသည့်အတိုင်း (၇)ရက်အတွင်း ထုတ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်” ဟု ပြန်ကြားလာပါသည်။

ထို့ပြင် ထည့်ဝင်ထားသော ငွေကြေးသည် Capitalize လုပ်ရန်အတွက် ဘဏ်စည်းမျဉ်းစည်းကမ်းများရှိနေပါသဖြင့် ရငွေစာရင်းတွင် ဖော်ပြထားကြောင်း၊ ဗဟိုဘဏ်၏ လုပ်ထုံးလုပ်နည်းနှင့်အညီ စုံစမ်းခံနိုင်ရမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်းကိုပါ ဖော်ပြခဲ့ပါသည်။ ဦးဝင်းဆွေမှ အခွန်ဝန်ထမ်းတစ်ဦးဖြစ်ပါ၍ အစစ်ဆေးခံနိုင်သူတစ်ဦးဖြစ်ပါသည်။

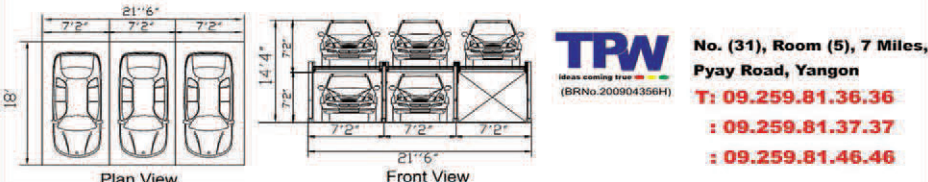
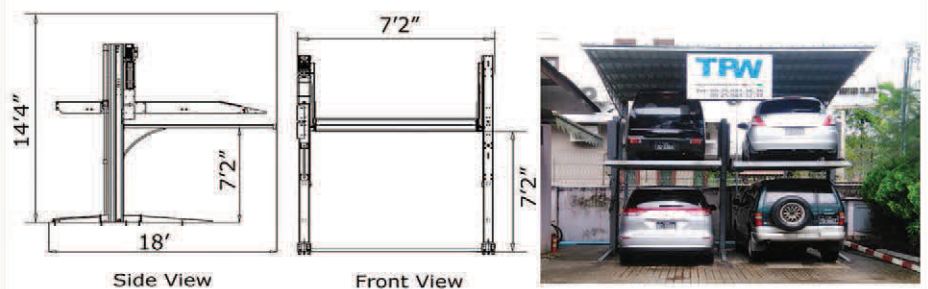
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ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော

MECHANICAL CAR PARKING



Opinion

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Noble Profession in Myanmar dominated by women

Khin Maung Oo

EVERY individual needs to work for his or her survival. In this frenetic age, youths entering the labour force are always busy trying to look for promising careers—well-paid jobs. Nowadays it is difficult to decide to eke out their living as a teacher, especially for men. And it is more difficult to be a life-long teacher. In today's job-hunters' minds, they cannot see a teacher blessed with great respect and trust from the people—parents and their offspring. They go against having a teaching career, knowing it fetches only a small income. Granted that money is important for our living, they cannot be blamed. Especially men are staying away from pursuing a teaching career. However, most young women who could not find a job in private companies eventually decided, *faute de mieux*, to choose the teaching career. Some professions remain bastions of male chauvinism and some are still exercising glass-ceiling system in promoting their staff. Thus, the teaching profession is gradually becoming a profession dominated by women. Even then, they avoid going to remote areas. Every job hunter would be happy to get a job in the civil service, especially as a teach-

er. As time goes by, teachers in rural areas tend to gradually lose their interest in teaching. They are feeling as if shouldering a great burden under various kinds of pressure in the class-room. Why? In answer to the ever-rising inflation rate, most teachers cannot resist the temptation of finding an extra income for their daily household expenditure. To make ends meet, they are at least required to give private tuition to weak students in their free time. They cannot spend their free time with their families. This is one more burden added to the usual pressure in their class-rooms. The thought of making extra money is present in their minds most of the time. Ideas to pursue further knowledge on the job in their free time soon vanish from their thoughts. We may see that most of the primary assistant teachers go back home very late at night. How exhausting their days are!

Teachers are piling up in towns and cities, more than in remote rural areas. Undeniably, there is a huge knowledge gap between urban and rural regions. We should not neglect this phenomenon. Rural areas are considered to be sleepy backwaters for youths because these areas lack

basic amenities such as: electricity, internet connection, cinemas, shopping centers, places for recreation, etc. Increasingly, there is a rush for knowledge among today's youths for their self-development. They think that these are available only in urban areas. If we believe that younger minds are important in building up our nation from the state of lagging much behind our neighboring countries in technology and in every field, we must try hard to narrow the gap. Like town-dwellers, rural residents also want opportunities for vocational training and higher education. To solve this problem, depends not only on the government but also upon all of us. The government must fulfill material needs, that is, try to ensure the well-being of all its civil service personnel. On our side, we must show our reliance, warm welcome and great respect for our teachers. Spiritual support is of vital importance for all. Figuratively speaking, it is nutritious sustenance for our teachers. How much hard the government tried to increase their pays and wages, the problem cannot be dealt with under the existing circumstances. Increasing commodity prices follow pay raises. We have never

seen any ultra-opportunists to behave other than exploitatively. They have never missed an opportunity to manipulate commodity prices. All business-persons are not necessarily ultra-opportunists. Solving this problem is beyond our knowledge, and it is only a subject matter for the government, economists and experts to deal with. In my opinion, as we are all dependent upon these government service personnel in some way or the other, it would be better for us to understand their difficulties and show kindness to them. If not, boomerang effect will surely come to us. Here I want to convince the younger generation that today's outstanding dignitaries were mostly brought up in small towns and villages void of modernized utilities. Their efforts and eagerness led them to such high positions.

To become a self-motivated teacher one must have a deep interest in teaching, and the authorities concerned must provide them with the necessary support such as: training and financial aids such as incentives and an adequate amount of remuneration. If necessary, generous remuneration packages need to be attached to remote postings.

Government of Myanmar unveils new plan to protect marine wildlife and resources

Wildlife Conservation Society

THE Government of Myanmar and WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) announced today a comprehensive plan to protect the country's diverse fisheries and marine life—including dolphins, sea turtles, and other species—and other marine resources.

The plan titled "Marine Spatial Planning for Myanmar: Strategic Advice for Securing a Sustainable Ocean Economy" was unveiled at this week's World Ocean Summit in Bali, Indonesia. Sponsored by The Economist, the event (Feb. 22-24) provides marine experts and decision-makers with a forum for examining and promoting sustainable uses of the oceans and marine resources.

The new marine spatial planning strategy was produced by Myanmar's Department of Fisheries, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, with technical guidance from WCS, University of Exeter and Pyoe Pin (a program that provides assistance to democratic and accountable governance). The strategy's central goal is to provide decision-makers with a reliable road map for ocean space management and to create the conditions needed for economic and ecological sustainability and prosperity.

"The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is focused on balancing natural resource use across all production sectors, while providing investment opportunities, and eco-

nomics prosperity for its people. We believe this strategy provides us with a robust structure through which to develop this goal and our ocean economy," said U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (Department of Fisheries). "Our aim is to work with public and private partners to bring this vision to life for the people of Myanmar."

"The Pyoe Pin program has been working to support different key actors to work together to create a model of good governance across Myanmar's coastal states and regions, such that the enabling conditions for co-managing marine fisheries resources now exists," said U Aung Kyaw Thein, Strategic Advisor to Pyoe Pin. "Adopting area based management will ensure that our fisheries and marine resources are secure, and also drive upward flows of economic and social benefits to small-scale fishers." As mainland Southeast Asia's largest country, Myanmar boasts a vast marine region covering some 486,000 square kilometers, most of which is currently unprotected. The country's extensive coastal areas provide vital habitats for species such as the finless porpoise, several species of sea tur-

tle, and the dugong (a relative of the manatee). The waters of Myanmar also contribute significantly to the country's economy and provide livelihoods for an estimated 1.4 million inshore and offshore fishers. Local and commercial fisheries also provide protein for millions, but illegal fishing has decimated local fish populations and could put the country's food security at risk if not regulated.

how these activities can be combined into a coordinated plan for a sustainable ocean economy." "Our new National Coastal and Marine Resources Management Committee is fully supportive of this marine spatial planning strategy and, this committee, chaired by the Vice President and supported by respective coastal Chief Ministers, the Ministry of Natural Resources and

Environmental Conservation (MONREC), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and the Navy, look forward to working with partners to enable the development of our sustainable ocean economy", said

Environmental Conservation (MONREC), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and the Navy, look forward to working with partners to enable the development of our sustainable ocean economy", said

"We commend the Government of Myanmar for taking the first crucial steps needed to protect its marine resources for future generations with this new strategy," said Jason Patlis, Executive Director for WCS's Marine Conservation Program. "As evidenced in this first-ever marine atlas, Myanmar's waters play a critical role for the health of the global ocean, and the Government's efforts will benefit not only its own citizens, but the region and the world."



Giant marine tortoise in the Andaman sea. PHOTO © ANDY MANN

The country's sovereign waters are also being explored for coastal development (tourism, ports) opportunities and gas reserves.

"Myanmar is a country undergoing great change as its engagement with the international community increases," said Martin Callow, Advisor to WCS's Myanmar Marine Conservation Program. "At the same time, the country's irreplaceable marine heritage is at risk from this new spirit of openness. The new marine spatial planning strategy fills an urgent need to understand current and future marine resource use and

U Khin Maung Yi, Permanent Secretary of MONREC.

The strategy is a multi-faceted initiative featuring a number of programs focused on: building consensus and developing capacity; developing institutional arrangements; and strengthening data knowledge on marine life, resources, and the scale and scope of various extractive activities such as gas exploration and commercial fishing. Myanmar representatives and scientific collaborators also announced the publication of a supporting document—the "Myanmar Marine Biodiversity At-

Berkshire Hathaway gains \$1.6 billion from its huge bite of Apple

NEW YORK — Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc (BRKa.N) is sitting on more than \$1.6 billion of gains in its investment in Apple Inc. (AAPL.O) after shares of the iPhone maker surged.

Berkshire revealed that its massive stake in Apple stock, as of 31 December, had risen to 61.2 million shares for a total of \$6.75 billion, an average of about \$110.17 apiece, according to the annual report Saturday from

Berkshire.

As of Friday's closing price of \$136.66, Berkshire's holding of Apple was valued at more than \$8.3 billion.

Berkshire became one of the top 10 Apple investors in 2016, taking a stake of more than 9 million shares in the first quarter and then accelerating purchases in the last three months of the year.

"I think Buffett likes Apple because of the hold or control that they are gaining over the

lives of above-average income Americans and people around the world," said Bill Smead of Smead Capital Management. "Buffett knows that people have become addicted to Apple products and he invests in these addictions."

The Apple investment appears to reflect much of the \$12 billion of stock that Buffett said he had bought between the Nov. 8 Presidential election and the end of January.—Reuters



An Apple iPhone 7 and the company logo are seen in this illustration picture taken in Bordeaux, France on 1 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

TCL carries flickering BlackBerry flame with new phone launch

BARCELONA — BlackBerry Ltd (BB.TO) may have exited the device business, but fans of the pioneering email machine need not despair as Chinese smartphone maker TCL Communication (TCLF.PK) has introduced its first

BlackBerry-licensed phone with the physical keyboard that was long its key allure.

The KEYone combines a touch display with a physical keyboard to give users more useable space for typing than a typical 5.5-

inch all-touch smartphone, along with BlackBerry Ltd's security and software, TCL said.

TCL cut the new brand-licensing deal in December with BlackBerry Ltd, which now focuses on making the security software that was another key factor underpinning the Canadian company's phenomenal success in the pre-smartphone era and sustained it with corporate users as the world moved on to smartphones with other features. The partnership helps address weaknesses for both companies: TCL gives BlackBerry a manufacturer that can still compete at global scale following a decade-long slide in BlackBerry sales, while TCL gains a new brand to shore up its own flagging growth in smartphones.

"We have worked closely with TCL to build security and the BlackBerry experience into every layer of KEYone, so the BlackBerry DNA remains very much in

place," said Alex Thurber, general manager of BlackBerry Ltd's Mobile Solutions unit.

The new BlackBerry KEYone smartphone was unveiled here ahead of the Mobile World Congress, Europe's largest annual trade fair, on Saturday. The first fruits of TCL's new product line carries a hefty price tag, which could limit its appeal to diehard fans of the device once known as the Crackberry.

The KEYone will be available in April and priced around 599 euros, \$549 or 499 pounds, in line with premium phones from Apple (AAPL.O), Samsung (005930.KS) and Huawei [HWT.UL].

TCL, which sells its phones in 160 countries, did not specify which would be first to offer the KEYone. TCL is best known as the maker of Alcatel handsets and ranked as the world's No 7 phone maker, according to recent data from research group IDC.

It is the third-largest maker of simpler, so-called feature phones popular in Latin America and emerging markets, according to market research firm Strategy Analytics. TCL has acted as contract manufacturer for earlier BlackBerry devices but now licenses the phone brand and gives the Canadian company a cut of each handset sold. The device runs Android 7.1 — giving users access to the Google Play store and apps — and receives Google (GOOGL.O) security patch updates, which many Android smartphones lack.

It also runs the BBM secure-messaging system, which BlackBerry earlier this month said it would make available for software developers to build into their own products. With an aluminum frame and textured backing, the device sports two cameras — 12 megapixels in the rear and eight in front — and a scratch-resistant 4.5-inch screen display.—Reuters



A man holds the new BlackBerry Key One during his presentation event before the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain on 25 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Euro zone economy — real recovery or another Sirens' song?

LONDON — Over the years, euro zone economic growth has been a bit like the Sirens in Homer's Odyssey: singing a song of promise, only to end up pulling you onto the rocks. Will it be different this time?

The strong growth registered in numerous data releases and surveys at the beginning of this year has surprised many.

One eye-opening example was the release of flash purchasing managers indices for France, Germany and the euro zone on 21 February. Of nine indexes, eight registered growth and six did so at a higher level than any economist polled by Reuters had imagined.

Not surprisingly, economists and policy-makers are now looking for firm proof that the euro zone's apparent rebound this year is sustainable, as well as noting a variety of potentially destructive economic and political hazards ahead.

There has not been, they say, a specific inflexion point at which it can be said that the euro zone has recovered and is off on a growth tear. Rather it has been a slow

simmer. "The euro zone has been recovering steadily for three years now, helped by monetary policy stimulus, an end to fiscal austerity and a healthier financial sector," said James McCann, OECD economist at Standard Life Investments. "(It's) a steady recovery which has been trundling on."

The numbers confirm this. The European Commission notes that real GDP in the euro zone has grown for 15 consecutive quarters — a sign of steady improvement.

But putting aside some of the latest data, it has been steady rather than spectacular. Economic growth is still running at only around 1.6 per cent annually, and most forecasters — from economists polled by Reuters to the Commission itself, reckon it will be about the same this year.

So the question is whether the recent data has turned this on its head. Even before considering whether Greece's debt problems will come back to bite the euro zone, there are two main strands: inflation and elections.—Reuters



Fireworks explode next to the Quadriga sculpture atop the Brandenburg gate during New Year celebrations in Berlin, Germany, on 1 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump decides to skip White House press dinner

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that he would not attend the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner, a high-profile event that draws celebrities, politicians and journalists.

"I will not be attending the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner this year. Please wish everyone well and have a great evening!", Trump wrote on Twitter.

On the campaign trail and in the White House, Trump has had a strained relationship with the press, calling journalists "the enemy of the people" and frequently criticizing outlets and individual reporters whose coverage he does not like.

The reporters' group said it would go ahead with its 29 April dinner despite Trump's absence. The Washington event typically draws movie stars, politicians and business leaders to hear a humorous speech by the sitting president.

The dinner "has been and will continue to be a celebration of the First Amendment and the important role played by an independent news media in a healthy republic," said Jeff Mason, a Reuters White House correspondent who heads



US President Donald Trump walks to the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, US on 24 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the association this year.

Ronald Reagan was the last president to sit out the event after he was shot in 1981.

Some news outlets such as Bloomberg News and the New Yorker have said they will not host the lavish after-parties that have been a fixture of past events.

On Friday, the White House excluded several major US news organizations, including some it has criticized, from an off-camera briefing held by the White House press secretary. Reporters for CNN, The New York Times, Politico, The Los Angeles Times and

BuzzFeed were not allowed into the session in the office of press secretary Sean Spicer, a decision that drew strong protests.

The event occasionally makes news: in 2011, President Barack Obama delivered a scathing evisceration of Trump, joking that the mogul, who sat stone-faced in the audience, would move on from questioning Obama's citizenship to figuring out "did we fake the moon landing."

Critics say the event encourages journalists to cozy up to politicians they should cover aggressively.—*Reuters*



German Chancellor Angela Merkel awaits the arrival of the new European Parliament President Antonio Tajani at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany on 24 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Merkel's conservatives, Social Democrats neck-and-neck in poll

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) are neck-and-neck in the latest Emnid poll with seven months to go before a federal election.

The poll in Bild am Sonntag newspaper showed the SPD, which has surged in recent weeks since nominating former European Parliament President Martin Schulz as its candidate, dropping

by one percentage point compared with the same poll last week to 32 per cent. Merkel's conservative bloc was also at 32 per cent, unchanged from a week earlier.

The poll also showed only 36 per cent of those surveyed think Schulz will replace Merkel as chancellor after the 24 September election while 50 per cent of Germans do not believe he will.

The SPD, the junior partner in Merkel's ruling coalition, had

lagged the conservatives for years in opinion polls, but several recent polls showed the SPD ahead.

The anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany was in third place in the Emnid poll with 9 per cent while the far-left Linke was on 8 per cent. The Greens and pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) were both at 7 per cent.

The survey of 1,880 people was carried out from 26-22 February.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three in critical condition after east China hotel fire

NANCHANG — Three people who were injured in a hotel fire in east China's Jiangxi Province on Saturday morning are in a critical condition, local authorities said on Sunday.

The fire at HNA Platinum Mix Hotel in the provincial capital of Nanchang City killed 10, including three hotel guests and seven construction workers, according to the city government.

Nine injured people are being treated in hospital.

A preliminary investigation found the blaze was caused by welding and cutting which violated safety rules.

Twenty-four people, including hotel shareholders, the contractor of the project and workers, have been taken into police custody.—*Xinhua*

Car bomb explosion kills 2 soldiers in Libya's Benghazi

TRIPOLI — A car bomb explosion hit a security check point in eastern Libyan city Benghazi on Sunday, killing two soldiers and injuring four others.

The explosion severely injured Mahmoud Al-Warfalli, the special forces commander, according to media reports.

The attack took place in Al-Gwarsha area in western Benghazi. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Benghazi, the birthplace of the 2011 uprising that toppled former leader Muammar Gaddafi's regime, has been witnessing a violent war between the armed forces, led by Maj Gen Khalifa Haftar, and militant groups for more than two years.—*Xinhua*

Grenade explodes in demonstration, kills three in Nigeria

ABUJA — Three people, including an army personnel, were killed by a handheld grenade that exploded during a demonstration in a village in Nigeria's central state of Niger, a police spokesman said on Sunday.

The army personnel was holding the grenade late Saturday in his Bari village of Bangi district, demonstrating to his kinsmen how the Nigerian military used grenades on terrorists in the country's northeast region when it exploded, Bala Elkalla, the spokesman of Niger State police told Xinhua.

The grenade killed two villagers and injured four others who were onlookers at the scene, Elkalla said.

The police spokesman said the army personnel who was serving in Maiduguri, the capital of the restive northeastern state of Borno, had obtained permission to travel to his village.—*Xinhua*

Five injured as car hits pedestrians in London

LONDON — Five people were injured as a car crashed into pedestrians in south-east London Sunday morning.

The incident prompted speculations that it might be a terrorist attack following a similar case on Saturday in Heidelberg, Germany, where a man drove into a pedestrian area, killing one and injuring two. The attacker was shot and arrested by police in a brief standoff after fleeing the scene on foot.—*Xinhua*

Transgender teenage wrestler wins Texas state championship

TEXAS — High school athlete Mack Beggs, a teenager who is transitioning from female to male, won his 110-pound weight class in the Texas girl's state championship on Saturday, according to media reports.

Beggs, 17, and many of his opponents want him to wrestle against boys, but the transgender boy wrestled in the Texas championship for girls because of state sport regulations, which require athletes to compete according to birth gender.

The wrestler, a junior at Trinity High School in the Dallas suburb of Euless, had a 52-0 record ahead of the weekend tournament and was favoured to win the 110-pound weight class in the championship.

On Saturday, he beat Chelsea Sanchez 12-2 to earn the championship.

In some of his first media comments since the story was widely reported, Beggs said "I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for my teammates," the Dallas Morning News reported on its website.

"That's honestly what the spotlight should've been on, my teammates," he added.—*Reuters*

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

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

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

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

ICN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KE-471	18:30	22:30	Daily

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

KUL TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
AK-504	6:55	8:00	Daily
AK-502	17:20	18:30	Daily
8M-502	16:45	17:45	1
8M-502	21:10	22:10	2
MH-742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7
MH-740	09:10	10:15	Daily

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

KMG TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-415	10:50	11:30	Daily
MU-2031	13:50	14:30	Daily
MU-2011	08:20	11:55	3

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

TPE TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CI-7915	7:00	9:50	Daily

YGN TO PEK			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-906	23:50	0550+1	1,3,5,7

PEK TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
CA-905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5,7

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

HAN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-957	16:40	18:10	Daily

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

SGN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
VN-943	9:25	11:10	2,3,4,5,7

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

HKG TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
KA-250	21:50	23:45	1,3,5,7
KA-252	22:20	00:10	2,4,6
UB-8028	14:50	16:20	1,3,5,7

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

DOH TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
QR-918	20:10	5:20	1,3,4,6,7

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

CNX TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-723	12:00	12:55	Daily

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

DAC TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
BG-060	13:30	16:00	1,3,6

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

DMK TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-244	11:10	12:25	Daily

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

CAN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-714	2:05	3:40	2
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
8M-712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7
CZ-3055	8:40	10:35	3,6
CZ-3055	14:40	16:40	1,5

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

SIN TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
8M-232	13:45	15:15	Daily
SQ-998	07:55	09:20	Daily
MI-522	11:30	15:30	4,6
MI-518	15:15	16:40	Daily
MI-516	12:00	13:25	1,3,5
MI-533	11:30	12:45	2
3K-583	17:30	19:00	Daily
3K-581	09:10	10:40	Daily
TR-2822	7:20	8:45	1,2,4,5,7
UB-002	13:00	14:30	Daily

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

NRT TO YGN			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
NH-813	11:00	16:30	Daily

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INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

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

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

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

BKK TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-709	12:00	13:20	Daily

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

KMG TO MDL			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
MU-2029	13:20	13:15	Daily

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

BKK TO NYT			
Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
PG-721	17:20	19:20	1,3,4,5,6,7

AIRLINE CODES

8M = Myanmar Airways International
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines
MH = Malaysia Airlines
MU = China Eastern Airlines
NH = All Nippon Airways
SQ = Singapore Airways
PG = Bangkok Airways
UB = Myanmar National Airlines
VN = Vietnam Airline
3K = Jet Star
AI = Air India
CI = China Airlines
DD = Nok Airline
KA = Dragonair
MI = Silk Air
TG = Thai Airways

AK = Air Asia
CA = Air China
CZ = China Southern
FD = Air Asia
KE = Korea Airlines
QR = Qatar Airways
TR = Tiger Airline

DAY

1 = Monday
2 = Tuesday
3 = Wednesday

4 = Thursday
5 = Friday
6 = Saturday
7 = Sunday

Bombings, air strikes in Syria rattle Geneva peace talks

GENEVA — A United Nations peace envoy said a militant attack in Syria on Saturday was a deliberate attempt to wreck peace talks in Geneva, while the warring sides traded blame and appeared no closer to actual negotiations.

Suicide bombers stormed two Syrian security offices in Homs, killing dozens with gunfire and explosions including the head of military security, prompting airstrikes against the last rebel-held enclave in the western city.

“Spoilers were always expected, and should continue to be expected, to try to influence the proceedings of the talks. It is in the interest of all parties who are against terrorism and are committed to a political process in Syria not to allow these attempts to succeed,” UN mediator Staffan de Mistura said in a statement.

De Mistura has met the two sides separately in Geneva while he tries to get agreement on how talks to end the six-year-old conflict should be arranged.

He has warned not to expect any quick breakthrough and to beware of letting the violence derail any fragile progress, as happened repeatedly in the past.

A man tries to put out a fire at a site hit by airstrikes in the rebel-controlled town of Ariha in Idlib province, Syria on 25 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

A ceasefire brokered by Russia and Turkey with Iran’s support is increasingly being violated by both sides.

The jihadist rebel alliance Tahrir al-Sham, which opposes the talks — although it has fought alongside factions that are represented there — said that five suicide bombers had carried out Saturday’s attack. It celebrated with the words “thanks be to God” but stopped short of explicitly claiming responsibility.

Tahrir al-Sham was formed

this year from several groups including Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, which was formerly known as the Nusra Front and was al Qaeda’s Syrian branch until it broke formal allegiance to the global jihadist movement in 2016.

After a 2-1/2 hour-long meeting with de Mistura, the Syrian government’s lead negotiator Bashar al-Ja’afari spoke to reporters and repeatedly demanded the opposition condemn the attacks or face the consequences.

“If anyone refuses to condemn this terrorist attack then he is an accomplice of terrorism and we will deal with them accordingly,” Ja’afari said.

He ruled out leaving the talks, saying he would meet de Mistura again on Tuesday, but he implied that some of the opponents that he had sat face-to-face with at Thursday’s opening ceremony were “sponsors of terrorism”.

Warplanes also carried out six raids on Douma in the eastern suburbs of Damascus, resulting in six deaths, and earlier, an air raid in Hama killed four people from the same family, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.—Reuters

US could gain from China's irritation at N Korea: ex-official

NEW YORK — The United States under President Donald Trump should take advantage of China's increasing irritation at North Korea's recent provocative acts, according to a former senior White House official.

Gary Samore, a nuclear nonproliferation expert who served under Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "is doing us a favour" by carrying out nuclear tests and assassinating his family members.

"The Chinese are really frustrated and angry. I hope we can take advantage of it to at least have a little bargaining leverage

in another round of diplomacy," he said in an interview with Kyodo News on Thursday.

By assassinations, he was apparently referring to the recent killing in Malaysia of Kim's half-brother. Pyongyang is suspected of having been behind the incident.

Samore said it is "good news" that Beijing has turned cooperative in implementing UN sanctions on Pyongyang, though it is the main economic and diplomatic benefactor of the isolated country.

"China has gone further than I ever would have imagined in terms of supporting the UN Security Council sanctions

against North Korea over the years," he said. "Not enough to threaten the survival of the regime but enough to impose a real penalty on Pyongyang."

"And we can thank Kim Jong Un. Kim Jong Un is our best friend," Samore added.

China said on 18 February that it will suspend coal imports from North Korea until the end of the year as part of strengthened sanctions against the country in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2321.

The Security Council adopted the new North Korea sanctions resolution on 30 November following its fifth nuclear test carried

out last September, placing a ceiling on the country's coal exports.

Coal is the North's biggest export, with China the main buyer.

The resolution set an upper limit on the North's coal exports at \$400.9 million, or 7.5 million tons per year, whichever is lower, starting on 1 January.

The measure is expected to cut the country's hard currency revenues by at least \$700 million annually.

Samore is currently executive director for research at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs of Harvard University's Kennedy School.—Kyodo News



Gary Samore, a nuclear nonproliferation expert who served under former US presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, gives an interview to Kyodo News in New York on 23 February, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (5 / 2017)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-119(16-17)	Spare Parts and Maintenance for GCS (Myaingalay) (1) Lot	US\$
(2)	IFB-120(16-17)	Upgrade and Inspection for Cooper 12 SGT and MH 64 Compressor (1) Lot	US\$
(3)	IFB-121(16-17)	8" ERW API 5L Grade X-42 MS 3 layer PE Coated Steel Line Pipe (PSL-2) (8050) MTR	US\$
(4)	IFB-122(16-17)	API Class 'G' Cement (500) Tons	US\$
(5)	DMP/L-035(16-17)	Air Compressor Reciprocating with (15-18) HP Diesel Engine (4) Sets	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-036(16-17)	Water transfer Pump Skid Mounted with Engine (300 GPM x 150 Ft hd)/(25-40)HP (5) Sets	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-037(16-17)	Crude Transfer Pump Skid Mounted with Motor (100 GPM x 15 Ft hd), 10 KW (1) Set	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-038(16-17)	12 KV, 630 A, VCB Switch gear Panel Complete Set (Two Incoming Two Outgoing) (1) Lot	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-039(16-17)	Air Compressor with Motor (20 HP) 3 Phase, 50 Hz, 400 V (500 PSI Air Compressor Complete Sets) (2) Sets	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-040(16-17)	132 KW Motor for ZW type CNG Compressor (400 V, 740 RPM, 3 Phase) (2) Nos	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-041(16-17)	Assorted Sizes Tyre (11) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-042(16-17)	Steel Wire Rope (6) Items	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-043(16-17)	Spares for CAT-3512 Rig Engine Ex ZJ 70L SR-I Rig (51) Items	Ks
(14)	Container (1/2017)	ကွန်တိန်နာ သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရန်ကုန်ဆိပ်ကမ်းများမှ သာကေတရေနံအခြေစိုက်စခန်းသို့ အသွား / အပြန်) (၁-၄-၂၀၁၇ မှ ၃၀-၉-၂၀၁၇ ထိ ၆ လအတွက်)	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 28-3-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 27th February, 2017 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

Invitation for Bids

Myanmar
National Electrification Project
Credit No. 5727-MM

Contract Title: Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV System for Households and Public Facilities

Reference No. S&I - 2 (12 lots)

1. The Government of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Solar PV Systems for Households and Public Facilities. This contract will be jointly financed by the Government of Myanmar.

2. The Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply, installation and maintenance of one or more of the 12 lots of solar PV systems for households and public facilities in 12 States/Regions/Territory (Kayin, Mon, Chin, Sagaing, Bago, Tanintharyi, Rakhine, Mandalay, Magway, Shan Ayeyarwaddy and Naypyitaw).

3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include:

- The average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years should be USD 4,000,000 or higher which varies by lot and is cumulative if bidding for multiple lots.
- The bidder has successfully completed at least two (2) contracts in supplying, installing, supervising, commissioning and/or maintaining off-grid solar PV systems with batteries, in any year over the last five (5) years, and at least one of the two contracts had a value equivalent to or greater than 50% of the value of the Bid.

The details of the qualification requirements are seen in the bidding documents.

4. 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 (revised July 2014)* ("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.

5. A Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **March 23, 2017** at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Rural Development, Office No. 14 (Main Conference Room, ground floor), Nay Pyi Taw in order to answer any questions that potential bidders might have.

6. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address below and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 a.m to 04:00 p.m (10:00 to 16:00 hours) Myanmar time at the address given below.

7. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The Bidding Documents will be issued through e-mail only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:

Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director
Department of Rural Development,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation,
Office No. 14,
Naypyitaw,
Country: Myanmar
Fax +95 67 409529

Email: neppmo.drd@gmail.com; ksaung@gmail.com

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **April 27, 2017, 10:00 hrs.** (10:00 a.m.) 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 **April 27, 2017, 10:00 hrs. (10:00 a.m.) Myanmar time**

9. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1- Bidding Data Sheet of the bidding document.

10. The address referred to above is:

Attention: U Myint Oo, Deputy Director General,
Project Director of National Electrification Project
National Electrification Project
Department of Rural Development,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation,
Office No. 14,
Naypyitaw,
Country: Myanmar
Tel /Fax: +95 67 409529
ksaung@gmail.com, dr.soesoeohn@gmail.com, neppmo.drd@gmail.com

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါက တိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်သွေးနွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။

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Kyrgyz opposition leader detained ahead of presidential campaign

BISHKEK — Kyrgyzstan's state security service said it detained opposition politician Omurbek Tekebayev on Sunday on charges of corruption and fraud, a move that may eliminate him as a contender for presidency in the upcoming election.

Tekebayev, 58, leads the Ata Meken (Fatherland) party's parliamentary faction and is one of the most outspoken critics of President Almazbek Atambayev, whose term ends this year.

The ex-Soviet Central

Asian nation will hold a presidential election on 19 November.

The state security service said in a statement it had detained him at an airport upon arrival from Turkey.

In a separate statement, the prosecutor general's office said it suspected Tekebayev of taking a \$1 million bribe from a Russian investor in 2010.

Tekebayev, who was then a senior member of provisional government, promised the investor

he would be able to take over a local telecommunications company, prosecutors said. Kanybek Imanaliyev, a member of parliament who belongs to Tekebayev's Ata Meken faction, said he denied any wrongdoing.

"He considers his detention... unwarranted and illegal and a continuation of political repressions," Imanaliyev said. "We planned to hold a party congress within a month and nominate him as candidate (for presidency)."

Atambayev cannot

run for re-election under the Kyrgyz constitution, but his allies in parliament successfully pushed through a referendum on a package of amendments significantly boosting the powers of the prime minister. This has prompted speculation Atambayev may either become a powerful cabinet head — although Atambayev denies having such plans — or install a loyal figure as prime minister in order to retain power in the mostly Muslim nation of 6 million. —Reuters

Apology

I apologise for incorrectly describing the name of U Hla Shwe, a leader of the 1962 Student's Union, as ကြော်လှေ / Kjat Hla Shwe in the story headlined "Meeting called for Students' Union Building" on page 9 of the 23rd Issue of the Kyemon Daily and on page 6 of the 23rd February, 2017 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar and for hurting his integrity due to my mistake.

Moreover, I also confessed my mistake that I wrote "attended the meeting" though U Hla Shwe did not in fact attend the meeting.

I made the correction for the mistake in the Kyemon Daily and the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily on 24th February 2017.

I, with full responsibility and accountability, apologise to U Hla Shwe, son of U Chit Nyunt, and his family, friends and colleagues for both of my mistakes.

Ko Latt (Myanmar News Agency)

Bangladesh opens first solar-powered food warehouse

DHAKA — Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated on Sunday the country's first solar-powered food warehouse with a capacity of 25,000 tonnes of grain in the northern part of the country.

The modernized, multi-storey warehouse was built with financial and technical support from Japan.

Food silos are crucial for natural disaster-prone Bangladesh to keep stocks safe from water and

other threats.

The world's fourth-biggest producer of rice, Bangladesh uses almost all of its production to feed its population of 160 million, and often needs imports to cope with shortages caused by natural calamities such as floods or droughts.

Bangladesh imports around 4.5 million tonnes of wheat a year to meet growing demand, while the country's output has stagnated at about 1 million tonnes.—Reuters

Kishida pledges to support Okinawa to attract more foreign tourists

TOKYO — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida vowed on Sunday to support efforts to attract more foreign tourists to Okinawa Prefecture in a meeting with Governor Takeshi Onaga.

"Okinawa can be a model" for other local governments trying to invite foreign tourists and investment to boost local economic growth, Kishida said.

The southern island

prefecture is one of the most popular tourist spots in Japan with a number of beach resorts. Japan aims to attract 40 million tourists in 2020, when it hosts the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. The goal will be sharply up from 24.04 million in 2016.

The meeting comes as the central government is moving ahead with a plan to construct a US Marine Corps air base in a coast-

al area in Okinawa amid strong local opposition. The prefecture hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan.

The governor reiterated his prefecture's opposition to the relocation plan, saying that "it is extremely regrettable" that the government sticks to it.

Kishida also explained a pact signed last month between Japan and the United States to effectively remove

legal protection over some US military base workers, a move that could help deter base-linked crimes in Okinawa.

Onaga said the central government has not worked hard enough to achieve its goal of halting operations of the base as planned in February 2019 and demanded more efforts to reduce the burden shouldered by local residents. —Kyodo News

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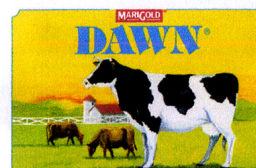
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Japanese animator Miyazaki comes out of retirement for new film

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki has come out of retirement to work on a new animated feature film, a producer at Studio Ghibli said Thursday in Beverly Hills where he was visiting to attend an event related to the Academy Awards ceremony slated for Sunday.

The decision comes nearly three and a half years after Miyazaki, 76, announced his retirement amid persistent calls for him to make a comeback from his fans both in and outside Japan.

“He is creating it in Tokyo, working hard right now,” said Toshio Suzuki, a producer at the major Japanese animation company, during a talk show, adding he was presented by the animation maestro with the storyboard of the new film at the end of last year.

“(The storyboard) was quite exciting,” 68-year-old Suzuki said, adding, “but if I’d told him it was good, I know it would ruin my own retirement,” as making the film would dominate his life, Suzuki told the audience.

“Nevertheless, I put my own feelings aside and told him straight, ‘This is fascinating,’” he said to audience applause.

The talk show, where Su-

zuki was invited to attend, was held in connection with the Academy Awards ceremony, as “The Red Turtle,” produced by Japan’s Studio Ghibli and others, has been nominated as a candidate for the Academy Award for Animated Feature.

Since announcing his retirement from making feature-length films due to concentration problems because of his age in September 2013 as “The Wind Rises” was being screened, Miyazaki has remained involved with Studio Ghibli, making a short film to be screened later at the company’s museum in Tokyo.

Miyazaki’s “Spirited Away” won the Berlin International Film Festival Golden Bear award in 2002 and the Oscar for Animated Feature Film in 2003.

Miyazaki made his feature film directorial debut with “Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro” in 1979. His other major works include “My Neighbor Totoro” in 1988 and “Princess Mononoke” in 1997.

Studio Ghibli has scaled back its animation production since “When Marnie Was There,” directed by Hiromasa Yonebayashi, in 2014. —Kyodo News

‘Batman v Superman,’ ‘Hillary’s America’ win Razzie ‘worst’ films



Cast members Ben Affleck (L) and Henry Cavill attend New York premiere “Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice” at Radio City Music Hall in New York on 20 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Even the Razzie Awards are getting political. A documentary criticizing US Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton tied on Saturday with superhero ensemble “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” on a list of the year’s worst achievements in film, winning four Razzies apiece.

The annual tongue-in-cheek Razzie awards, which serve as an antidote to Hollywood’s Oscars ceremony, named Dinesh D’Souza’s “Hillary’s America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party” as the worst film of 2016.

D’Souza, a conservative commentator and best-selling author, was named worst actor for nar-

rating his documentary and worst director alongside Bruce Schooley. Worst actress went to the person who portrayed Clinton in the film.

“Hillary’s America” took in a modest \$13 million at the North American box office last year.

The Razzies, or Golden Raspberry awards, follow a Hollywood awards season marked by outspoken speeches and protests against the policies and behavior of US President Donald Trump. The season culminates with Sunday’s Oscars ceremony.

“Batman v Superman” also won four Razzies, including worst screen combo for “Ben Affleck & His BFF (Baddest Foe Forever) Henry Cavill” and worst “remake,

rip-off or sequel.”

The annual Razzie Redeemer Award went to veteran actor-director Mel Gibson. Gibson has been welcomed back into the folds of Hollywood with his war drama “Hacksaw Ridge” a decade after a drunken anti-Semitic rant made him an outcast.

“Hacksaw Ridge” is nominated for six Oscars on Sunday, including Gibson for director.

Winners of the year’s worst films are given a gold, spray-painted trophy. Winners of the Razzies are voted for online by around 1,000 Razzie members from 24 countries, who sign up online and pay a \$40 membership fee. —Reuters

‘Moonlight’ sweeps Spirit Awards with six wins ahead of Oscars

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — “Moonlight” triumphed at the Film Independent Spirit Awards with six wins on Saturday, besting grief drama “Manchester by the Sea” ahead of Sunday’s Oscars ceremony.

“Moonlight,” about a black boy in an impoverished Miami neighborhood as he grapples with his sexuality, was named best feature, the top award. It also won for best director and best screenplay for writer-director Barry Jenkins, and an ensemble cast award.

“This movie exists as a beacon of inclusivity,” Jenkins said.

“Moonlight” will be competing for eight Oscars, including best picture.

The Independent Spirit Awards, held on California’s Santa Monica Beach on the day before Hollywood’s glitzy Oscars ceremony, honor the year’s best achievements in independent film made on small budgets.

The last three winners of the



The cast of ‘Moonlight’ poses backstage with their Best Feature award at the 2017 Film Independent Spirit Awards in Santa Monica, California, US on 25 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Spirit Awards — “Spotlight,” “Birdman” and “12 Years a Slave” — all went on to win the best picture Oscar, the highest honor in the movie industry.

But this year, some of the

films getting the most awards buzz, like “La La Land,” “Lion” and “Hidden Figures,” were not eligible for Spirit Awards.

Hosted by comedians Nick Kroll and John Mulaney, Satur-

day’s show was a light-hearted affair but that didn’t stop stars from taking some jabs at the administration of US President Donald Trump.

Casey Affleck, who won for

his lead role as a grieving janitor in “Manchester by the Sea,” used his acceptance speech to say “the policies of this administration are abhorrent and they won’t last.”

French star Isabelle Huppert was named best actress for playing a woman who pursues her rapist in “Elle.”

“I’ve made so many independent films and I think it’s independence that makes art win,” Huppert said.

“O.J.: Made in America,” a look at the 1995 murder trial of former US football star O.J. Simpson, won best documentary over Ava DuVernay’s “13th” and Raoul Peck’s “I Am Not Your Negro.” All three are also Oscar-nominated.

Other winners included supporting actor Ben Foster for “Hell or High Water,” and Molly Shannon for her supporting role in “Other People.”

Coming-of-age tale “American Honey” went home empty-handed despite getting six nominations. —Reuters

Missoni talks politics with pink cat-eared hats at Milan show

MILAN — Fashion talked politics at Missoni's Milan show with models strutting down the runway wearing pink knitted cat-eared hats, in a sign of support by creative director Angela Missoni for the recent mass protests against US President Donald Trump.

In January, hundreds of thousands of women filled the streets of cities across the United States and Europe, in an unprecedented wave of rallies against Trump.

Many of the protesters wore pink "pussy hats", in reference to Trump's boast in a 2005 video — made public during his presidential campaign — about grabbing women's genitals.

"I wanted to have a regular show, but at the same time I thought that when I have a show my voice is louder, so I can use it for a good cause...to support the women march and movement, and for everybody who believes that we need to raise a voice for human rights," Angela Missoni told Reuters after the show.

The enormous industrial space used by Missoni for the show was dotted with the pink hats sitting on the audience's benches, as a gift to guests.



Models parade at the end of the Missoni Autumn/Winter 2017 women's collection during Milan's Fashion Week, in Milan, Italy, on 25 February 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I feel the need to recognize that in a time of uncertainty there is a bond that can keep us strong and safe, that unites those that respect all human rights. Let's show the world that the fashion world is united and fearless," Missoni said at the end of her show, on the fourth day of Milan's fashion week.

A huge photo of Italy's Monte Rosa — the pink mountain — dominated the hangar space used to showcase the autumn and winter 2017/18 collection.

The designer told Reuters that the mountain, which she sees every day from the windows of her home and the family-owned company, were an inspiration for the clothes, and represented both femininity and solidarity.

A note from the group said that Angela Missoni, at the helm of the fashion house for almost two decades, "communicates the femininity of our times, prepared to confront the conflicts and dilemmas of our contemporary society:

the conditions, needs and rights of all women and all minorities."

On Thursday Italian fashion house Prada brought to the catwalk designs that dwelled on the role of women in society but creative director Miuccia Prada said she did not want to talk politics and let clothes speak for her.

Milan fashion week runs until 27 February, with Marni, Dolce&Gabbana and Giorgio Armani set to showcase their collections in the next days. —Reuters

Murakami's 1st multi-volume novel in 7 yrs goes on sale

TOKYO — Avid fans of Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami flocked to bookstores in Japan early Friday to buy his first multivolume novel in seven years, which hit the shelves at midnight.

Some stores organized special sales events for "Kishidancho Goroshi" ("Killing Commendatore") for people eager to thumb through the novel soon after release, including Sanseido Co, which allowed customers to stay in its store in Tokyo's Jimbocho area overnight.

"I want to read as much as possible, though it will badly affect my work...I was drawn into the story in the first pages of the book," said a 56-year-old office worker based in Tokyo.

In Osaka's Dotombori downtown area, a Tsutaya store also organized a similar midnight campaign unveiling the novel on the count of three on a gigantic panel.

But people in Hokkaido were disappointed at an announcement by publisher Shinchosha Publishing Co. that the derailment of a freight train Thursday had caused a one-day delay in delivery of the Murakami novel.

Shinchosha said it is planning to print a total of 1.3 million copies of the novel, comprising two books. The pre-release figure is large for Japanese literature, with publication of first editions usually numbering in the several thousands.

Murakami, 68, one of Japan's best-known con-

temporary novelists, last released a multivolume novel, "1Q84," between 2009 and 2010.

Murakami accepted the Jerusalem Prize in 2009 for his "artistic achievements and love of people," becoming the first non-European-language writer to receive the Israeli literary prize.

Murakami's novel "Colourless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage" hit shelves in April 2013 and a collection of short stories titled "Onna no Inai Otokotachi" ("Men Without Women") was released in April 2014.

The publisher announced in late November that Murakami would release a new novel in February but did not disclose details at the time.

"We decided to keep the story secret considering the author's wish" to keep readers' minds clear of any advance knowledge, a Shinchosha official said.

An editor in the industry said, "It may be hard to expect many more full-fledged novels by Mr Murakami given his age."

Murakami debuted with a novel titled "Hear the Wind Sing" in 1979, which won him the Gunzo literature prize for up-and-coming writers. "Norwegian Wood," a 1987 novel named after a Beatles song that catapulted Murakami to fame in Japan and around the world, became a blockbuster hit. It tells of a college student's bittersweet coming of age in Tokyo in the 1960s.—Kyodo News



Customers take copies from a pile of Haruki Murakami's first multivolume novel in seven years, "Kishidancho Goroshi" (Killing Commendatore), at a Tokyo bookstore at midnight on 24 February 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

"Arab Idol" talent show win sends Palestinians into raptures

GAZA — Palestinians took to the streets to celebrate the victory of their compatriot Yaqoub Shaheen on Saturday in "Arab Idol", a hugely popular Middle East television talent show on the Dubai-based channel MBC1.

This year's final, filmed in Lebanon, was between a Yemeni, Ammar Mohammed, and two Palestinian competitors,

Shaheen from Bethlehem and Ameer Dandan from the town of Majd al-Krum in Israel but resident in the United States.

After he was named as the winner, Shaheen performed a patriotic song while wearing the Palestinian flag on his shoulders, singing the line: "My pledge and my oath, my blood is Palestinian".

In Gaza and in the

occupied West Bank thousands of people had filled restaurants and street coffee shops, many of them having reserved their seats in advance, in order to watch the final on large public screens.

"It is a national day. A national historic day for Palestine," said Mohammed Abu Ali, 40, sitting with his wife and three children in a cafe in Gaza

watching the final.

People watching the show in public hugged one another, cheered and whistled as Shaheen was named the 2017 Arab Idol.

Dozens of taxi drivers touring the streets across Gaza honked their horns and played some of the songs performed by the winning singer during the weeks-long programme. —Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(27-2-2017 07:00am ~ 28-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- The Making Procedure of Goldsmith
07:43	Am	Ko Phoe Shan & His Craft
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	The Longest Living Siblings (Part-2)
08:49	Am	A Star for Great Achievement
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Pole Star for the Blind
09:54	Am	Yoghurt Vendor
10:03	Am	News

10:27	Am	Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
10:39	Am	Oboist and His Life

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-3)(Part-1)
07:50	Pm	Yangon Markets: Da Nyin Gone Market
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes: Akha- Their Life and Customs (Part-1)
08:46	Pm	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- II)

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

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

Pacquiao to fight Britain's Khan in 'super fight'

MANILA — Multiple world champion Manny Pacquiao has agreed to fight Britain's Olympic silver medallist Amir Khan on 23 April, both boxers said on Sunday.

The 38-year-old Pacquiao had said four days ago that he and Khan's management were in discussions for the fight, despite an earlier announcement the Filipino's next bout would be against

Australia's Jeff Horn in Brisbane.

Pacquiao, however, had said that Horn was one of many possible opponents. "Negotiations between team Pacquiao and team Khan have come to terms for the 23 April bout as this is what the fans wanted," Pacquiao tweeted.

The 30-year-old Khan, who won silver as a lightweight at the Athens Olympics, has not fought since last May when he moved up

two weight classes to fight mid-leweight Canelo Alvarez.

The much bigger Mexican proved too powerful and the Briton was knocked out in the sixth round and he is likely to drop back to welterweight to fight Pacquiao, who holds the World Boxing Organization title at the weight.

"My team and I have agreed terms with Manny Pacquiao and

his team for a super fight," Khan said on his Twitter page.

Pacquiao won the WBO welterweight title last November against American Jessie Vargas in Las Vegas with an unanimous decision.

No venue for the fight was announced.—Reuters



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines celebrates after defeating Jessie Vargas of Las Vegas to become WBO welterweight champion at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, US on 5 November, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bayern destroy Hamburg 8-0 with Lewandowski hat-trick

BERLIN — Bayern Munich forward Robert Lewandowski scored a hat-trick as the Bundesliga leaders mercilessly obliterated Hamburg SV 8-0 on Saturday as coach Carlo Ancelotti celebrated his 1,000th game as manager.

The win kept Bayern five points clear at the top as they again inflicted on their opponents their heaviest league defeat.

The Pole, who has netted 19 times in the Bundesliga this season, struck twice in the first half and slotted in his third goal in the 54th minute after Arturo Vidal had put the hosts ahead in the 17th.

Strugglers Hamburg had been confident they would not be

the punch bags of past matches between the sides, having also lost 8-0 in Munich two years ago, and they had been unbeaten in their last three games.

But they looked shell-shocked as they conceded another goal by David Alaba in the 56th and substitute Kingsley Coman scored twice more within five minutes a little later.

Arjen Robben struck on the break as Hamburg again capitulated to the Bundesliga champions and current leaders.

"A perfect day, a perfect game," said Ancelotti. "The team played an outstanding game and I could not be happier."

"I told my players before the game that I wanted a good

match for my anniversary. I never thought it would be that good. I hope we show the same attitude in our next game."

Bayern never gave Hamburg a chance, making amends for their last-gasp 1-1 draw at Hertha Berlin last week.

They had 75 per cent possession in the first half alone and could have added to their tally with Lewandowski also hitting the woodwork.

"I think we did not win a single one-on-one throughout the entire first half," Hamburg keeper Rene Adler said. "It's just intolerable."

Second-placed RB Leipzig stayed five points off the pace after beating Cologne 3-1 to climb up to 48 points.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang ended his goal drought after 471 minutes to score twice as Borussia Dortmund tightened their hold on third place with a 3-0 victory at Freiburg.

Dortmund are on 40 points, three ahead of Hoffenheim who play Schalke 04 on Sunday.

Hertha Berlin beat 10-man Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 with goals from Vedad Ibisevic and Vladimir Darida in the second half to leapfrog their opponents into fifth place. Eintracht, two points behind in sixth, had Haris Seferovic sent off for elbowing an opponent. —Reuters



Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski scores goal during the German Bundesliga match between Bayern Munich and Hamburg SV at Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany on 25 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bodybuilding and pageants competition held to mark Union Day-2017



Dr Tha Zin Nwe, Professor of the University of Distance Education, honours Ma Yin Moe Aye. PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN

A bodybuilding and pageants competition was held to mark the Union Day 2017 in Yangon yesterday.

The competition held at the Aung San Gymnasium saw 35 body builders in the five categories for men and 10 pageants for the women event.

Ma Yin Moe Aye, who won the first in the senior women's category, was crowned as

the Miss Union while Maung Htet Lin, who won the first in the 70-kilo category, as the Mr Union.

The competition was conducted by the Myanmar Sports Writers' Federation.

Executives of the federation, juries and personnel of the companies which sponsored the competition presented prizes to the winners.—Saw Thein Win