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President U Htin Kyaw and wife, pay respects to head of Shwe Kyin Religious Order, receive advice from Sayadaws

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and wife paid respects to the head of the Shwe Kyin Religious Order Sayadaw receiving medical treatment at the Mandalay General Hospital and received advice

from Sayadaws from Sangha organizations at different levels yesterday afternoon.

President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin arrived in Mandalay by air from Nay

Pyi Taw, and paid respects to Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Agghiya, head of the Shwe Kyin Religious Order at the Intensive Care Unit in

Mandalay General Hospital accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Myint Htwe, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Cabinet,

U Aung Kyaw Oo, Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw, Major General Win Bo Shein, Commander of Central Command and donated offertories.

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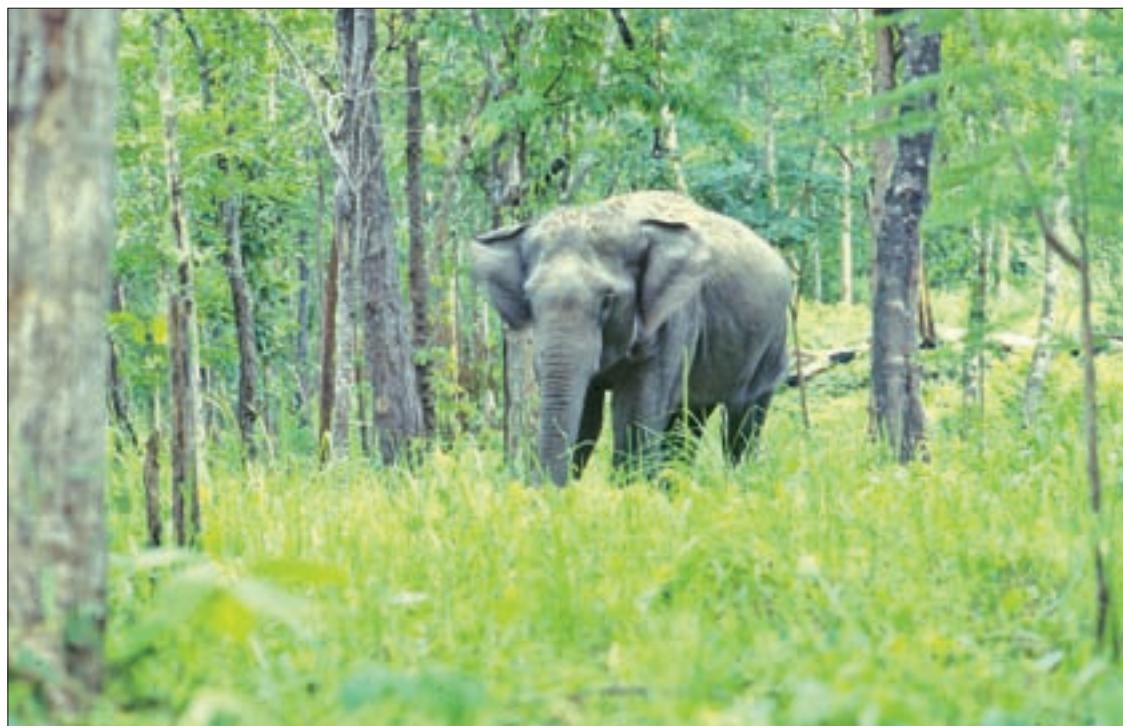
Protections for pachyderms finalised

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) has called for urgent action to reverse the decline in the wild elephant population of Myanmar, which are being killed at an increasing rate, while securing the future of the country's former timber-trade elephants.

These objectives have been outlined in the Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) — the country's first-ever plan for the conservation of this species developed through extensive consultation over the last 12 months and culminating in a workshop last week in Nay Pyi Taw.

The plan outlines priorities over the next 10 years to safeguard these iconic animals for future generations, including engaging the public in the control of illegal poaching, trade and consumption of elephants and their parts. The strategy is also designed to ensure Myanmar's laws and policies are consistent with international commitments such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

"Elephant conservation started with Myanmar's kings," said His Excellency U Ohn Win, Union Minister for MONREC. "The urgency now for elephant



Better hope for the future of this juvenile elephant in the wild. PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR

conservation action is due to the increasing killing of elephants for illegal trade in ivory and parts. The Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) is very important to support the long-term survival of Myanmar's elephants."

Myanmar is thought to be home to approximately 2,000 wild elephants, which are under increasing threat from poachers for their

ivory, their skin and other parts. The animals are also captured live and traded. Myanmar also has about 6,000 Asian elephants previously used in the timber industry. New measures to secure the future of these elephants are now required in face of the downsizing of the logging sector.

The MECAP effort, led by the Forest Department under MONREC, was developed in

collaboration with eight government departments and agencies, including the Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE), which is the largest owner of elephants in the country. The development process has been supported by numerous international and local experts and organisations including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF),

Fauna & Flora International (FFI), the International Elephant Foundation (IEF), Elephant Family, Friends of Wildlife and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI).

The number of elephants killed has increased dramatically since 2010, with 133 wild elephant deaths recorded over the last seven years, including 25 in 2016 alone.

"Habitat loss, poaching and human-elephant conflict are pressing threats to elephant conservation in Myanmar," said Dr. Simon Hedges, Elephant Coordinator at WCS. "This workshop and its resulting outcomes represent a significant achievement towards securing the future of Asian elephants."

"The Myanmar Government is seriously considering the recommendations of CITES to close its domestic ivory trade and to secure, register and manage our existing stockpiles of ivory," said U Win Naing Thaw, Director of the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD) of the Forest Department. "We also need additional support for the protection of elephants in the wild. This conservation plan for elephants is a great step forward, and we now have a solid foundation to address this vital issue in Myanmar."—GNLM/WCS



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

High-ranking military meet with soldiers on Coco Island

Vice Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) arrived on Coco Island Wednesday morning to inspect the progress of construction projects.

A jetty on the coast and a road to Kywet Island are in the process of being built, military officials said.

In the afternoon, Vice-Senior General met with departmental personnel and local people, inspecting the Coco Island's

general hospital to encourage patients receiving medical treatment.

In the evening Vice-Senior General Soe Win met with officers, rank-and-file soldiers and families. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice-Senior General Soe Win with officers inspect poultry on Coco Island. PHOTO: MNA

450 fined for driving without seat belts

AS MANY AS 450 drivers in Mandalay were each fined Ks30,000 for failing to wear a seat belt, according to local traffic police.

Beginning on the first day of the month, authorities are carrying out traffic rule enforcement in the region to reduce possible road accidents. Action is being taken against those who did not wear a seat belt while driving on the road, said Police Lt-Col Kan Thein from No. 3

Traffic Police Station.

According to the Motor Vehicle Law enacted in 2015, anyone found to have broken the prohibition related to failing to wear a safety belt while driving will be punished with a fine of not more than Ks30,000.

Prior to the programme, traffic police shared road safety knowledge and related laws, rules and regulations to the general public in sev-

en districts by conducting educative seminars and distributing pamphlets.

Seat belt usage reduces the chance of traffic-related fatalities by 45 per cent, studies show. In most cases, seat belts prevent ejection from the vehicle during a crash. Wearing a seat belt helps to minimise the body coming into contact with the interior of the vehicle, reducing injuries by half.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visits Britain's House of Commons



Pyithu Hluttaw speaker U Win Myint with Sir Edward Garnier are discussing legal affairs in London. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint, who is currently visiting the UK, met with Sir Edward Garnier, QC Barrister, MP, at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel in London Wednesday morning to discuss legal affairs.

Later, the delegation led by the speaker visited

The House of Commons to view parliamentary proceedings, including responses of the British prime ministers and cabinet members to queries raised by MPs. During the session of the lower house of the parliament, the speaker of the House of Commons and Prime Minister Mrs.

Theresa May formally extended greetings to the Myanmar delegation. The session was also attended by U Saw, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee and Hluttaw committee members. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Fallow and virgin land to be taken back in Mandalay

MANDALAY'S regional government will give back farmers over 50,000 acres of fallow and virgin land seized by the previous administration and given to businessmen for state projects, according to the Mandalay government.

"The businessmen were granted over 60,000 acres of land in Mandalay region by the previous government. We will take

back the land from the businessmen who failed to use them for business and give them back to the farmers," said Dr. Soe Than, Mandalay region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The move will hopefully end much of the acrimony over land grabs by the government in the name of development.

"We will take back

the fallow and virgin land which were granted under section 30 (B) for alternative uses. We will solve all the land problems within 2017," the minister added.

The land to be given back is mostly from Patheingyi, Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay and Nyaung U, according to the Mandalay region government.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar police chief receives deputy chief of Japanese Police

MYANMAR Police Forces Chief Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win met the deputy chief of the Japanese Police at Myanmar Police Force headquarters yesterday morning.

They discussed the promotion of cooperation between the two police forces, including investigation of crime prevention, the rule of law and cyber security. The

Japanese deputy police chief invited the Myanmar police chief to visit Japan to observe the capacity building of the Japanese Police.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw
Notification 3/2017
14th Waning of Pyatho, 1378 ME
(26 January, 2017)

Two Defence Services Personnel representatives substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law to substitute two Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following two Amyotha Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 2/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016 and the Notification 7/2016 of the commission dated 26-2-2016 with those shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representatives of Amyotha Hluttaw to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second multi-party general election held on 8 November 2015.

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) | BC 28693
Major Tin Aung Moe | BC 18399
Col Than Htay |
| (2) | BC 52277
Capt Min Min Thein | BC 18840
Col Ohn Cho |

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

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- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) | Navy 3797
Lt-Comdr Tint Lwin Soe | BC 17547
Col Soe Win |
| (2) | Navy 4038
Lt-Comdr Aye Min Soe | BC 19504
Col Nay Lin |
| (3) | Navy 4108
Lt-Comdr Thiha Zaw | BC 19546
Col Myint Cho |
| (4) | Navy 4111
Lt-Comdr Kyaw Thuya | BC 15191
Col Kyi Shwe |
| (5) | Air 2552
Major Nay Lin Aung | BC 17989
Col Khin Maung Cho |

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

President U Htin Kyaw and wife, pay respect to head of Shwe Kyin Religious Order, receive advice from Sayadaws

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Afterwards, the President and wife attended the ceremony to receive the words of advice and guidance from Reverend Sayadaws from religious orders held at the Great Convocation Hall of the Mandalay State Pariyatti Sasana University.

At the ceremony, President U Htin Kyaw supplicated the Sayadaws solemnly that he was very happy to pay respects to the Sayadaws and at the same time to receive words of advice. Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee preached a sermon, "Ways for kings to abide by to avoid destruction," and the Ten Kingly Code of Conduct of Kings.

Then, the President, his wife and party donated offertories to the Sayadaws.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw and wife, pay respect to the Sayadaws in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President U Myint Swe attends 68th Anniversary of India's Republic Day

U MYINT SWE, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay attended the 68th anniversary celebration reception of India's Republic Day, held at the residence of the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar in Yangon yesterday evening.

Present at the ceremony were U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of the Yangon Region Government, U Win Thein, Chief Minister of Bago Region, Lt General Tun Tun Naung of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) and wife, Brigadier General Myo Zaw Thein, Commander of Yangon Command, Ministers of Yangon Region Cabinet, Tatmataw officials, ambassadors from foreign embassies, military attaches and responsible officials from embassies, resident representatives of UN organizations and invited guests.

First of all, Vice President U Myint Swe and H.E. Mr Vikram Misri, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, took places on the platform and paid a salute to the

Indian and Myanmar national flags with the accompaniment of national anthems, followed by a greeting from the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar.

In his address, Vice President U Myint Swe said: "We not-

ed that there had been friendly relations between Myanmar and India since 4 January 1948. It is not necessary to specifically express that similarity in cultures and traditions between the two countries led to mutual consol-

idation. Besides, the two countries have strong desires for the peace, stability and development in our regions and in the world. I would happily like to recount recent state visits to the Republic of India, made by President U

Htin Kyaw, and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor. The visits have not only shown continued maintenance of bilateral friendly relations but also opening a new chapter of cooperation between the two countries. The two countries conducted themselves with good close ties in the regional and international arenas for years, based on similar experiences. Now we hope for increased cooperation in the sectors of transport, communication, education, science, technology, agriculture and culture. We greatly value the support and cooperation of the successive governments of the Republic of India in our efforts to rebuild our country. We wish the Republic of India further success in developing the country and we hope to have deeper relations between the two countries."

Then, the Vice President and the Indian ambassador to Myanmar posed for a documentary photo, together with those present at the ceremony. Afterwards, the Indian Ambassador and wife hosted a dinner for the Vice President and wife and invited guests.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe is welcomed by Indian Ambassador Mr Mr Vikram Misri. PHOTO: MNA

16 apartments for industrial zone workers completed

Ko Moe

OUT of 18 five-storey buildings planned for workers in the Shwe Linban Industrial Zone, 16 have been completed, according to the chairman of the industrial zone committee.

Construction of the building started in 2015. Apartments will be sold to through an instalment payment system.

U Aue Thaug said that all

the apartments in the housing complex for workers, over 1,000 flats, have been sold even before their construction was complete.

"Sixteen apartment buildings have been completed and foundations have been laid for the remaining two," he added.

The remaining apartment buildings will be completed before the next rainy season.

Only factory owners have been allowed to buy the apart-

ments, which are worth between Ks6 million to Ks9 million, to accommodate their workers. Buyers included garment factory owners and other factory owners including foreigners, who are not permitted to buy apartments in their names but manage to buy apartments in other people's names, according to the chairman of the industrial zone committee. A tax-free wet market and a clinic are also included in the project.

New 40-bed Sangha hospital to be built in Thaton

A new hospital in Sangha will be built in the compound of Thaton district general hospital at a cost of over Ks270 million, according to Thaton district officials.

"The previous Sangha hospital is very old. The roofs are also damaged. So, Sangha cannot stay at the the hospital any more. Therefore, we have tried very hard to build a modern hospital for three

or four years. We have been faced with great difficulty," said U Khin Shwe Thin, chairman of Thaton District Sangha Care Centre.

The new Sangha hospital will be 100 feet in length, 38 feet wide and 12 feet high. The two-storey Sangha hospital will cost Ks278.7 million and will be able to treat about 40 patients at a time.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Authorities to spend Ks60 billion to add more buses on YBS system

Ko Moe

YANGON Region government will spend Ks60 billion on buying new passenger buses to offer better transportation service to millions of commuters, said U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister.

Yangon Bus Service, the new public transport system, replaced an old private system that was fragmented, with the government planning to continue further improvements on the new system at a slow but steady speed, U Phyo Min Thein said.

He went on to say that the regional government is carrying out the development process by enhancing the involvement of bus owners in transforming the new system.

To control undisciplined drivers on public buses, the Yangon Region government is now arranging to install GPS navigation devices in YBS buses.

The country launched the new YBS system in the country's largest city on 16 January. The changes aim to reduce traffic jams and ensure operation of the bus service according to the system.

The government will revise the progress of the new system every three months, planning to turn the bus lines under the YBS system into public bus lines within this year. Afterward, CCTV cameras and a card system for paying fares will be installed in the buses.

The Yangon Region Transport Authority announced its



Commuters are waiting to take a bus at Sule bus-stop in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

plans to use 55 buses for short routes and over 100 buses for longer routes under the new programme.

The quality of the service of

the bus lines provided to passengers will be monitored and those who fail to abide by the rules will face legal action under the existing laws, rules and regulations.

The commercial capital of Yangon has a population of more than five million. About 2.5 million use the public transport service on a daily basis.

Crime NEWS

Elephant kills mahout in Mohnyin

U Nyo Oo, 30, an elephant mahout, was killed when he slipped and fell down from the elephant near Seven Mile Village, Hopin town, Mohnyin Township on Tuesday.

According to the investigation, the mahout fell down as he was trying to climb up the elephant. The elephant became agitated and squeezed him with his trunk.

The mahout was seriously injured and died shortly after he arrived at Hopin General Hospital.

U Nyo Oo is the third person who has been killed by the 38-year-old elephant, which was bought by Daw Win Tin in 2010. The elephant killed one mahout in 2012 and killed the son of the elephant owner in 2014. —*Salai Mang Ngai*

Adolescents killed in head-on crash on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road



PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

TWO teenage boys were killed in a head-on collision between a motorbike and a container car on Yangon-Mawlamyine Road in Paung Township in Mon State on Wednesday afternoon.

Police say the 15-year-old boys riding a motorbike crashed into an oncoming container car heading from Yangon to Mawlamyine in the middle of the road near Pankon Village on 25 January. Motorcyclist Zaw Naing Tun

with Myat Min Htet on board died on the spot from their serious injuries. They are both from Pankon Village, according to the police investigation.

U Ohn Hlaing, 50, the driver of the container car, who resides in Thaton Township, and the motorcyclist Zaw Naing Tun have been charged by Paung Myoma Police Station under Section 304 (A) of the Penal Code. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Pathein umbrellas in high demand from abroad

PATHEIN umbrellas continue to be in demand as one of the most favourite souvenirs for tourists and for use as gifts and cultural symbols in Myanmar.

Currently, about two-thirds of Pathein umbrellas are exported because of high demand from foreign countries, according to Pathein umbrella manufacturers and traders.

Pathein umbrellas are also ordered by hotels in Ngwehsaung,

Chaungtha and Ngapali beaches and also those in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi and Mawlamyine for decoration purposes. They are also ordered to be given as gifts at novitiation ceremonies, ear-piercing ceremonies and wedding receptions.

Moreover, Pathein umbrellas are in high demand from Magwe, Bago, Mawlamyine and Hpa-an as well as from Germany, France, New Zealand, Australia,

Italy and the US.

The prices of a pathein umbrella ranges between Ks2,000 and Ks100,000 depending on the size, design and texture. Pathein umbrellas are manufactured for monks, novices, nuns, ladies and children as well as for fashionable consumers.

The Pathein umbrella market in Pathein Township exports about 400 to 500 Pathein umbrellas to Germany every year.—200

Volunteers invited to help basic computer learners in Kawhmu Township

LOCAL technical associations are seeking four volunteers to teach a basic computer course to those in Kawhmu Township on the outskirts of Yangon.

The Yangon Region Computer Professionals Association and the Yangon Region Computer Entrepreneurs Association plan to conduct a four-month computing foundation course for beginners in Kawhmu Township through its mobile ICT learning center.

An official of the YRCPA

said accommodations and food for the volunteers would be available free of charge. They all will be provided Ks650,000 each for a four-month period as training fees plus an honourable certificate and recommendation letter. "I plan to apply for the project together with friends of mine to share basic computer skills to local learners without any digital experience," said Ko Aung Thu, a young man who has a Bachelor of Computer Science degree and wishes to get a certifi-

cate and recommendations from the organisers for his next job.

The four-month course will cover both theoretical and practical knowledge of Microsoft Windows 8 Operating System, MS Office 2010 (Word, Excel, Power Point) and basic knowledge on using the Internet.

Those interested may send applications to yrcpaoffice@gmail.com or call 01 652279 and 09 73088300 of the YRCPA no later than 4 p.m. on 1 February.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Talks on Health and Traffic rules held in Taungoo

JOINTLY organized by Information and Public Relations Department, Taungoo District Health Department, and No. 12 Traffic Police Unit, educational talks on Health and Traffic rule were held at the Taungoo District Public Library in Taungoo, Bago Region on 23 January.

At the talks, Township Health Officer Dr. Ei Ei Min Naung talked about means of prevention of filariasis and Health awareness while police captain Ohn Kyaw of No. 12 Traffic Police Unit stressed the importance of the need to wear helmets while riding on motor-

bike as well as traffic rules.

Members of Township Women's Affairs Committee, Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, administrators of Wards and Villages and villagers numbers about 50 attended the talks. —*Shwe Win (Pyay)*

LOCAL Business

KBZ and Visa launch new credit cards

Thura Lwin (Eco)

KANBAWZA Bank (KBZ), in partnership with Visa, the US global payments technology company, introduced two new credit cards on Wednesday, the first cards denominated in kyats, which will enable cardholders to buy goods at more than 40 million merchants in Myanmar, abroad and online.

The two types of Visa credit cards, Visa Classic and Visa Platinum, are equipped with both with Visa payWave contactless technology, allowing cardholders to “tap and pay” at Visa payWave-enabled point-of-sale terminals without the need of a signature for payment, in addition to the usual “swipe” or “insert” payment methods. The platinum card has higher spending and credit limits than the classic card.

The launching ceremony for the news credit cards was held at Melia Hotel in Yangon, with Director-General of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Thida Myo Aung, Chairman of KBZ Bank U Aung Ko Win, executive directors Daw Nang Lang Kham and Daw Nang Kham Naung and Group Country Manager, Southeast Asia, Visa Mr Rajiv Ramanathan.

Customers will be able to use the card to make purchases online or around the world at more than



With introduction of the new Visa credit cards by KBZ Bank and Visa, customers will be able to use the card at more than 40 million outlets that accept Visa worldwide. PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)

40 million outlets that accept Visa worldwide, including 7,000 in Myanmar, and to withdraw cash up to a certain limit determined individually.

“Today is the beginning of an exciting new era of a cashless society. We fully believe that the KBZ Visa Credit Card will certainly contribute to development of the socio-economy of the people of Myanmar and boosting the country’s economy,” said U Than Cho, Vice-Chairman-2 of the KBZ Bank.

KBZ Bank has encouraged customers to use the cards re-

sponsibly, promising that it will be on hand to offer advice through its branches and call centres.

It is also running its #KBZCreditSmart campaign on how to be responsible with credit cards and maximise the benefits offered through their proper use. This communications platform designed by the bank educates customers on how to avoid debt and get the most value from their card.

If people pay back their entire balance on time, they will not incur any interest or late pay-

ment fees.

KBZ Bank, the Myanmar’s largest taxpayer for five consecutive years, has achieved several awards for banking awarded by international institutions from 2013 to 2016. It has opened its representative offices in Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

With establishment of the KBZ Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, the bank has carried out philanthropic works nationwide, especially, in education, health, social and disaster preparedness and rehabilitation sectors.

Garment enterprises can soon apply for import licenses online

IMPORT licenses for garment enterprises will soon to be available online, according to an announcement released by the Directorate of Trade.

To test this system for garment enterprises, ten garment companies were experimentally approved via the online system. Concerted efforts are now being exerted to issue import licenses for all the garment enterprises through an online system in the future, it is learnt.

In a bid to achieve a fully online licensing system for garment raw materials import, the trade department is linking with the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association.

The online import/export licensing system was launched by the Ministry of Commerce on 7 Jun 2016.

Export from garment industry fetched US\$1.65billion in 2015, whereas it hit over US\$2billion in 2016, according to the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association. Myanmar garment enterprises use Cutting-Making and Packing (CMP) system, with orders received mostly from European Union countries and Japan, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Trade deficit of over US\$ 3,950 million as of 20th January

THERE is a trade deficit of US\$3,956.866million as of 20 January in this fiscal year, with export values of US\$8.8billion and import values of US\$12.79billion, according to the statistics of the Commerce Ministry.

The trade balance is in deficit when imports exceed exports. External trade value from 1 April to 20 January in this fiscal year amounted to US\$21.6million, which is up from US\$21.5million in last fiscal year.

The government is trying to reduce the trade deficit by scrutinising the import, except for essential items, according to the second five-year National Development Plan. Therefore, the import value this year was down by \$481.658million compared to that of the last fiscal year. Import values were \$5,120.245mil for capital goods, \$4,592.233mil

for raw industrial materials and \$3,083.033 for personal goods respectively.

The export value as of 20th January was up by \$525.702mil compared to last year. Out of seven export groups, manufacturing goods earned the highest at \$4billion, however, that figure is down by \$466.592mil compared to that in the similar period of last year.

Similarly, the export value of minerals was down by \$140.343million against that of last year. However, the remaining exports managed to boost their export values, with export values of \$2.2billion from agricultural products, \$7.585mil from animal products, \$430.864mil from fisheries products, \$190.405mil from forest products and \$1,259.205mil from other products, according to the Commerce Ministry.—*Ko Htet*

Myanmar’s rubber price falling slightly in late January

WITH the global rubber price dropping slightly, Myanmar’s rubber price is decreasing from Ks1,200 to around Ks1,120 per pound in the last week of January.

The decline in the exchange rate of US dollar and the global rubber price resulted in the fall in Myanmar’s rubber price. Myanmar’s rubber market has remained steady with regular buy-

ers and sellers. The good price of rubber prompted rubber growers to resume their businesses, which had been forced to shut down due to the low price in past years. As a result, the number of rubber growers rose this year, said U Khaing Myint, the secretary of Myanmar’s Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

The global rubber price was

about US\$2,600 per tonne in the third week of January, whereas the price slipped to around US\$2400 in the last week of Jan.

Myanmar’s rubber price hit its lowest point of Ks480 per pound in 2015 and 2016. There are over 1.6 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar. China is the main buyer of Myanmar’s rubber.—*Myitmakha News agency*

SMIDB and KBZ under discussion to offer CGI system

SMALL and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) and Kanbawza Bank are discussing loan plans for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) under the Credit Guarantee Insurance system, according to the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection.

Currently, CB is offering CGI system to SME entrepreneurs through its link with Myanma Insurance. SMIDB and KBZ are also interested in this loan

plan to offer, it is learnt.

Firms providing credit guarantee insurance will take into account the reputation of a company in establishing payment.

The Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection asked for banks to loan SME entrepreneurs under the CGI system. However, only eight out of 503 businessmen were found to have access to a loan plan in conformity with the rules of the banks.

Previously, SME businessmen had to take out a mortgage to take out loans. The CGI system, on the basis of a business plan, was introduced in favour of the businessmen who had difficulty in securing mortgage.

An interest rate of 13 per cent is paid for under the CGI system, with no mortgage necessary, with a premium rate of 3 per cent a year. A maximum of Ks20million in one year can be borrowed.—200

Japan ranks 2nd among top three investors in Indonesia

JAKARTA — Japan ranked second among top three investors in Indonesia last year, up from third place in the previous year, a senior government official said on Wednesday.

Thomas Lembong, chairman of the Investment Coordinating Board, told a press conference that the realization of Japan's investment in the country rose by 88 per cent from \$2.87 billion in 2,030 projects in 2015 to \$5.4 billion in 3,302 projects in 2016.

He said Japan is currently eyeing more infrastructure megaprojects, such as the revitalization of the existing 725-kilometer medium-speed railway network linking two largest business hubs of Jakarta and Surabaya with a total value of 80 trillion rupiah (about \$6 billion).

Indonesia offered the railway project to Japan after the latter lost out to China in September 2015 in bidding to construct a high-speed railway between Indonesia's capital and the West Java provincial capital Bandung.

Lembong said that like Japan, China's investment in Indonesia has been

rocketing.

China ranked third after Singapore and Japan among the top three investors with a total investment of \$2.66 billion, jumping by 324 per cent from \$628.34 million at the ninth position in the previous year.

The top investment official said China had mainly invested in smelter and power plant businesses.

"No wonder if China will be the biggest investor in Asia and the Pacific," he said.

Last year, the total realization of domestic and investment in Indonesia reached its highest record ever with a total value of \$46.07 billion in which foreign investment represented 64.7 per cent of the total.

Singapore remained as the biggest investor last year with a total investment of \$9.2 billion or 31.7 per cent of the total foreign investment. In fourth place was Hong Kong, followed by the Netherlands.

Indonesia, Lembong said, is now targeting \$50.97 billion and \$62.85 billion in domestic and foreign investments this year and next year, respectively.—*Kyodo News*

China eyes stabilising role in call with Germany's Merkel

SHANGHAI — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has called for China and Germany to play a leading role to ensure the stability of international markets amid an "uncertain" global political and economic climate, the official Xinhua news agency said late on Wednesday.

During a call with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the Chinese premier said "international political and economic scenes are facing several uncertain factors," Xinhua reported.

"China and Germany should send stable signals to the global markets and jointly safeguard the existing international system through trade and investment liberalisation," Xinhua said, citing Li.

Amid a turbulent start by new US President Donald Trump, whose first days have been marked by media feuds and protests, China has been playing up its role as a steadying force from global trade to climate change.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, as a keynote speaker at the World Economic Forum in Davos,



Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) chats with China's Premier Li Keqiang during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on 13 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Switzerland, also offered a vigorous defence of globalisation and signalled Beijing's desire to play a bigger role on the world stage.

Meanwhile, Trump, who took office last Friday, has already signed an order withdrawing the

United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact and threatened trade curbs, including a border tax on cars that Germany's BMW plans to build at a new factory in Mexico.

Li also said China would continue as a

"staunch supporter" of European integration, amid growing pressure on the bloc following a referendum vote in Britain last year to leave the European Union. Trump has said Brexit could be a "great thing". —*Reuters*

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

South Korea to boost economic cooperation with China amid THAAD concerns

SEOUL — Worried that Beijing is punishing it over plans to deploy a US anti-missile system, South Korea on Thursday said it will look to improve communication and cooperation with China to resolve difficulties faced by South Korean companies there.

The South Korean government will expand meetings with local businesses doing trade with or in China and engage Chinese officials more frequently in international meetings, South Korea's finance ministry said in a statement released after a regular government meeting on external economic conditions.

Beijing strongly objects to South Korea's decision last year to allow the United States to base a Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile battery in the country, worried that the system's powerful radar can penetrate its territory.

South Korea and the United States say THAAD is only intended to curb the missile threat from North Korea.

Beijing is widely believed in South Korea to be retaliating over THAAD, including discriminating against some of its companies and cancelling performances by Korean artists without explanation.

"These measures could not have come out of thin air," a senior finance ministry official, who was not authorised to speak with the media and declined to be identified, told Reuters.

"It's on everyone's minds right now."

Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho has said the government was looking into whether China's recent rejections for South Korean charter flight applications was related to the THAAD deployment.

On Thursday, he said uncertainties linked to Chi-

na, South Korea's biggest trading partner, could pose a threat to Asia's fourth-largest economy.

Kang Chang-beom, vice president at South Korean battery maker LG Chem Ltd, said in a Thursday earnings presentation that plans were under way to minimise the risk from China as much as possible, such as exporting batteries that it makes in China to offset declining sales there. "I think there's a risk the Chinese government's discriminatory measures against foreign companies will continue for the time being because of political issues," he said.

On Tuesday, renowned South Korean soprano Sumi Jo said on her Twitter account that her China tour had suddenly been cancelled after two years of preparations. It had been China that had initially invited her to perform, she said. "It is greatly unfortunate that conflict between

countries is now interfering with pure culture and arts," said Jo.

Beijing has not confirmed whether such actions were linked to the anti-missile system deployment and Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Wednesday she did not know anything about the Sumi Jo issue.

"As for people-to-people exchanges, we have consistently supported China and other countries having friendly people-to-people exchanges, as we think that these exchanges and the deepening of friendships are very important to developing relations between countries," she said.

"But under these circumstances, we hope South Korea can attach importance to China's serious concerns and create even better conditions for normal people to people exchanges between the two countries." —*Reuters*

Panasonic India's new washing machine designed to remove curry stains



Supplied photo shows the control panel of a fully automatic washing machine sold by Panasonic Corp.'s India subsidiary with a specialized course to remove curry stains. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

NEW DELHI — Panasonic Corp.'s India subsidiary has begun selling fully automatic washing machines with a specialized course to remove curry stains, according to the company.

With this unique feature, a first in India, Panasonic India hopes to expand its market share in this growing market.

Although Panasonic has sold washing machines in India before now, consumers had complained that persistent curry stains could

not be completely removed with detergents in common use.

So the Japanese manufacturer began working a new and improved product.

It tapped Indian cuisine experts to analyze ingredients of curry dishes in each region and then set up a joint Japan-India team that spent about two years

studying water temperature, water flow and washing times suitable for removing curry and other stains. The price of the new prod-

uct is about 22,000 to 28,500 rupees (\$323-\$418), about 10 per cent higher than that of a conventional washing machine.

Including the curry stain removal course, it has a total of five courses corresponding to stains unique to India, such as hair oils.

The penetration rate of washing machines in India is as low as 10 per cent. Curry is a popular food in Japan, but the new product is not expected to be released in the country.—*Kyodo News*

US defence chief to visit South Korea next week on 1st overseas trip

SEOUL — US Secretary of Defence James Mattis will officially visit South Korea next week on his first overseas trip since the Trump administration took office last week.

Seoul's defence ministry said Thursday that Defence Minister Han Min-koo will hold a meeting on 2 February with the visiting US defence chief who is scheduled to make a two-day trip through 3 February.

Mattis' visit reflects the importance of the Korean Peninsula and the Asia-Pacific region, the firm South Korea-US alliance and the iron US commitment to the bilateral defence treaty, the Seoul ministry said.

It would mark the first time for the Pentagon head to pick South Korea as the first overseas destination.

The US defence chief may raise the issue of shortage in Seoul's financial contribution to US forces stationed in South Korea.

During the 2016 campaign, US President Donald Trump said South Korea should pay

more for over 28,000 US troops in its soil, the legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War.

The two defence ministers will talk about possible missile launches by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un said in his New Year's Day speech that his country had entered the final stage in preparations to test-fire a long-range ballistic rocket.

Issues possibly on the agenda would be the US missile shield deployment in South Korea, which the two countries agreed upon in July last year.

The agreement to deploy Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) in southeastern South Korea by the end of this year triggered strong oppositions from China and Russia as its X-band radar can peer into territories of the two nations.

Following the South Korea trip, Mattis is set to travel to Japan for a two-day visit to one of the two US allies in Northeast Asia.—*Xinhua*

Plans to remove nuclear fuel at Fukushima delayed again — Nikkei

TOKYO — A plan to remove spent nuclear fuel from Tokyo Electric Power Co Holdings Inc's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant hit by the March 2011 tsunami has been postponed again due to delays in preparation, the Nikkei business daily reported on Thursday.

Work is now set to begin in fiscal 2018 at the earliest, the Nikkei said. Removal of the spent fuel from the No. 3 reactor was originally scheduled in the first half of fiscal 2015, and later revised to fiscal 2017 due to high levels of radioactivity around

the facilities, the Japanese business daily reported.

The timeline has been changed again as it was taking longer than expected to decontaminate buildings and clean up debris, the news agency reported.

The report comes a few months after the Japanese government said in October the cost of cleaning up the Fukushima plant may rise to several billion dollars a year, adding that it would look into a possible separation of the nuclear business from the utility.—*Reuters*



A member of the media, wearing a protective suit and a mask, looks at the No. 3 reactor building at Tokyo Electric Power Co's (TEPCO) tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, Japan in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

India displays military might at Republic Day parade

NEW DELHI — India displayed its military might and cultural heritage Thursday at a grand parade in the heart of the national capital to mark the country's 68th Republic Day.

The parade was witnessed by President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who was the

chief guest at this year's Republic Day ceremony.

A flypast by Indian Air Force choppers marked the commencement of the parade. Subsequently, a number of contingents from three wings of the Indian armed forces — the Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force — marched past the parade.

For the first time, a contingent of the elite National Security Guard (NSG), which guards

the country's VIPs and stages high-security operations, took part in the parade in its black gear and gave President Mukherjee a ceremonial salute.

The NSG's anti-hijacking van — Sherpa — a bulletproof armored vehicle that can withstand powerful explosions and can be driven underwater — also made its debut at the parade.

The parade also saw India showcasing its indigenous mili-

tary aircraft and missiles as three Tejas light combat aircraft flew past at a height of 300 metres. The display was followed by the Indian Army's missile firing capability T-90 Bhisma tank and mobile launcher of BrahMos missiles.

The eye-catching display was by the daredevils on motorbikes who showcased their talent and skill by doing acrobatics on moving bikes on Rjapath, where

the parade took place.

As a special gesture, a military contingent of the United Arab Emirates also marched at the grand parade, becoming the first to participate in such an event in India.

The 149-member contingent from the UAE comprised of personnel from Presidential Guards, the Air Force, the Navy, and the Army.—*Xinhua*

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Some Facebook users are corrupting the Myanmar language before we are aware of it

Khin Maung Oo

EVERY country has its own characteristics: culture, customs and traditions, language, art and literature. Undeniably, these make us distinguishable from others. Socially-unacceptable ideas and habits disappear naturally. But we need to keep our own image. Our nation owes its existence to the determined efforts of our ancestors to maintain these characteristics, of which the language is an important factor. Here I would like to express my emphatic regret about our mother tongue, "Myanmar Language." As a layman holding conventional views, I would not like to see our mother tongue deteriorating.

Like any other living language, new words including invented ones are coming into our Myanmar language. Concurrently, outdated, unacceptable and derogatory words are disappearing from our everyday expressions. And we, especially youths are eager to create

new avant-garde words. Among them are some nonsensical words. Youths are spreading these meaningless words via Facebook, for example—သယ်ရင်း for သူငယ်ချင်း which is meant for "friend", and ဘဝ for ဘဝ which is meant for "life". It takes a country time to develop its language to the present state. All researchers who have studied the origin and development of the Myanmar script know that its source was the Brahmi script which flourished in India from about 500 B. C. to over 300 A. D. The relationship and similarity between characters and letters forms suggests that there is no denying that Myanmar script had its source in Brahmi. The earliest Myanmar writing is from the Bagan period of the 11th and 12th centuries. Now I am highlighting these so as to convince our Myanmar youths that our well-established Myanmar language is a national heritage gained through the arduous efforts of our forefathers. All of

us, including the authorities, scholars, writers, mass media and Myanmar language lovers urgently need to persuade our youths to learn to admire the prestigious Myanmar language, and not to fall into bad habits.

Such nonsensical invented words are now popularly used by youths on their Facebook pages and in their conversations. To your great sorrow and fear, you will find that ညီလေး meant for brother turned into ညေး meant for nothing; ခလေး meant for child turned into ခေး meant for nonsense; မင်္ဂလာဆောင် meant for wedding turned into မင်္ဂါဆောင်; ကိုယ့်ဘာသာကိုယ် meant for "by oneself" turned into ကွကိုယ်; မုန့်တင်းခါး meant for the name of our Myanmar traditional food turned into မွင်းဂါး. For fear of taking time to recount these words, I will stop mentioning these.

All living languages have many adopted words, as has our Myanmar language. All

have the right to invent words. For example, many of us are aware that လေနုသွေး and ဝန်းနုရောင်—these words were invented by Sayar Dagon Taryar from the English words, breeze and pale pink. Sayar did not use these words randomly. As known by us, Myanmar language is said to be a mono-syllable one, so each and every one of the syllables has its particular meaning. We are ready and willing to accept youths who wish to be avant-garde, but I want them to invent words systematically, but concurrently I would like them to be careful, so as not to destroy our Myanmar language intentionally.

It is heartening to see the Nobel Literary Festival, literary talks, and nice programs such as Readers' Channel. We hope that the authorities concerned would make necessary arrangements to prevent nonsensical invented words from replacing our deep-rooted words from our Myanmar language.

Proactive Policies

Kyaw Win (Labour)

REACTIVE Labour Policy is policy developed in response to a problem, or emergency. Proactive Labour Policy is designed to prevent a problem, or emergency from occurring. That was, in a nutshell, the understanding of the nature of labour policies at the International Course on Labour and Social Policy attended by the writer in 1977 in the International Labour Organization building in Geneva, Switzerland. In fact, it may be said that the concepts are valid, not only for labour policies but for all policies. Proactive policies may be explicit or embedded in the relevant laws. Below is a presentation of the concept of proactive policies in relation to present happenings in Myanmar.

In times of economic development, especially in developing countries, there is always internal migrations of labour as job opportunities as well as better wages become available in the manufacturing and service industries that develop around major urban regions. This is only natural as every person seeks to better his or her life and the lives of their families. However a heavy influx of

people into the major urban areas, if not properly managed, can lead to rapid increases in population of the urban areas and cause disruptions as to housing, transportation, sanitation and also create unemployment problems. All this may pose problems for the urban authorities and be a source of concern to the regular residents.

Under the 2008 Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, "Every citizen shall have the right to settle and reside in any place within the Republic of the Union of Myanmar according to law". Any person wanting to move to and settle whether permanently or temporarily should abide by the laws relating to such residency, whether for work or doing business or for other reasons. According to recent news, 80% of Yangon Region population growth during the last five years was due to internal migration from the districts, smaller towns and villages.

Migrating to a fast developing urban area without thinking of where to work and live, and squatting on any piece of vacant land any where in the said urban area is illegal. Inevitably, there will arise problems of water and

sanitation that impact unfavorably on public health. If such migrants are a source of labour to the employers, then the employers, whether collectively or on their own, should arrange affordable accommodation for them. Perhaps the housing development plan under the new Social Security Law to which the employers and employees contribute could, in the future, make available housing for workers close to the Industrial Zones. That would solve some of the workers' accommodation and transportation problems.

As has been the stipulation under the existing labour law concerned, all job seekers are to register themselves at the free labour exchanges of the Department of Labour. In turn, as is prescribed under the same labour law, every employer covered by the law should only hire workers who are registered as job seekers at the labour exchanges. This 'proactive policy' embedded in the law should perhaps be more effectively enforced for systematic placement of job seekers.

Similar situation is seen regarding external labour migration to other countries. From recent news, it seems that about

4.25 million people born in Myanmar have emigrated, many perhaps permanently. Bulk of the labour migration is from the 'rural areas' of the various States and Regions. From the human resources point of view, if external migration (emigration) is not managed properly, it will negatively impact on Myanmar's workforce. Sooner or later there will be shortage of workers to work the fields, or engage in agro and fishery occupations. Thus far it seems that there are many illegal "Overseas Employment Agencies" engaged in sending workers abroad.

Management of labour migration is embedded in the Overseas Employment Law of 1999. It is designed to license "Overseas Employment Service Agencies" and regulate them to effectively manage overseas employment. But many of these "Agencies" seem not to abide by the rules and procedures for recruiting and sending the workers, so that there are far more 'undocumented' Myanmar workers working abroad than there are those legally sent by the law abiding agencies. The law should be more effectively implemented to apprehend and penalize the "illegal" senders of Myanmar workers for overseas employment.

Regarding workers sent on a Government to Government basis, perhaps there should be one

single organization such as an "Overseas Employment Corporation" responsible for undertaking all G to G overseas employment of Myanmar workers. This is the practice in most labour sending countries and it will result in better management of G to G overseas workers sending process. Also the "fee" charged by the Corporation for services rendered could be regulated and 'family remittances' of the workers through formal banking channels could be better managed as well.

As for child labour, which is being much discussed nowadays, there are 'proactive policies' embedded in the relevant laws relating to the Child and child labour that have been in force for many years. Much of 'child labour' emanates from the poorer families in the rural areas. There is the general 'belief' that the employers are 'helping' with the economic difficulties of the parents/guardians of the children. In fact no employer or parent or guardian for whatever reasons, may deprive a child of its right to education. That's the reason why the laws relating to the Child and child labour were enacted in the first place. Now that primary basic education is free and compulsory, it's the duty of the parents/guardians and the concerned authorities to see that children of school age receive at least primary basic education for their better future.

Russia says British military staging 'show' with Channel escort

MOSCOW — Russia on Thursday said the British government was staging a show by escorting a Russian aircraft carrier through the English Channel designed to distract attention away from the shortcomings of the British navy.

Royal Air Force Typhoon jets and a Royal Navy frigate escorted the Admiral Kuznetsov on Wednesday as it returned from a mission off Syria to its base in northern Russia. British Defence Minister Michael Fallon described the Russian vessel as a “ship of

shame” for its role in Moscow’s Syria operation and said his armed forces were watching it closely to protect British national security.

“The aim of such statements, and the kind of show being played out with the escort of our ships, is to distract the attention of British tax payers from the real state of the British Royal Navy,” said Igor Konashenkov, spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry.

“Firstly, Russian naval vessels don’t need senseless escort services. They know their nav-

igating channel and heading,” Konashenkov said in a statement.

“Secondly, I would advise Mr Fallon to devote more attention to the British navy, especially since, as the English press recently noted, there are grounds for doing that.” The Russian defence ministry’s statement referred to media reports that a test-firing of a missile from a British submarine off Florida last year had gone wrong, with the missile veering off course towards the United States.

—Reuters



RAF Typhoons monitor Russian warships Pyotr Velikiy and the Admiral Kuznetsov (rear) as they pass close to UK territorial waters, in this photograph released in London, on 25 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump moves ahead with wall, puts stamp on US immigration, security policy

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Wednesday ordered construction of a US-Mexican border wall and punishment for cities shielding illegal immigrants while mulling restoring a CIA secret detention programme as he launched broad but divisive plans to reshape US immigration and national security policy.

A draft executive order seen by Reuters that Trump is expected to sign in the coming days would block the entry of refugees from war-torn Syria and suspend the entry of any immigrants from Muslim-majority Middle Eastern and African countries Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Libya and Yemen while permanent rules are studied.

Less than a week into his presidency, Trump has moved aggressively to put his stamp on a range of policies, including steps to gut the healthcare system devised by his predecessor, and make clear that as president he is not turning toward more moderate positions than he took as a candidate.

His directives on Wednesday signaled a tough action toward the roughly 11 million illegal immigrants already in the United States, most from Latin America,

whom he already has threatened to deport. In a move critics called a slight to the integrity of American democracy, Trump also said on Wednesday he would seek a “major investigation” into what he believes was voter fraud in the November election, despite overwhelming consensus among state officials, election experts and politicians that it is rare in the United States.

“We are going to restore the rule of law in the United States,” Trump told an audience that included relatives of people killed by illegal immigrants at the Department of Homeland Security after signing two executive orders. The directives ordered the construction of a multibillion-dollar wall along the roughly 2,000-mile (3,200-km) US-Mexico border, moved to strip federal funding from “sanctuary” states and cities that harbor illegal immigrants, and expanded the force of American immigration agents.

His plans prompted an outcry from immigrant advocates and Democratic lawmakers who said Trump was jeopardizing the rights and freedoms of millions of people while treating Mexico as an enemy, not an ally, and soiling America’s historic reputation as a

welcoming place for immigrants of all stripes.

“The border wall is about political theater at the expense of civil liberties,” said Christian Ramirez, director of the Southern Border Communities Coalition immigrant advocacy group.

“It is not national security policy. Border communities are among the safest in the nation, and patrolling them with tens of thousands of heavily armed, poorly trained, unaccountable agents puts lives at risks. This will turn these communities into de facto military zones,” Ramirez said.

The White House said the wall would stem the flow of drugs, crime and illegal immigration into the United States. “We are in the middle of a crisis on our southern border: The unprecedented surge of illegal migrants from Central America is harming both Mexico and the United States,” Trump said, adding: “A nation without borders is not a nation.” The immigration crackdown has sparked fear among so-called “dreamers,” whose parents brought them to the United States illegally and who received temporary deportation relief and work permits from President Barack Obama.—Reuters

UN Secretary-General’s Message on The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust

27 January 2017

Today, we honour the victims of the Holocaust, an incomparable tragedy in human history.

The world has a duty to remember that the Holocaust was a systematic attempt to eliminate the Jewish people and so many others.

It would be a dangerous error to think of the Holocaust as simply the result of the insanity of a group of criminal Nazis. On the contrary, the Holocaust was the culmination of millennia of hatred, scapegoating and discrimination targeting the Jews, what we now call anti-Semitism.

Tragically, and contrary to our resolve, anti-Semitism continues to thrive. We are also seeing a deeply troubling rise in extremism, xenophobia, racism and anti-Muslim hatred. Irrationality and intolerance are back.

This is in complete contrast to the universal values enshrined in the United Nations Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We can never remain silent or indifferent when human beings are suffering.

We must always defend the vulnerable and bring tormentors to justice.

And as the theme of this year’s observance highlights, a better future depends on education.

After the horrors of the 20th century, there should be no room for intolerance in the 21st. I guarantee you that as Secretary-General of the United Nations, I will be in the frontline of the battle against anti-Semitism and all other forms of hatred.

Let us build a future of dignity and equality for all — and thus honour the victims of the Holocaust who we will never allow to be forgotten.—UNIC/Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil yellow fever outbreak kills 40

BRASILIA — Public health officials in Brazil are working to stop an outbreak of yellow fever that has killed at least 40 people from becoming an epidemic and urged people in nine states on Thursday to seek vaccinations.

The Health Ministry said 70 cases of the fever and 40 deaths have been confirmed in the outbreak, centred in rural areas of the state of Minas Gerais, and another 47 deaths and 368 suspect cases are under investigation.

That is up from just seven cases last year and the highest number since 2003.—Reuters

EU could fall apart if populists win Dutch, French elections — Germany’s Gabriel

BERLIN — German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel warned on Thursday that the European Union could fall apart if populists in France or the Netherlands win in elections this year.

“The French presidential elections this spring are bitter fateful elections for Europe,” Gabriel told the Bundestag lower house of parliament.

He added: “After Brexit last year, if enemies of Europe manage again in the Netherlands or in France to get results then we face the threat that the largest civilization project of the 20th century, namely the European Union, could fall apart.”—Reuters

Some 50 fishermen trapped on ice in Russia’s Far East

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia) — Nearly 50 fishermen were trapped Thursday on floating ice in Russia’s Far East city of Vladivostok after the chunk they were sitting on drifted away from shore, the city’s press service reported.

“At this moment Vladivostok’s emergency service has begun the rescue operation at the bay of Fyodorov. Emergency service staff have already come to the area of the accident with an airboat,” the press service said in a release seen at about 0800 GMT.

The winter season often sees many locals taking to the ice for fishing, with reports of deaths from such activities every year.

The city’s emergency department said earlier this week that 26 January and 27 January are dangerous for ice fishing, but it appeared the dozens stranded simply ignored the warning.—Xinhua

Facing jihadist attack, Syrian rebels join bigger faction

BEIRUT — Syrian Islamist rebel group Ahrar al-Sham said on Thursday six other rebel factions had joined its ranks in northwestern Syria in order to fend off a major assault by a powerful jihadist group.

The hardline Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, once allied with al Qaeda and formerly known as the Nusra Front, attacked Free Syrian Army (FSA) groups west of Aleppo this week, accusing them of conspiring against it at peace talks in Kazakhstan this week.

Ahrar al-Sham, which presents itself as a mainstream Sunni Islamist group, sided with the FSA groups and said Fateh al-Sham had rejected mediation attempts. The Ahrar statement said that any attack on its members of was tantamount to a “declaration of war”, and it would not hesitate to confront it.

Reuters could not immediately reach any of the groups in question.

Ahrar al-Sham is considered a terrorist group by Moscow and did not attend the Russian-backed Astana peace talks. But it said it would support FSA factions that took part if they secured a favourable outcome for the opposition.



A rebel fighter from the Ahrar al-Sham Islamic Movement reacts as they fire grad rockets from Idlib countryside, towards forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad stationed at Jureen town in al-Ghab plain in the Hama countryside, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The attack by Fateh al-Sham had threatened to wipe out the FSA groups which have received

backing from countries opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, including Gulf Arab states, Turkey

and the United States. While Jabhat Fateh al-Sham has often fought in close proximity to FSA rebels

against Assad, it also has a record of crushing foreign-backed FSA groups.—Reuters

Six shot during vigil for gunshot victim in Chicago — media

WASHINGTON — A 12-year-old girl was among six people shot on Wednesday evening during a vigil in Chicago for a gunshot victim, local media said, the day after US President Donald Trump threatened federal intervention to tackle gun violence in the city.

The shooting occurred at a restaurant in the Greater Grand Crossing neighbourhood, where people were gathered to mourn the death of Jamayah Fields, 20, who was shot and killed on Monday, the Chicago Tribune reported.

A gang found out about the memorial event on social media and targeted someone who was attending, community activist Jedidiah Brown told the newspaper.

The six people shot were all being treated at local hospitals, a Chicago Police Department spokesman said.

A 16-year-old boy shot in the neck was in serious condition. The other five were stable, including the 12-year-old girl who suffered a graze wound to her head.

No one was in custody for

the shooting, the spokesman said.

Chicago, with a population of 2.7 million, registered more shootings and homicides last year than any other US city, according to FBI and Chicago police data, and its murder clearance rate — a measure of solved and closed cases — is one of the country's lowest.

Trump said on Tuesday he would “send in the Feds” to quell the “carnage” of gun violence in the city if local officials failed to curb the murder rate on their own.—Reuters

US Congress member met with Assad in Syria, discussed peace — CNN



Tulsi Gabbard, Democratic Representative from Hawaii. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Democratic US Representative Tulsi Gabbard said on Wednesday she met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Syria and discussed the possibility of achieving peace.

The Hawaii Democrat told CNN in an interview that during her four-day visit, she wanted to get a first-hand view of the suffering of the Syrian people.

She said she met with Assad because “we’ve got to be able to meet with anyone that we need to if there is a possi-

bility that we could achieve peace, and that’s exactly what we talked about.”

Gabbard, an Iraq war veteran, spoke out against the Democratic Obama administration’s policy of supporting the moderate opposition against Assad in Syria’s six-year-old civil war.

Republican President Donald Trump indicated during the 2016 presidential campaign that he could abandon the rebels to focus on fighting Islamic State, which controls territory in parts of Syria.—Reuters

Turkish military says kills 23 IS militants in northern Syria

ANKARA — The Turkish military said Thursday that it killed 23 Islamic State (IS) terrorists in Al-Bab, in northern Syria, in the previous 24 hours.

According to the Turkish General Staff, 230 terrorist targets, including hideouts, defense positions, command centers, and vehicles, were shelled.

Meanwhile, Turkish jets

struck 24 IS positions in Bab, Bzagh, Tadif and Qabr al-Mukri districts, destroying 19 buildings, ammunition depot and an observation post used by terrorists.

A total of 3,209 improvised explosive devices and 55 mines have been destroyed since the beginning of the Euphrates Shield Operation, which was launched

last August against both the IS and the Syrian Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG), the military wing of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD).

Turkey regards the YPG and the PYD as terrorist organisations due to their links to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).—Xinhua

Russia says technical checks may delay some space rocket launches



The Proton-M rocket, carrying the ExoMars 2016 spacecraft to Mars, blasts off from the launchpad at the Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan, on 14 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSCOW — Russia's space agency said on Wednesday it had ordered extra checks to be made on its Proton-M rockets, meaning it might be forced to delay some satellite launches this year.

Roscosmos, the Russian equivalent of NASA, made the announcement after the *Kommersant* daily reported that manufacturing problems had been detected in some Proton-M rockets and that some launches were likely to be delayed by several months "in a best case scenario."

European, US and Asian firms rely heavily on Russia to launch their commercial satellites, and a Roscosmos source told *Kommersant* that Moscow planned to launch 27 rockets this year, eight of which were Proton-Ms.

"Additional tests (on the Proton-M) are being carried out.

That explains the possible delay in launches," said a spokesman for Roscosmos, without providing details. Igor Burenkov, a spokesman for the corporation, said it would become clear after the tests if there would definitely be delays and for how long.

Kommersant reported that the problem was linked to components used in the rockets' engines and concerns that some of them were not sufficiently heat-resistant.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov played down the problems, saying Roscosmos did suffer some setbacks, but that it also had great success in many areas.

An unmanned Russian cargo ship loaded with supplies for the International Space Station broke apart about six minutes after lift off in December. It was carried by a Soyuz rocket.—*Reuters*

Biomolecular scientist Alan Mackay-Sim named 2017 Australian of the Year

CANBERRA — Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, a stem cell pioneer and biomolecular scientist who helped restore the mobility of a quadriplegic man, has been named the 2017 Australian of the Year.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull made the announcement ahead of Australia Day celebrations set to take place on Thursday around the nation.

In 2014, Mackay-Sim's work and research was instrumental in the success of a surgery to restore mobility to a man who was left quadriplegic after being stabbed 18 times. The success of the surgery was described by many as the scientific equivalent of the moon landing.

He is also currently the director of the National Centre

for Adult Stem Cell Research in Australia, and is often turned to as a global expert on matters regarding the sense of smell and nasal cells.

In accepting his award, Mackay-Sim said it was an "unbelievable honour."

"I'm so proud and shocked and horrified to be the 2017 Australian of the Year," he said.

Mackay-Sim also used his acceptance speech to raise awareness for the importance of further researching brain and spinal cord injuries.

"Wouldn't it be great if we could treat spinal cord injury and reduce the cost and reduce the suffering and increase the productivity of all of those people with spinal cord injuries?" he told the room.—*Xinhua*

Gene-edited cells keep cancer babies well more than one year on

LONDON — Two babies rescued from previously incurable leukemia after receiving infusions of gene-edited immune cells are doing well at home more than a year after initial treatment, scientists said on Wednesday.

Layla Richards became the first person in the world to get the "off-the-shelf" cell therapy developed by French biotech firm Cellectis at Britain's Great Ormond Street Hospital in 2015. A second girl was treated soon afterwards.

Now the team involved in both cases have published details of their work in a peer-reviewed journal, reporting that the two girls remained disease-free 18 and 12 months after treatment respectively.

Waseem Qasim, a consult-

ant immunologist at the London hospital, said the two cases showed the gene-edited cells were working, although long term monitoring was still required.

"While both patients are now at home and are doing well, we must treat these results with some caution as we don't yet know if the technique will be successful in treating a larger number of patients," he said.

Initial Phase I clinical trials using the cell therapy, known as UCART19, are now underway in both children and adults.

The idea of genetically altering immune cells called T cells so that they can attack cancers more effectively is currently one of the hottest areas of medical research.—*Reuters*

Health insurers quietly shape Obamacare replacement with fewer risks

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON — US health insurers are making their case to Republican lawmakers over how Americans sign up for individual insurance and pushing for other changes to shape the replacement of former President Barack Obama's national health-care law.

The health insurers, including Independence Blue Cross and Molina Healthcare Inc, are also recommending ways to put more control over insurance in the hands of states as the federal oversight of Obamacare is dismantled. They emphasize that it is crucial to keep government subsidies for low income people.

These changes, described by executives, high level officials in the health insurance sector and lawmakers in nearly a dozen interviews with Reuters, include pushing for more strict enforcement of eligibility for these plans.

Because Republicans are just starting to work with the new Trump administration and the debate is fluid, it is not clear ultimately what changes will take hold. But some of these ideas have started to surface in early Republican legislation, such as a co-sponsored bill from Maine Senator Susan Collins that would keep subsidies.

The moves underscore that private insurers are quietly working on how to benefit under the Trump administration, which is focusing on deregulation in health-care, energy and manufacturing. And they show that insurers want to save aspects of Obamacare individual plans, but cut down on the risk to their own bottom lines and any hikes in premiums that threaten the viability of this insurance market. This market for individual insurance covers about 10 million people and is small compared to the employer-based

system that covers more than 160 million Americans and the government-paid programs for over 120 million people.

But it is one that insurers have described as having growth potential. While Obamacare cut the uninsured rate to 11 per cent, there are still millions of uninsured Americans. The largest US insurer UnitedHealth Group Inc told investors recently that it sees opportunities in new state-based markets and is talking to policy-makers.

Many investors believe that the Republican deregulation push with Trump will benefit insurers.

"Clearly they support the private insurers and the role that they are going to play in any sort of new market," said Jeff Jonas, a portfolio manager at Gamco Investors in Rye, New York, which he said owns the publicly traded insurers.—*Reuters*



An insurance store advertises Obamacare in San Ysidro, California, US, on 25 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Show me the money': divorce first, then trade deal, EU tells UK



A Union flag flies next to the flag of the European Union in London, Britain, on 24 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — Since Prime Minister Theresa May set out her Brexit goals last week, interest in Britain has focused on the future trade deals she may one day strike with the United States and other powers, as well as with the European Union.

In Brussels and European capitals, that looks like putting the cart before the horse. "They're talking about their future relationships," said one EU official preparing for talks with London. "But first we need to get divorced. This is not going to be easy. Frankly, it's going to be very, very messy."

In diplomatic language, the European Commission's spokesman Margaritis Schinas told a news conference this week: "First, one needs to agree on the terms for an orderly separation and then, on the basis of this, build a future new, good relationship."

As with other divorces, the bitterest battle may be over money. And there is no certainty that any settlement can be agreed at all.

"Britain's payments to the EU budget and the issue of the EU quickly starting talks on an FTA (free trade agree-

ment) with Britain will be linked," said a second senior EU official.

"There cannot be discussions of a future relationship without first regulating the issue of an orderly separation."

EU negotiators reckon Britain has a weak hand to play; May must accept a two-year guillotine on talks that she hopes will end with a deal to keep "maximum" British access to EU markets while pulling Britain out of the single market and its obligations.

Put simply, if May wants to draft an FTA in only two years as

she says — a goal that prompts head-shaking in Brussels — continentals think they can hold her hostage with the threat of trade tariffs from 2019 unless she settles British debts.

Many discount as bluster May's warning that she would rather have no deal than a bad deal, walking away without free trade and daring continentals to take a hit to their own exports.

But some diplomats voice concern that London may be tempted to flounce out without paying EU bills worth tens of billions.—*Reuters*

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (PROCUREMENT OF GOODS)

REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

NCDDP – NATIONAL COMMUNITY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:H-814MM

Contract Title: TABLET COMPUTERS for 17 TOWNSHIPS 2017-2018

Reference No. :ICB G 80

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

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

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

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

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

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 13 March 2017 11.00 Hrs Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on 13 March 2017 12.00 Hrs Myanmar time.

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

The address referred to above is:

Department of Rural Development

Attn: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General

Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar

For Detailed information please contact:

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

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

Email: (unioncddprocurement@gmail.com)

Web site: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org



Undated supplied photo shows (from L to R) a rat with mouse stem cells, an ordinary rat and an ordinary mouse. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Study shows 1st time organ made in different animal useful in treatment

TOKYO — A team led by University of Tokyo researchers has successfully created a healthy pancreas from mouse stem cells inside the body of a rat, in first such accomplishment between different species, a study published in the British science journal *Nature* showed Wednesday.

The pancreas, later transplanted into a mouse with diabetes, worked normally and led the disease symptoms to improve, marking the world's first case that an organ was created from a different type of animal and its transplantation proved effective in treatment, according to the researchers.

The move is a step toward creating human organs inside other animals, which will help address a shortage of donors. But technical and ethical challenges remain to realize the ultimate goal, such as the question of whether it is appropriate to use animals as organ makers. Tomoyuki Yamaguchi, an associate professor at the University of Tokyo, said the project was able to

show "the effectiveness and safety of medical transplantation using an organ made by a different animal."

Studies on regenerative medicine that use induced pluripotent stem cells, which can grow into any type of human body tissue, are conducted worldwide, but it is difficult to artificially cultivate human organs with complicated shapes.

The team, which aims to make organs by making use of the innate characteristics animals have, plans to proceed with studies to create monkey organs in pigs. The sizes of organs of pigs are close to those of humans. In Japan, researchers are currently allowed to conduct studies to inject human iPS cells into animal fertilized eggs. But animal production by using the eggs is not permitted under laws and guidelines.

According to the researchers, mice and rats are separate species and are also different in size. They first created rats lacking a gene to make a pancreas using so-called genome-editing technology. They injected

mouse iPS cells and embryonic stem cells into the fertilized eggs of the rats with no pancreas genes. The rats then grew up to have pancreases made from mouse cells.

The study also showed that pancreatic islets, a cluster of cells located within a pancreas, released insulin to adjust blood sugar levels.

The islets were transplanted to mice with diabetes and "successfully normalized and maintained" normal blood glucose levels for over 370 days, the researchers said in its article.

The rat blood vessels remained in the islets but were replaced with mouse blood vessels following the transplantation. The researchers said no acute rejection was seen after the transplantation because mice that produced the pancreas and those developing diabetes had similar genetic backgrounds. The study indicates that acute rejection may not be observed even if human organs are made in animals if the iPS cells are those of the patients, they said.—*Kyodo News*

Chile battles devastating wildfires as international help pours in

SANTIAGO — The worst wildfires in Chile's modern history are ravaging wide swaths of the country's central-south regions, as a massive Boeing 747-400 Super Tanker arrived on Wednesday on loan from the United States to help extinguish the blazes.

"We have never seen something of this size, never in Chile's history. And the truth is the (firefighting) forces are doing everything that is humanly possible and will continue to do so until the fires are contained and controlled," President Michelle Bachelet said, as she visited the hard-hit Maule region.

Forest fires are a regular feature of Chile's hot, arid summers, but a nearly decade-long drought combined with historically high temperatures have created tinder-dry conditions.

International help from France, the United States, Peru and Mexico has been pouring into Chile as the fires swept through forested hills and into neighboring towns, scorching homes, industry and the region's world-renowned



Smoke from the forest fire is seen from the town of Penco in the Concepcion region, south of Chile, on 25 January 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

vineyards. The country last week declared a state of emergency.

As of Wednesday, 85 separate fires had been recorded, covering some 190,000 hectares (469,500

acres) — more than twice the area of New York City.

Chile's Conaf forestry service said that 35 of the fires were still out of control.

At least some of the

fires may have been started intentionally and there had been a number of arrests in relation to ongoing investigations, said Bachelet.

Three firefighters were killed on 15 January and

another three gravely injured. Local media reported on Wednesday that another firefighter had died.

Some Chileans, such as Susana Molina, 82, a boutique wine producer,

have seen their livelihoods destroyed.

"All my fields burned, there were four hectares that I had and it all burned," she said, from Cauquenes in the Maule region. Around 100 small vineyards in Cauquenes alone had been damaged so far, said the local industry association.

The forestry industry has also been impacted, with smaller outfits the most vulnerable.

Chile's forest products industry, the country's second biggest by exports after copper mining, is led by Empresas Copec subsidiary Arauco, Empresas CMPC, and Masisa.

Chile, along the seismically-active Pacific Rim, is no stranger to natural disasters. It is often walloped by earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and strong storms.

As a result, its emergency response teams, building codes and residents are usually well-prepared to confront such situations. But the scale of this season's fires have overwhelmed authorities.—Reuters

E. SUN Commercial Bank Limited
(Yangon Representative Office)
Notice for Commencement of Winding Up & Notice to Creditors

Consequent on the upgrading of the Yangon Representative Office, to operate as a branch in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, under the Central Bank of Myanmar's licence to operate as such, the Yangon Representative Office was closed down and its affairs are being wound up with effect from 30 December 2016 as per resolution of the Head Office.

All persons claiming to be creditors of the Yangon Representative Office as at 30 December 2016 are therefore requested to submit their claim or claims, with documentary evidence to the undersigned at No.64(B) (1st Floor) Komin Kochin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon within one month of the date of publication of this notice.

Maung Maung Aung
Attorney & Liquidator
E. Sun Commercial Bank Limited
(Yangon Representative Office in Liquidation)

Marriage Announcement
Ms. Zar Hnin Ei
daughter of U Thein Lwin and Daw Lon Lon Myint of Dagon Thiri Road, Kyaukmyaunggyi Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region and
Mr. Than Pe
eldest son of U Than Tun Aye and Daw Kyawt Khaing of 4967, Auburn Dr APT2, San Diego, CA92105 USA
are pleased to announce their marriage on Wednesday, 25th January, 2017, at Yangon Western District Court in the presence of the district court's judge.
Mr. Than Pe and Ms. Zar Hnin Ei

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
MV EVER APEX VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
MV SHIPPAN ISLAND VOY. NO (008)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIPPAN ISLAND VOY. NO (008) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
MV MAGNUM ENERGY VOY. NO (523)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAGNUM ENERGY VOY. NO (523) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Schwarzenegger attends Pope's weekly general audience

VATICAN CITY — "Terminator" star Arnold Schwarzenegger swapped the stresses of the "The New Celebrity Apprentice" boardroom for the serenity of Vatican City on Wednesday as he attended Pope Francis' weekly general audience with his girlfriend Heather Miligan.

In a dark suit and green tie, the 69-year-old Austrian-born actor and former US politician and Milligan watched Pope Francis as he did readings and then offered blessings.

Schwarzenegger, who served two terms as California governor after making his name in Hollywood hits including "Conan the Barbarian", recently succeeded US President Donald Trump as host of the reality TV competition "Apprentice" series.—*Reuters*

Madonna performs at the Women's March in Washington US, on 21 January 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Madonna says Malawi visit for charity but not adoption

LILONGWE (Malawi) — US pop star Madonna denied on Wednesday that she was in Malawi to adopt two more children, saying her visit was strictly for her charity work in the African nation.

"I am in Malawi to check on the children's hospital in Blantyre and my other work with Raising Malawi and then heading home," Madonna told People magazine in a statement. "The rumours of an adoption process are untrue," the statement added.

The "Rebel Heart" singer issued the statement after a Malawi judiciary spokesman, Mlenga Mvula, told Reuters and other news outlets that Madonna had "filed an application expressing interest to adopt two more kids from Malawi."

"As a court, we adjourned the matter for a ruling (in the next two weeks). The court will either grant the adoption order or might not," Mvula said. Mvula could not provide details on the children Madonna wants to adopt, saying it was against the law to divulge such particulars at this stage.

Some Malawians opposed the previous adoptions, accusing the government of allowing Madonna, as a global celebrity, to skirt laws that ban non-residents from adopting children in Malawi.

Madonna, 58, adopted Malawian children David Banda and Mercy James in 2006 and 2009. The mega-selling pop singer has two other children, Lourdes and Rocco, from previous relationships. Madonna established the non-profit Raising Malawi in 2006 to provide health and education programs, particularly for girls, in the southeast African country. The organization is currently building a children's unit at a hospital in Blantyre, Malawi's second largest city, and has built 10 schools, according to its website.—*Reuters*

Bollywood stars wish happy Happy Republic Day to fans

MUMBAI — Bollywood celebrities including Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan and Javed Akhtar slauted the country and wished their fans on the 68th Republic Day.

Bachchan shared pictures of him with the tri-colour and wrote, "Happy Republic Day... greetings to all.. JAI HIND !! January 26 th."

Extending his Republic Day

wishes, Aamir tweeted, "Wishing everyone a very happy Republic Day!"

Lyricist Javed Akhtar posted, "Happy Republic day to all fellow Indians."

"MS Dhoni" star Sushant Singh Rajput wrote, "The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border? #RepublicDay."

"Happy Republic Day to all

of us. Jai Hind," actor Anupam Kher said.

Actress Shraddha Kapoor tweeted, "Happy #RepublicDay ! A big salute to our beautiful country; for being so wonderfully cultural to progressing each day. Proud to be an Indian!"

Filmmaker Kunal Kohli said that he watched the Republic Day parade on TV with his daughter.

"As a child my parents would make me watch the 26th January parade on #doordarshan. Continuing the tradition with my daughter #Radha-Kohli," he wrote. Actor Varun Dhawan posted a picture of him holding the tri-colour and wrote, "Wishing every one a very happy #RepublicDay. We have a lot to be proud. The future is Indian."—*PTI*

Mary Tyler Moore, Emmy-winning US sitcom star, dead at 80



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Emmy-winning actress Mary Tyler Moore, who brightened American television screens as the perky suburban housewife on "The Dick Van Dyke Show," and then as a fledgling feminist on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," died on Wednesday at the age of 80, a representative said.

Moore, who won seven Emmy Awards for her television work, died in the company of friends and her husband, Dr. S. Robert Levine, representative Mara Buxbaum said in a statement.

She had been seriously ill over the past two years, when she was in and out of hospitals and suffered from heart and kidney problems, close friends said. She was a diabetic, and in 2011 she had a benign brain tumour removed.—*Reuters*

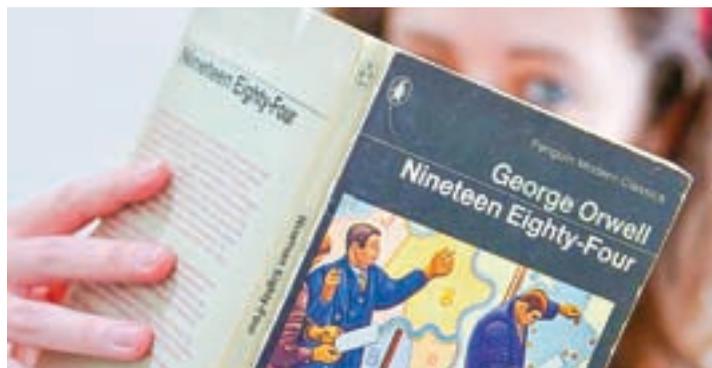
Orwell's '1984' back as bestseller amid focus on 'alternative facts'

NEW YORK — George Orwell's "1984" novel about a dystopian future under an authoritarian regime is back as a bestseller and being reprinted decades after it was written as readers grapple with Donald Trump administration's defence of "alternative facts."

The book, first published in 1949, features a devious "Big Brother" government that spies on its citizens and forces them into "doublethink," or simultaneously accepting contradictory versions of the truth.

Sales spiked after a senior White House official, Kellyanne Conway, used the term "alternative facts" on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday during a discussion about the size of the crowd at Trump's inauguration.

Some commentators de-



Laura Wood of Skoob Books poses for a photograph with a copy of George Orwell's '1984' in central London in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

nounced her expression as "Orwellian."

By Monday, the novel by the late British author hit Amazon's list of top 10 bestsellers, which is updated hourly. On Wednesday, it was No.1.

Responding to the renewed interest, its publisher ordered a 75,000-copy reprint this week, Signet Classics said in a statement. A company spokesman told CNN late on Tuesday that was more than would normally

be reprinted.

The West Virginia chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has vowed to "resist" the president's policies on immigration and other issues, said on Twitter it picked "1984" as the read of the month for its book club.

Conway was responding to accusations that the Trump administration was fixated on the size of his inauguration crowds, saying: "We feel compelled to go out and clear the air and put alternative facts out there."

Amid widespread criticism of the expression, even Merriam-Webster chimed in to challenge Trump's former campaign manager. "A fact is a piece of information presented as having objective reality," the dictionary publisher tweeted.—*Reuters*

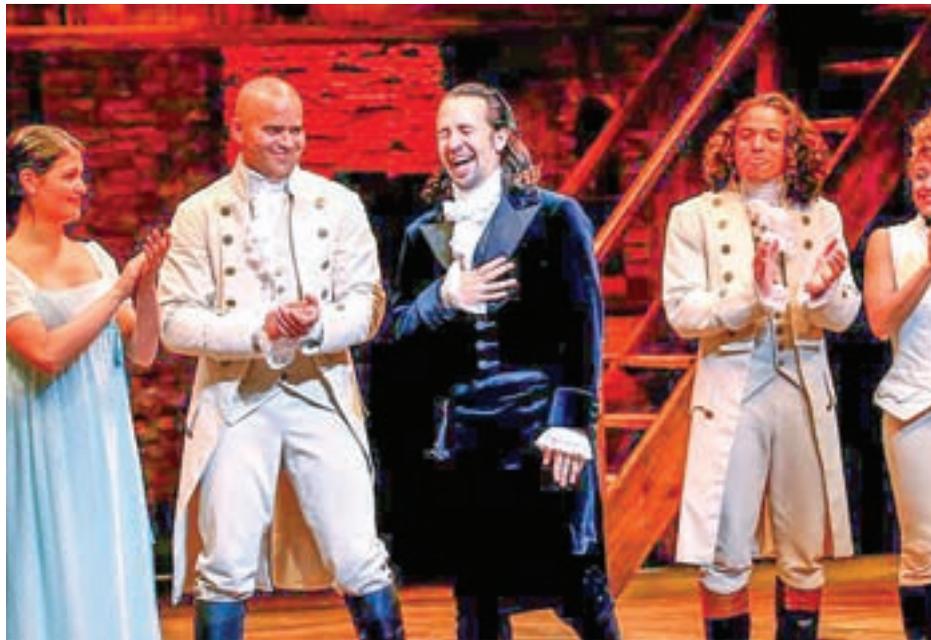
Broadway hit 'Hamilton' is sued over services for blind theatergoers

NEW YORK — The producer of "Hamilton" has been sued by a blind theatergoer who claimed that the blockbuster Broadway musical violates federal law by failing to offer services to help blind and visually impaired people enjoy the show.

In his complaint on Monday, Denver resident Mark Lasser said Hamilton Uptown LLC and Nederlander Organization, which runs the Richard Rodgers Theatre in Manhattan where "Hamilton" is performed, could easily provide live audio narratives to help visually impaired people follow stage action between songs.

But Lasser said the theater refuses to offer such narratives, which can be listened to with headphones so other patrons will not be disturbed.

He said this violates the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in places of public accommodation, and "will continue to deter blind and visually impaired people from attending musicals." The proposed class-action lawsuit was filed in Manhattan federal court.



Actor Lin-Manuel Miranda (C) laughs next to cast members while greeting spectators after taking part in his last performance with Hamilton in New York in 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

It was reported earlier by The Wall Street Journal.

Nederlander did not immediately respond on Tuesday to requests for comment. Spokesmen for Hamilton Uptown declined to comment. A lawyer for Lasser could not immediately be reached for further comment.

Lasser seeks to require "Hamilton" to put on at least one show per week with at least 25 headsets designed to accommodate visually impaired people.

He noted that former

US Attorney General Loretta Lynch on 21 November signed a final rule requiring many movie theaters to provide similar accommodations by late 2018 to blind patrons.

"Given the similarities," the complaint said, "live theaters must also be required to provide live audio description to the blind." It is unclear why the lawsuit specifically targets the Broadway production of "Hamilton."

The New York law firm representing Lasser specializes in ADA law-

suits. "Hamilton" tells the story of US founding father Alexander Hamilton in a musical blending hip-hop and rap, rhythm and blues, ballads and Broadway showstoppers.

It won 11 Tony awards last year, including best musical and best book for creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, who also won a Pulitzer Prize.

The case is Lasser v Nederlander Organisation Inc et al, US District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 17-00490.—Reuters

Ukraine honors Japanese woman for work with children in Chernobyl

TOKYO — The Ukraine government on Thursday awarded the Order of Princess Olga to a Japanese woman for her efforts in helping children who fell ill in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Mari Sasaki, the 52-year-old head of the Chernobyl Children's Fund, Japan, received the award at the Ukrainian Embassy in Tokyo for her efforts to provide medical supplies and assist in the operation of sanatoriums for the children in con-

taminated areas.

"I'm delighted and honored," said Sasaki, who repeatedly visited Belarus and Ukraine to help the children. "I think the (order) is not solely for me but for all the people who supported our activities through donations."

The Tokyo-based fund was established in 1991 by Ryuichi Hirokawa, a photojournalist, now 73, who was also honored by the Ukraine government in 2011. —Kyodo News



Mari Sasaki (L), head of Chernobyl Children's Fund, Japan, poses with Ukrainian Ambassador to Japan Ihor Kharchenko at the country's embassy in Tokyo on 26 January 2017. Sasaki was awarded the Order of Princess Olga by the Ukrainian government the same day for her efforts to help children who fell ill in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Japanese dolls modeled on Trump, Koike revealed ahead of Girls' Day

TOKYO — A doll maker on Thursday revealed traditional Japanese dolls modeled on US President Donald Trump and Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike ahead of Girls' Day on 3 March.

Tokyo-based Kyugetsu Co. unveiled two sets

of "kitai-bina" dolls that feature prominent personalities likely to be the focus of attention this year.

Other than Trump and Koike, dolls of top Japanese tennis player Kei Nishikori and ski jumper Sara Takanashi were also

unveiled. "We have crafted the dolls with hopes for the prosperity of the political and economic relations between Japan and the United States as well as the success of Japanese athletes," said an official of the doll manufacturer.

The dolls will be displayed at the company's headquarters in the Asakusa district of central Tokyo through Sunday and then at a Yokohama outlet of the Sogo & Seibu Co. department store chain from 1 to 6 February.—Kyodo News



Myanmar International Programme Schedule

10:35 Am Myanmar Traditional Instruments - Myanma Harp (Episode-1)

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

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

(27-1-2017 07:00am ~ 28-1-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Interesting Features of Rakhine
07:48	Am	ABU Radio Song Festival
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Oboist and His Life
08:46	Am	Civic Duty
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Ko Phoe Shan & His Craft
09:43	Am	Lacquerware Technology College
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	The Green Corner (Epi 10) Glow In the Dark Mason Jars

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes " Lisu: Their Life and Customs " (Part- II)
07:47	Pm	Diary of a Fisherman
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin-A Living Literary Legend Of Myanmar)
08:51	Pm	Famous pagodas of Sagaing

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday 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)



Programme Schedule
(27-1-2017, Friday)

<p>6:00 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw <p>7:30 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ People Talks <p>8:30 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Current Affairs <p>10:30 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Weekly Sport Info <p>11:35 Am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ MRTV Worker Programme <p>12:35 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>1:05 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Myanmar Video (Part-2) <p>2:05 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Talk On Old Film <p>2:30 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Applied Financial Knowledge 	<p>2:55 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>3:45 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ AFF AIS FUTSAL Championship 2016 (Thailand) (Myanmar Vs Timor Leste) <p>5:35 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hyper Sport <p>6:20 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ HUMAN DIGNITY FILM INSTITUTE "My Dear Tharamuu, 528" <p>7:15 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ TV Drama Series <p>8:00 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ News/International News/ Weather Report <p>9:00 Pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ News/ Weather Report ◆ TV Drama Series ◆ Songs In Myanmar Movies (Part-26)
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Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Serena storms, Venus rises to set up Williams final

MELBOURNE — Serena and Venus Williams rolled back the years as they swept through their last four clashes to set up a retro family final at the Australian Open on Thursday, their ninth meeting in a grand slam title-decider.

Younger sister Serena saved her sentiment for after her semi-final as she ruthlessly brought an end to the dream run of Mirjana Lucic-Baroni at Melbourne Park, thrashing the 34-year-old Croatian 6-2, 6-1.

Venus had a much tougher time on Rod Laver Arena and needed to draw on the experience of 73 grand slam campaigns to rally from a set down for a 6-7(3), 6-2, 6-3 victory over fellow American Coco Vandeweghe.

The 36-year-old, who lost to Serena in her only previous Australian Open final in 2003, can expect sentiment to play little role in Saturday's title-decider either but Thursday was all about family pride.

"For us both to be in the final is the biggest dream come true for us," said Serena, a year her sister's junior.

"She's my toughest opponent, no one has ever beaten me as much as Venus has. I just feel like no matter what's happened we've both won ... A Williams is going to win this tournament."

Although Serena has returned from four months out with a shoul-



Serena Williams of the US signs autographs after winning her Women's singles semi-final match at Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia on 26 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

der injury and Venus has ended an eight-year grand slam final drought, Lucic-Baroni's fairytale return to the top table of tennis after years in the wilderness trumped them both.

A doubles champion at Melbourne Park as a 15-year-old, Lucic-Baroni's career had gone into a tailspin on the back of trauma in her personal life before she battled back to reach Thursday's semi-final as world number 79.

Her left leg a swathe of strapping, she came out firing winners as if her life depended on it but she was simply unable to stay with the world number two at her brutal best in the 50 minute contest.

The six-times champion was all but untouchable when her first serve hit the mark and sealed the win when Lucic-Baroni smashed a forehand into the net, the American reaching her

29th grand slam final where she will bid for a 23rd major title.

Serena gave her opponent a huge hug at the net before watching on smiling as Lucic-Baroni took a selfie as a memento of her day in the sun.

"Honestly she's inspiration, she deserves all the credit today," said Serena. "Everything she's gone through, she inspires me."

Venus needed almost three times as long to overcome world number 35 Vandeweghe, who broke the 13th seed on her first service game and won the opening set on a tiebreaker.

The 25-year-old's hopes had rested on the accuracy of her serve and booming winners but her challenge faded as the unforced error count racked up — she made 51 overall — and her first serve percentage hovered around the 55 per cent mark.

The key to Venus's victory, though, was her ability to raise her game when it mattered and the seven-times major champion saved 12 of 13 break points she faced, seven in the second set alone.

Venus danced around the court in breathless delight at her victory and gave the crowd an elaborate version of her traditional twirl, having ensured she would become the oldest Australian Open women's finalist in the professional era.—Reuters

MRTV to broadcast live Futsal seminal between Myanmar-Timor Leste

MYANMA Radio and Television-MRTV will broadcast live the semi-final match between Myanmar and Timor in this year's ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Futsal Championship 2016 at the Indoor Stadium Huamark in Bangkok tomorrow on the at 3.50 pm today.—Myanmar News Agency

Real Madrid crash out of King's Cup, Atletico advance

BARCELONA — Real Madrid crashed out of the King's Cup quarter-finals 4-3 on aggregate after being held to a 2-2 draw at Celta Vigo on Wednesday in another major setback for the stuttering European champions.

Real twice fought back to equalise on a rainswept evening in Galicia but it was not enough to save them from being eliminated in a knockout competition for the first time under Zidane who oversaw a Spanish record 40-game unbeaten run before successive defeats this month.

An own goal from Brazilian defender Danilo put Celta ahead in the 44th minute but Cristiano Ronaldo levelled for Real by lashing in a free kick from 28 metres in the 62nd.—Reuters

Bolt loses relay gold after Jamaica's Carter tests positive

LAUSANNE, (Switzerland) — Jamaica's Usain Bolt has lost one of his nine Olympic gold medals and his perfect triple treble of Games' sprint victories after team mate Nesta Carter was found guilty of doping at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Carter was found in re-tests of his sample to have taken the banned stimulant methylhexanamine, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said on Wednesday, meaning Jamaica's 4x100 metres relay team must give back their gold medals.

Carter's lawyer, Stuart Stimpson, said the sprinter would be lodge an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

"Mr. Carter will be taking his appeal to CAS," Stimpson told Reuters by telephone on Wednesday.—Reuters

Unhappy Klopp slams officials after League Cup exit

LONDON — Juergen Klopp expressed disappointment at the officiating and his Liverpool side's poor finishing in the second leg of their League Cup semi-final at Anfield on Wednesday after Southampton claimed a late 1-0 victory to book a spot in the final.

Liverpool's poor start to 2017 continued when they failed to break down a well-organised Southampton defence before Shane Long's injury-time winner secured a 2-0 aggregate triumph for the Saints.

"First of all congratulations to Southampton," Klopp told British media. "They won both legs so they deserve to go to the final but tonight especially I think we could have won and that's why I'm disappointed."

Liverpool had two penalty appeals rejected, the first when

the ball struck Long's arm after an overhead kick by Roberto Firmino and Klopp was disappointed that the officials missed it.

"The handball was clear. Long, a clear handball," he added. "Maybe it's not interesting and I don't look for excuses or anything but it's really hard to accept it week by week by week by week. Really hard."

"Today, the handball was for me obvious. 100 per cent obvious."

Klopp admitted that the second appeal for a foul on Divock Origi just before Long's breakaway goal was not a penalty, but said refereeing decisions had cost Liverpool in recent weeks, contributing to their run of one win in seven games in 2017.

"There's been a lot of offside

goals against us which shouldn't have been allowed," he added, singling out Liverpool's 1-1 Premier League draw at Manchester United on 15 January.

"In one of the biggest games... against Manchester United, (Antonio Valencia) was two or three yards offside but nobody really speaks about it. That's how it is. It doesn't feel good.

"You just have to say after the game, I think okay 'do I have to speak about, it, is it my job to get to a fine about it by talking about it?'"—Reuters

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp. PHOTO: REUTERS

