

■ NATIONAL

President U Htin Kyaw meets special adviser to Japanese PM

▶ PAGE 3



■ PARLIAMENT

Tax, Planning & Budget Bills to be finalised in 4th regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

▶ PAGE 2



■ OPINION

Sycophants, nepotism and craving for power will destroy our society

▶ PAGE 8

## State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Special Advisor to Japanese PM

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the Special Advisor to Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Hiroto Izumi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the nine sectors currently being implemented cooperatively by Myanmar and Japan as well as future projects. The nine sectors of cooperation between Myanmar and Japan are: development of rural agriculture and infrastructure; promotion of the quality of education and creation of job opportunities; urban industrial development; development of transportation connectivity between rural and urban areas; energy co-operation to effectuate industrial development; development of urban structures; development of public finance and private finance structures; improvement of post and telecommunications services and promotion of the health care sector.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks with the special adviser to Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Hiroto Izumi, fifth from left. PHOTO: MNA

LOCAL BUSINESS ON PAGE 5

### Farmers to boost saltwater prawn, fish production in Maungtaw



### Rakhine investigation commission asks for more time due to new human rights allegations

THE government commission charged with investigating the violent attacks in October and November in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State said yesterday that they need more time before submitting their report due to new human rights allegations, according to a statement from the president's office.

The investigation commission was formed on 1 December by the President's Office to probe into events that may have led to

the violent armed attacks on border police outposts in Maungtaw in October and November that claimed the lives of nine border guards. In the weeks and months that followed, security forces and the Tatmadaw conducted numerous area clearance operations in Maungtaw and surrounding areas in order to restore peace and find possible perpetrators of the violent attacks. There were some reports of violence against Maungtaw villagers that included torture.

Yesterday, through a statement released by the president's office, the investigation commission said fresh claims of abuses have necessitated an indefinite extension of the 31 January deadline for submitting their report.

"New allegations on human rights have arisen in Rakhine State, and the period for submitting the investigation report to the President is extended until the end of the probe into the new allegations," according to the statement.—*GNLM*



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

## Tax, Planning & Budget Bills to be finalized in 4th regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw resumed its 4th regular session yesterday, with Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than's greetings.

In this 4th regular session term, the parliament will debate and finalise several bills including the National Planning Bill for 2017-2018, the Union Budget Bill for the 2017 and the Union

Tax Bill for 2017.

The Parliament also put on record visits by a Myanmar delegation led by President U Htin Kyaw for the 7th Ayeyawady – Chao Phraya – Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS) Summit and 8th Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam (CLMV) Summit and also

the official mourning ceremony for the demise of the King of Thailand. Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than declared that the parliament put the Older Persons Bill on record and approved the appointment of Chairmanship for Union Parliament's Inter-Parliamentary Union Joint-Committee.

Additionally, the Parliament

put on record the expansion, reform and renaming wards, village-tracts and villages in Sagaing, Mandalay, Regions and Rakhine State.

Relating to the amendment Bill on Law Translation Commission, the Bill Joint-Committee reported their findings on different views between the two

parliaments: Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

The President's Office, the Union Government's Office, the Union Parliament, the People's Parliament and the National Parliament made clarifications on the work plans and budget for 2017-2018 fiscal years. — Myanmar News Agency

## Pyithu Hluttaw

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Pyithu Hluttaw fourth regular session holds its first day meeting

AT yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw meeting, the responsibilities of tender winners in agriculture projects, democratic standards, and a recent visit to the United Kingdom by the speaker were discussed.

U Hla Kyaw, deputy minister for agriculture, livestock breeding and irrigation, replied to a question raised by U Htay Min Thein, Hluttaw representative of Gyobingauk constituency about the responsibilities of those who are awarded contracts for agriculture projects.

"Tender winners has no rights to withdraw working situations. Only if changes need to be done under unavoidable conditions are acquisition of approvals from the different levels required to be tak-

en." At yesterday's meeting, five Pyithu Hluttaw Representative from the Tatmadaw group swore a solemn oath and signed the oaths.

Afterward, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw made a welcoming speech.

"At present, we are making specific efforts for the emergence of a federal democratic Union — the destination of the Nation, thus Hluttaw Representatives are required to exert efforts in accord with the democratic standards, representing the legislature. As per the nature of Hluttaw, there may be disagreements and different opinions among us, we all are required to discuss and decide with the spirit of unity, with a view to

prioritising the national interest. Representatives should pay careful attention for deeds and speeches which can cause misunderstandings among us not to arise."

A friendship visit of a Myanmar delegation led by U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, to Britain from 19 January to 27 January and a study visit of a Myanmar delegation led by U Kyi Moe Naing to Laos from 18 January to 20 January was put on record of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

U Hla Kyaw, deputy minister, then replied to questions raised by U Lin Lin Kyaw, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Myitha Constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency, U Thein



U Hla Kyaw, deputy minister for agriculture, livestock breeding and irrigation. PHOTO: MNA



U Kyaw Soe Lin, secretary of the Drafting Committee. PHOTO: MNA

Tun of Kyaunggon, U Aung Kyaw Lwin of Sedoktara and U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk.

Afterward, a motion was decided upon to be seconded and the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw announced to name in the second. Then the receipt of the Union Election Commission (2nd Revision—approved UEC law with amend-

ment) sent by Amyotha Hluttaw was brought up to the Hluttaw.

Then, U Kyaw Soe Lin, secretary of the Drafting Committee, submitted the report concerning the draft, and the Speaker of the Hluttaw said those wishing to submit revised motion should submit their names. — Myanmar News Agency

## Amyotha Hluttaw

## Amyotha Hluttaw raises child sex abuse punishment

THE 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw resumed its 4th regular session yesterday, discussing several issues including raising strong punishment for child sex abuse and education infrastructures.

Members of the parliament raised queries on highest punishment to those exploiters for life imprisonment to prevent against child sex abuse.

Supreme Court Justice U

Soe Nyunt stressed the need for imposing severe punishment for the child sex abuse in order to prevent the sex crime.

Issues discussed at today's meeting include considering the Myanmar-China border town Chin Shwe Haw as the gateway for tourists and pilgrims, construction and renovation of school buildings in Namtsan, KyaukTaw, Tamu, Paletwa and

sending teaching staff for the Teachers Training Branch in Kengtung for 2016-2017 academic years.

The Parliament discussed Myanmar Territory Sea and Sea Zones Bill.

Different views between the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw will be decided at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. — Myanmar News Agency

## Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw attends ceremony for villagers in New Delhi



ACCOMPANIED by Dr Daw Than Ngwe, representative of the Pyithu Hluttaw, U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, attended a ceremony awarding prizes to residents of leprosy-affected villages under the sponsorship of Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation, held at the Shahjehan Ballroom of Taj Palace Hotel in New Delhi, India, on Sunday evening. — Myanmar News Agency

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Ambassador of Canada



Defence Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Canadian Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs. Karen MacArthur in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Canadian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mrs. Karen MacArthur yesterday morning at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explained matters relating to how the Tatmadaw is treading on the political path steadily and in a stable manner, with expectations

to stand firmly amidst the world as the peace process progresses toward ending armed conflicts. The Canadian ambassador also discussed matters on its co-operation regarding the reform of Myanmar and its socio-economic development, its investments in Myanmar inclusive of hydro-electric power generation and involvement in Myanmar's peace process. — Myanmar News Agency

## President U Htin Kyaw meets special adviser to Japanese PM

U Htin Kyaw, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Hiroto Izumi, special adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan, yesterday morning at Credential Hall at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed further strengthening friendship between Myanmar and

Japan, enabling higher investments in Myanmar by Japanese entrepreneurs and providing assistance programs for development of Myanmar. Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Thant Zin Maung, U Kyaw Win, U Win Khaing and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Mr. Hiroto Izumi, special adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan. PHOTO: MNA

## President U Htin Kyaw and wife to visit Cambodia

U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and wife Daw Su Su Lwin will pay a State Visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia in the near future at the invitation of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Vice President attends Union Day committee meeting

U Myint Swe, Vice President and Chairman of the 70th Anniversary of the Union Day Convening Central Committee 2017, addressed the 3rd co-ordination meeting held at the Office of the President yesterday, where he asked the committee to resolve any remaining issues.

“The Central Committee has held meetings two times and made decisions, which have been implemented by the Management Committee. Now most of those tasks have been completed. In the present meeting, weaknesses and problems found in carrying out the tasks will be finally coordinated. The 70th Anniversary of the Union Day will be observed with the following national objectives — strengthening national consolida-

tion, emergence of a federal democratic Union, development of the socio-economic lives of the people. Co-ordination works need to be done so that accommodations, health, security and excursion trips of the national cultural troupes can be smooth. It is also necessary to coordinate with security teams for representatives and national cultural troupes from States and Regions to arrive in safety. Security matters must be closely supervised in view of the current situations in the country. In performing security duties, it needs to be done politely and to do search procedures carefully. Those who attend the ceremony should co-operate with a sense of security.”

He added that conservation of food and thrifty allocation of funds



Vice President U Myint Swe, right, addresses the 3rd co-ordination meeting of the 70th anniversary of the Union Day Convening Central Committee 2017 at the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

should be observed.

“In making catering arrangements for representatives and guests, calculations need to be done so as to reduce the wastage of food and not to incur extra expenditures. For the successful celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Union Day, cooperation must

be done and necessary matters are required to be reported to keep up with the times.”

Afterwards, Dr Myo Aung, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and Chairman of the management committee of the 70th anniversary of the Union Day, clarified the status of the completed

work and arrangements that still need to be done.

The chairmen and members of the sub-committees then submitted their reports respectively to the meeting. After the submissions, the Vice President made suggestions and made a closing speech.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## NLD Patron Thura U Tin Oo and Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker encourage family of U Ko Ni



NLD Patron Thura U Tin Oo comforts the family of U Ko Ni at the victim's apartment in Botahtaung, Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

NATIONAL League for Democracy Patron Thura U Tin Oo met with the family of U Ko Ni and spoke words of condolence at the deceased's apartment on 42nd street in Botahtaung Township yesterday morning.

Later yesterday morning, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Htun and regional Hluttaw representatives visited U Ko Ni's apartment to express sincere condolences to the family.

U Ko Ni, NLD's legal adviser and advocate, was assassinated at Yangon International Airport on Sunday after returning to Yangon from Indonesia, where he was part of a delegation attending a senior leadership programme in Jakarta.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Press release regarding assassination of U Ko Ni

1. U Ko Ni, legal adviser of National League for Democracy, was assassinated at 5 pm on 29<sup>th</sup> January at Yangon International Airport upon return from Indonesia via Singapore. He attended the senior leadership programme held in Indonesia from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January. He was shot in the head by a pistol from a very close distance. He died at the scene of attack. A taxi driver called U Ne Win also lost his life in helping the security troops arrest the assassin namely U Kyi Lin, 53.
2. We are overwhelmed with sorrow over the death of U Ko Ni and U Ne Win. We are specially grateful to U Ne Win and all duty-conscientious people for helping arrest the assailant.
3. The initial interrogation indicates the intention to destabilize the state. Investigations are being carried out by the government to find out the truth. Security has been heightened in the aftermath of the assassination.
4. This being so, people are requested not to be stricken by panic and to stay quietly and peacefully, to be careful of religious and racial incitements and inform authorities concerned in case of finding evidence concerning this case of assassination and actions aimed at destabilizing the state.—*President's office (Unofficial Translation)*

## Police ask public for information on fatal shooting Sunday at Yangon airport

THE Myanmar Police Force (MPF) issued an announcement yesterday requesting that people with information on anyone involved in the fatal shooting Sunday of U Ko Ni, a prominent legal advisor of the National League for Democracy, should come forward.

MPF announced its hotline numbers for reporting information about the shooting.

U Ko Ni was fatally shot at close range outside Terminal 1 of Yangon International Airport on Sunday afternoon after his arrival back from Indonesia as part of a Myanmar delegation. Police and people nearby managed to arrest the gunman shortly after he killed U Ko Ni and U Nay Win, 42, a taxi driver who was also shot and died on the way to the hospital.

The MPF disclosed that they had arrested a man they suspect is the gunman, Kyi Lin, 53, with his father's name U Hlaing, Pon Nagone Quarter, Maha Aungmyay Township, Mingaladon Police Station has charged him in accordance with the law. The suspect is under interrogation, the announcement said.

The MPF said it has set up the following hotlines for people with information in connection with the shooting.

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Nay Pyi Taw Police Force       | 067-551333     |
| Kachin State Police Force      | 074-21444      |
| Kayah State Police Force       | 083-21524      |
| Chin State Police Force        | 070-21452      |
| Kayin State Police Force       | 058-23355      |
| Sagaing Region Police Force    | 071-24996      |
| Taninthayi Region Police Force | 059-23998      |
| Bago Region Police Force       | 052-23999      |
| Magwe Region Police Force      | 063-28099      |
| Mandalay Region Police Force   | 02-27199       |
| Mon State Police Force         | 057-24987      |
| Rhakhine State Police Force    | 043-22833      |
| Yangon Region Police Force     | 199,01-2323199 |
| Shan State Police Force        | 081-2125455    |
| Ayeyarwady Region Police Force | 042-23844      |

GNLM

## U Myint Lwin concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Morocco, Egypt

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Myanmar to the Arab Republic of Egypt, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Morocco.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Fire in Ducheertan (north) Village, Maungtaw

A FIRE that started due to negligence occurred at Ducheertan (North) Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, on Sunday.

The fire started in the kitchen of the home owned by Uma Harzi Sunday evening, destroying

a house with a wooden floor and with a roof made of thatch.

The fire was put out by the villagers. There were no casualties nor injuries, and measures are being taken to take action against the owner of the house for negligence.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Talks on Parties' Policies and Election Promises by Political Parties to Compete in the By-election to Come, to be Broadcast

ELECTORAL talks by political parties to compete in the coming 2017 multi-parties general by-election are to be broadcast from Myanmar Radio and MRTV

from January 30 to February 22, after the 8 pm news time daily, with to be published in the next day's state-owned papers.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Tatmadaw to aid in investigation of U Ko Ni assassination

One day after U Ko Ni, a senior legal advisor to the National League for Democracy, was assassinated in front of Yangon International Airport at about 5 pm on Sunday, the Tatmadaw has offered its help in the investigation, officials said.

"For the loss of the life of the legal advisor, the Tatmadaw have condolences for his

bereaved family.

The event has harmed much concerning security, thus the Tatmadaw will co-operate with security forces for the emergence of the truth and the prompt arrest of those who committed the crime," according to the release of the Tatmadaw's Information Committee.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Two More Missing in Maungtaw

FAMILY members of people missing from the village of Sinthaypyin (East) and Ywetnyotaung village in Maungtaw township filed separate cases concerning the disappearances at the local police station.

Shawfi Yarmauk, 25, of

Ywetnyotaung village did not return home from a trip into the village on the morning of 27 January, prompting his wife to file a case at the Ngakhura police station on 29 January.

Similarly, the wife of Ibyaheib, 55, from Sinthaypyin

(East) filed a case at the Ngakhura police station on January 29 when her husband did not come back home after leaving the village to drive buffalo back from pastureland into the village, it is learnt.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Crime NEWS

### Opium powders, heroin and stimulants seized in Myeik and Katha

AN anti-narcotic suppression squad from Myeik searched houses owned by Yan Kyaw, Aung Zaw Lin, Yan Aung and Maung Soe in Thayame village, Sandawut village-tract in Myeik on Saturday, resulting in the seizure of large amounts of opium.

Police seized 6.5 kilos of opium powder packed in plastic bags from Yan Kyaw's house, 9.6 kilos of opium powder in plastic bags from Aung Zaw Lin's house, 0.68 kilos of opium powder similarly packed in plastic bags from Yan Aung's house and 0.058 kilos of opium powder in plastic bags from Maung

Soe's house.

Police have taken action against Yan Kyaw, alias Kyaw Kyaw, 22, Aung Zaw Lin, 20, Yan Aung, 24, and Maung Soe, alias Rakine, 29, under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Another anti-narcotics squad from Katha searched an unlicensed Honda CRV and found stimulant drugs on Saturday. The car and drugs were confiscated.

A man named Pyone Cho was arrested for involvement in the case. While he was under detention at the police lock-up, a man who identified himself

as Myint Aung called on Pyone Cho. As Myint Aung was looking around the confiscated Honda CRV at the Katha Myoma Police Station, Katha police became suspicious of Myint Aung searching the vehicle and found 33 heroin soap-boxes weighing 396 grams and 20,000 stimulant tablets from a secret box hidden in the back of the car.

Police have taken action against Pyone Cho, alias Tin Htwe, 37, and Myint Aung, alias Aung Aung, under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

### 8-year-old child killed in crash in Kyaukphu

AN 8-year-old child was killed after a truck loaded with crushed stones struck a preschool in Kyauktinseik Village, Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State on Saturday, police said.

According to investigators, Htet Myat Aung, son of U Khin Khin Aung, resided in Ohntaw Village in the same township.

The truck carrying crushed stones crashed into the preschool building at a high rate of speed, where parents of school children had gathered to attend a parent-teacher meeting, investiga-

tors said. The collision killed the young victim, who was waiting for his mother near the front gate of the school. Hyey Myat Aung died on the spot. One woman sustained moderate injuries and received treatment at a nearby hospital.

Police Inspector Ye Tun said they are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the reckless driver, who fled the scene. The suspect will face legal charges under Section 304/a/338/202 of the Penal Code.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

### Student arrested on drug charge

A 17-year-old student living in Kyaukpyu Township in Rakhine State was recently arrested by police on drug charge, according to a police report.

Authorities seized the high school student, son of U Maung Tin Shwe, who resides in Zayditaung Ward in the township, while he was using a WY brand yaba pill weighing 0.004 gram.

Some signs and symptoms

of drug use were discovered after a preliminary test on the young suspect, said Police Inspector Ye Tun. Action is being taken against the suspect under Section 15 and 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Police led by Police Sub-inspector Aung Min Than are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest people associated with the case.— *Myitmakha News Agency*



Suspects Yan Kyaw, Aung Zaw Lin, Yan Aung and Maung Soe with opium powder. PHOTO: MPF

# LOCAL Business

## Thailand to purchase cashew nuts from Taninthayi

THAI businessmen have proposed to buy cashew nuts produced from the Taninthayi Region and also provide technical assistance, cashew growers said.

Businessmen from Thailand recently visited Taninthayi and inspected cashew trees cultivated in the coastal region. They proposed to provide technical assistance, buy the cashew nuts and

resell them to foreign countries, said U Aung Naing Soe, a cashew grower in Dawei Township.

Additionally, the businessmen asked for cooperation with the local businessmen who are engaged in crab, fish farming and oil palm farms. Myanmar's cashew nuts, which have many health benefits, will be exported to African countries.—200

## RSS-3 rubber price remains on the rise

THE price of RSS-3 rubber remained on the rise, with rubber selling well, said rubber businessmen from Hpa-an.

The RSS-3 variety of rubber hit Ks1,800 per pound in the 2010-11 fiscal year, but plunged down to Ks600 per pound by the 2014-2015 fiscal year. By the end of January, RSS-3 rubber fetched Ks1,240 per pound.

Demand has been high, causing rubber growers from

Kayin State to face labour shortages due to their increase production volume.

The rubber price is expected to remain on the rise, said Saw Min Htoo Aung, a rubber grower.

Myanmar's rubber is still poor in quality, but is of use to foreign manufacturers. Over 80,000 tonnes of rubber are annually exported to China, Japan and Malaysia, it is learnt.—*Miyimakha News Agency*

## FPB share price reaches its lowest rate of Ks32,000

THE share price of First Private Bank (FPB) hit its lowest rate, Ks32,000, on 30th January after commencing its stock trading on 20th January as the fourth company to list at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), according to the statistics of the YSX.

The base price of FPB was set at Ks39,000, whereas the upper limit price was Ks44,000 and the lower limit price was Ks34,000, according to an announcement by FPB on 19th January. The share price fell to Ks32,000 on 30th January with trading volumes of 1,938 shares.

Similarly, the total trading volumes of the shares plunged down to the lowest when compared to the trading volumes of the previous week after FPB

entered YSX. The trading volumes were 19,050 shares on 20th, 23,224 shares on 23rd, 20,536 shares on 24th, 16,988 shares on 25th, 31,125 shares on 26th and 20,488 shares on 27th, according to the statistics of YSX.

On 30th January, a total of 6,910 shares worth Ks97,545,200 were traded on YSX, with 1,650 shares of First Myanmar Investment (FMI), 3,122 shares of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), 200 shares of Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and 1,938 shares of FPB.

The share prices on 30th Jan were Ks14,000 for FMI, Ks4,100 for MTSH, Ks8,700 for MCB and Ks32,000 for FPB.—*Ko Htet*



Visitors look at the electronic board showing the stock information at Yangon Stock Exchange on 6 January 2017. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

## Farmers to boost saltwater prawn production in Maungtaw



PHOTO: ZIN Oo (MYANMA ALINN)

### Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn)

THE Maungtaw District Fishery Department has submitted a proposal for a development project to boost saltwater shrimp and prawn production in Maungtaw Township to the state government, said U Naing Win Thein, assistant director of Maungtaw District Fishery Department.

The new project includes upgrading of the existing Alethan-kyaw saltwater prawn hatcheries and construction of two new hatcheries near Kyaukpanu and Indin villages plus two other demonstration ponds in the township.

Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State is located in westernmost Myanmar with a long coastline along the Bay of Bengal. Residents mainly rely on fishing and farming.

The township annually exports aquaculture products worth US\$7.5 million to neighbouring countries.

Bangladesh buys most of the aquaculture prawn and marine shrimp from Maungtaw and regions nearby. Myanmar normally exports mud crabs, saltwater fish, shrimp and prawns as well as various kinds of dried fish to its neighbour.

There are about 2,600 lo-

cal farmers who mainly produce saltwater prawn in the township. They cultivate shrimp and prawns on over 15,300 acres of farmland, manufacturing more than 1,000 tonnes of saltwater prawns annually by using trap-and-hold farming practices.

The local breeders need more hatcheries to produce 150 million larvae of marine shrimp and prawn.

Aquaculture ponds have frequently been damaged by flooding caused by melting ice that increases the water level of the sea. The township also requires a thick bund to prevent strong tides during storms.

## Private banks support farmers implementing mechanised farming

PRIVATE banks will lend the farmers money at an interest rate of 13 per cent so that they can transform their farms from a manual operation into a mechanised system, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The private banks, including Myanmar Apex Bank and Ayeyawady Bank, plan to lend Ks300,000 to Ks500,000 per

acre. Those who want to take out loans have to provide form 7 (farmland work permit certificate), said Dr Soe Tun, the vice chairman of MRF.

More details will be released soon, Dr Soe Tun said.

Farmers need loans to be able to create irrigation channels, treat their land, plant crops and harvest their produce with the use of mechanized equipment, which

would increase their yield. All the above activities are currently done by hand on a much smaller scale.

The MRF is making efforts to enhance the agriculture industry by encouraging upgrading to mechanised farming, linking the farmers with the mechanised farming groups and with banks to get access to lower-interest loans, it is learnt.—200

## Tax increase results in steep drop in betel nut export

THE export of betel nuts from the Tamu border camp were adversely affected after India recently hiked up the tax on betel nuts.

A 40 per cent tax levied on betel nuts resulted in a near-80 per cent decline in betel nut exports through the Tamu border camp.

During December 2016, 16.4 tonnes of betel nuts worth US\$0.5million were exported via

the Tamu trade camp, near the Myanmar-India border. The volume of exports drastically dropped compared to the similar period of last year, it is learnt.

The export volume is likely to remain on the downward trend, said U Han Shwe, a merchant from Tamu border.

Indian merchants suspended business due to the likely losses

as India increased the tax rate on betel nuts, which is the main export item of Tamu border trade camp.

The value of trade via the Tamu border trade camp as of 20th January in this fiscal year 2016-2017 amounted to US\$43.363million, which is up by US\$9.579million when compared to that of last FY.—*Mon Mon*

# National Unity Party presents Policy and Programs



Vice Chairman U Han Shwe of the National Unity Party.

VICE Chairman U Han Shwe of the National Unity Party presented the Policy and Programs of their party from the Radio and TV programs on 30 January evening.

The following is the full text of his presentation:

**Respected ethnic nationals, citizens and voters,**

I wish to greet all ethnic nationals, citizens and voters, auspiciousness and physical and mental well-being.

Very soon, we will be holding by-elections in the respective constituencies for the vacant positions in the various Hluttaws. For our party, for the Pyithu Hluttaw, we will be contesting for the seat in Monywa Township constituency in the Sagaing Region and in the Chaungzon Township constituency in the Mon State.

For the Amyotha Hluttaw, we will be contesting in Constituency No.4, Nyaunglebin Township and Kyaukdaga Township of Bago Region.

As voters, you will be voting for the representatives of your choice, those who will be representing your interests. In order to assist you in the voting process and to enable you to study and assess, let me explain to you how we stand and the position of the National Unity Party.

Our party is a party based on "Policy". Our "Policy" is to work for the good of the people. The Party's program is the Myanmar Lanzin for the benefit of the people. This party is using the practice of the Middle Path as we implement programs in accordance with the Lanzin among the people, to make as little errors as possible.

In our party, we use collective leadership, individual responsibility, collective responsibility, and collective sharing of praise or blame, as part of our practice of intra-party democracy which is very much alive. I wish to inform all of you that for this reason, our National Unity Party is a party which has stood firmly in unity and stability for nearly three decades since it was founded nearly 29 years ago.

**Respected ethnic nationals, citizens and voters,**

During the 2015 Multi-party

General Elections, our National Unity Party presented our "Election Manifesto" to assist voters in making their choices. In this 2017 By-election, in addition to the policies and programs presented in our Election Manifesto, I wish to present here some facts which are very important for the whole country and all our nationals. Our country had to face armed conflicts among our national ethnic races since the time of Independence. All our ethnic national races had to face all kinds of sufferings and hardships as they are still suffering now. That is why the "Peace Process" had been initiated and implemented since 2011. We all accepted the slogan "the cause of Peace is a national cause" and participated actively in the Peace Process. At this moment two Peace conferences had already been held. Eight armed groups have signed the Nationwide Peace Agreement and there are still some armed groups which have not yet signed this agreement. To achieve peace by resolving problems by political means, national level political dialogues are being prepared in states and regions. Our political party is participating in the Peace Process in a very detailed and involved manner. We intend to continue this participation.

"Peace" is a very important for the future for our country. Aspirations of voters for "establishing a Democratic Federal Union", and "progress in the development of socio-economic conditions", depend upon "the successful implementation of the Peace Process." Therefore, I wish to present here through the voters, our political party's position which is the need for all armed ethnic groups to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and to participate in the political dialogues. We urge them to win peace through political means which is the first step of the Peace Process.

**Respected ethnic nationals, citizens and voters,**

Our party believes that the "common" goal of all ethnic nationals and citizens is the establishment of a "Union based on Democracy and Federalism" in a peaceful manner. With regards to

a federal system, there are many forms depending upon each country. However, what is important is the relaxation of central control of the Union government by giving more executive powers to the states and Regions.

It is also necessary to make sure that in making budget allocations, distribution of the country's natural resources, and the allocation of financial and tax receipts, the process is fair and equitable.

In putting this system into practice, it is very important that the Federal form of government is in accordance with our country, our people, our history, our traditions, the culture and traditions of our ethnic nationalities. Shall we say a federal form of government where "the leaves do not envelop the branches and the trunk." I wish to respectfully present here that our party will participate in the political dialogues to ensure that a final result will emerge in line with these basic principles.

In establishing a Federal Union, in order to ensure participation with unity and trust among each other, between our ethnic nationals, I wish to present here "four" principles of our party relating to affairs of the ethnic nationalities. They are: -

- (1) To ensure equality among all ethnic nationals. The items that should be included are: There should be no discrimination between big races and small races; there should not be races which have special privileges; there should not be exploitation among races; there should not be any attempts to hinder the progress and potentials of any race.
- (2) Ethnic nationalities should have the right of self-determination.
- (3) Every ethnic national race shall have the right to live and survive. They shall have the right to preserve and protect their language, literature, traditions, beliefs, culture and traditions to prevent them from extinction.
- (4) There should be the right to develop in a fair and equitable manner among all ethnic nationals. We need to work to ensure that the development gap between one ethnic national race and the other is as small as possible; also to make sure that in distributing natural resources and wealth between the Union and states and divisions, there is equitable distribution.

Our party would like to present that if all the ethnic national races can work in accordance with the principles presented above by our party, all the endeavors for peace and establishment of a federal system that the ethnic national races desire will surely be successful.

**Respected ethnic nationals, citizens and voters,**

If we are to work for the ben-



Party Logo .

efit of the farmers who form the majority in our country, we need to tackle problems such as land problems, the erratic behavior of farm produce prices, lack of funds for investment, and the land policy should be based on the principle of "farm lands should be owned by farmers". We need to amend the current law relating to farm lands. We will need to work to ensure that land policies are in line with the market economy. Also we need to utilize different approaches such as the legal, political and economic approach. Our party was able to return to farmers 42,000 acres of farmland confiscated by government ministries and big companies. We were also able to make sure that farmers were paid damages and compensation worth over Kyats 80,000 lakhs. I also wish to inform that we were able to get agricultural loans which had never been paid for over 30 years for over 70,000 acres.

I wish to continue by presenting our policies regarding workers.

We need to establish workers Unions systematically in factories and work establishments and also ensure that contract agreements are used in all work places. We also need to do a comprehensive study regarding the issue of Migrant workers and this is an area that will get our assistance.

We have been actively participating in the efforts to formulate a "Policy for Youths" and we will continue to do so.

Statistics are showing that the power of women constitute an important segment of national strength. It is important to make sure that women get leadership roles in every sector of the country. There also needs to be equality and opportunities need to be given to them to participate at higher levels. While working for the upgrading of women's performance and skills, we will work for women's participation in all sectors of the country at adequate percentages.

**Respected ethnic nationals, citizens and voters,**

I have now presented briefly our National Unity Party's establishment, policies, program (Lanzin), philosophy, practices and projects to enable voters to study and make assessments for the 2017 By-election.

In a democratic system, elections provide an opportunity to voters to create their own destiny. That is why I urge the people to use this opportunity and vote for the representatives of our party who will work for the country and the people.

I wish all ethnic nationals, citizens and voters physical and mental well-being.

## Let's vote for the NUP

Our party will compete for peace in Myanmar.

Our party will compete for peace in the Myanmar.

Let's join hands based on unity.

Let's join hands based on unity.

Our party will gain success resoundingly.

Our party will gain success resoundingly. (women)

Our party will gain success resoundingly. (men)

Our party will gain success resoundingly. (women)

Let us all support in unison.

For the success of Myanmar.

Let's go quickly without delay to vote.

NUP, NUP we will work for the benefit of all.

Working for the benefit of all - NUP, NUP.

Yearning for the NUP, to implement democracy. (three times)

We yearn for NUP for peace in our country.

We yearn for NUP for peace and development in our country.

For development, prosperity and peace in Myanmar.

If we all work in unity, there will be prosperity all over Myanmar.

Prosperity all over Myanmar, if we all work in unity.

Thinking about our national issues, unity is the most important.

Unity is the most important.

Let's vote for NUP if you want a good life.

If you want peace in the country let's vote for NUP.

Let's vote for NUP, if you want peace in the country.

Let the good will of NUP spread to all divisions and states.

Let it spread to all divisions and states, the good will of NUP.

Hey boys! Hey girls!

Hey girls! Hey boy!

Let's all vote for NUP.

(Unofficial Translation)

# Mixed message as Philippine military says no US armory moves

MANILA — The United States is not creating weapons stores or armouries in the Philippines, military officials said on Monday, contradicting President Rodrigo Duterte who has complained of a US breach of a defence pact that could stoke regional tension.

Duterte on Sunday accused the United States of stirring up trouble by building permanent arms depots in his country, including delivering tanks, and threatened to respond by scrapping a security treaty between them.

The volatile leader, who has made no secret of his disdain for the US troop presence in the Philippines, said the United States could drag his country into a conflict with China over the South China Sea, something he said would not let happen.

Military spokesman Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla said the president's concern had been looked into and the US military's activities were to help the Philippines to better handle natural dis-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while speaking during a late night news conference at the presidential palace in Manila, Philippines on 31 January, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

asters.

"There was no confirmed incident of this nature," he told reporters, referring to the accusations that arms were brought in.

"They are not allowed under the military agreement."

Padilla said only rubber boats, generator sets and materials for building shelters would be stored in Philippine facilities.

Another senior general, who declined to be identified because he is not

authorised to speak to media, said the United States had yet to bring in any materials for upgrades to bases, which the two countries would both use.

"These facilities, like runways, are to be used jointly," the second general said, adding US-built warehouses would be owned by the Philippines.

It was not the first time Duterte and his military have given conflicting messages about their decades-old alliance, which is one of Washington's most

important in Asia at a time when China's economic and military power is expanding.

Duterte's comments came after the Pentagon gave the green light for upgrades and construction of barracks, runways and storage facilities this year under a 2014 Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA).

The defence agreement covers rotational deployment of US ships, aircraft and troops at five bases in the Philippines, and the storage of equipment for humanitarian and maritime security purposes. The second general, who is involved in the country's military activities with other nations, said the agreement would ultimately help the Philippines to protect its extensive maritime borders.

"Our air and naval capability to cover these disputed areas are less than 50 per cent, so we need our allies to help and inform us about developments in the South China Sea," he added. —Reuters

# US ban could boost Middle East tourism to Thailand, official says

BANGKOK — Thailand might get more tourists from the Middle East as a result of US President Donald Trump's entry ban on people from seven Muslim-majority countries, the head of the tourism authority said on Monday.

"The Middle East is a big market for us, especially in the medical tourism sector.

They may choose to visit Thailand more and this may also boost our sector," Tourism Authority of Thailand Governor Yuthasak Supasorn told Reuters.

He said Thailand would need to assess the situation further.

Thailand's military government did not respond to a request for official comment on the ban.

Trump has presented his ban as a way to protect the United States from Islamist

miligrants, but it has been condemned by a growing list of foreign leaders and drawn protests by tens of thousands in American cities.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand is the government agency responsible for promoting tourism to Thailand.

Only just over 2 per cent of Thailand's tourists came from the Middle East in 2016, but it expects an 8 per cent rise in the first quarter of 2017 compared with the year before.

Medical tourism is a growing market for Thailand. The largest operator is Bangkok Dusit Medical Services Pcl. Another is Bumrungrad Pcl.

Muslims represent the second biggest religious group in Thailand behind Buddhists, but make up only about 5 per cent of the population. —Reuters

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# Singapore says seized troop carriers arrive back home

SINGAPORE — Nine Singaporean armoured vehicles seized by Hong Kong in November as they were being shipped home from military exercises in Taiwan, arrived back in Singapore on Monday, Singapore said.

Hong Kong's seizure of the armoured vehicles

led to tension between China and Singapore, which has deepened its security relationship with the United States over the past year and remains concerned over China's assertive territorial stance in the South China Sea. After Hong Kong authorities seized the carriers, Beijing, which

regained sovereignty over the former British colony on China's southeast coast in 1997, warned countries against maintaining military ties with Taiwan, which it views as a wayward province.

"The nine Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Terrex Infantry Carrier

Vehicles (ICVs) and other equipment arrived in Singapore today," Singapore's ministry of defence said in a statement. Hong Kong said last week it was releasing the vehicles and the Singapore government was not being investigated over shipping breaches. —Reuters

# Malaysian police arrest owner, crew members of missing boat carrying Chinese tourists

KOTA KINABALU — The owner and two crew members of the boat carrying Chinese tourists that went missing off Malaysia's Sabah state were arrested to facilitate investigation, police said on Monday.

The skipper and the crewman were suspected of causing death by negligence, said Sabah police chief Ramli Din.

The two crew members were the first to be rescued after their boat went missing on Saturday on the way from the state capital Kota Kinabalu to Pulau Mengalum, a popu-

lar tourist island some 60 km to the west. The owner was arrested later Monday, and police has launched a full probe into the accident, including whether the boat was overloaded and whether it was operated with license and insurance, Ramli told Xinhua.

"We will investigate from all angles, pertaining to negligence if any," he said.

Ramli said the boat was carrying 27 Chinese tourists instead of 28 as reported earlier. One tourist registered for the trip but cancelled the visit after seeing the boat was full.

That brings the number of unaccounted for down to five, including a crewman, not six as reported earlier, he said.

Brunei joined the search effort in a 1,500 square nautical miles area on Monday. Ahmad Puzi Ab Kahar, director general of Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, told Xinhua over phone that no new survivors were found and the search and rescue would continue.

The passengers and crew were left adrift at sea after the boat sank in rough sea, before 20 Chinese tourists were rescued

on Sunday. Three tourists were found dead. The tourists were sent back to Kota Kinabalu early Monday and admitted to a hospital. All suffered from sunburn and dehydration but were in stable conditions, according to the hospital.

A Chinese tourist who went to Pulau Mengalum for snorkeling on Saturday recalled the bumpy trip in bad weather.

"It almost broke my waist," she told Xinhua. She also recalled the crowded boat and the fact that many passengers were not wearing life jackets. —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](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with your name and title.

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

## Sycophants, nepotism and craving for power will destroy our society

**Khin Maung Oo**

**A**T this time when we are engaged in building our country into a modern, developed federal democratic union, we all are responsible to take an active part by contributing our labor, knowledge and skills as much as we can. Our contribution may be infinitesimal, as little as a grain of sand but ours can be a great force, when computed on a nationwide scale. Human innovation and knowledge of science and technology has been developing gradually beginning from the early period of human history. Now western countries and some eastern ones also have advanced enough to grasp cutting-edge technologies. Yet, some people are enjoying themselves in the rut of old systems, practices and mindsets, daydreaming to build their edifices of hopes. They seem

to think that their existence will last forever. In fact, our Lord Buddha says, "All beings and all things are subject to impermanence. Only impermanence always will exist." In answer to the demands of different conditions and different societies, different political systems emerged in our world. Duration of its existence depends on the acceptance of people under that particular system. Though the system might have started with good aims and intentions, it finally collapsed due to the unfair treatment of manipulators of that system.

"Evil disciples can ruin a good king," as a Myanmar adage goes. Then, who are evil disciples and what do they do? In brief, they are none other than sycophants and they practice nepotism and encourage cronyism. At

one time our young minds mostly may have been pure, but in time our minds have become tainted with various colors of greed, hatred and lust. Thus, the minds of our citizens have become adulterated. What I mean is that those who claimed at one time that they wished to devote themselves for the betterment of the country by joining government services turned up to be ultra-opportunists. According to the saying, "People can endure sufferings of poverty but tend to yield to the influence of wealth," they became the worst and the cruelest ones in our society. Suffice it to say that sycophants will be waiting for their chance to destroy our present democratic movement toward a modern and developed federal Union by exercising nepotism and cronyism.

Youths, or rather those with pure minds can move on to our common goal under the leadership of our current government under good and able leaders. They need to be well equipped with skills in leadership, management, management of business enterprises and many other sectors and try to make determined efforts and try to learn from the leaders. The most important thing is for them emulate good role models with good morals, so that they could shoulder the responsibility of building our nation. Here, I would like to say that we need to invite the above-said groups to join the movement towards democracy, modernization and development by abandoning their existences as sycophants practicing nepotism and cronyism.

## The financial health of Myanmar

### *The need for a Sovereign Rating is long overdue*

**Dinesh Ahluwalia**

"AFTER two years of strong economic growth and macroeconomic stability, Myanmar faced a more difficult economic environment in 2015-2016. Economic growth declined, but remained strong, at 7 percent during the period, compared with 8.5 percent in 2014-2015" that was according to the World Bank's May 2016 edition of the Myanmar Economic Monitor published as a press release on May 31st, 2016.

Fast forward to today ... with a new President elect in the US and his promised USD \$1 trillion in badly needed infrastructure spending in the US, there is an almost certainty of the rise in US interest rates later this month and perhaps more to come in the months, quarters and years ahead. The global bond markets have reacted with immediacy and signaled an end to the 30 year boom in the global bond markets with a near \$1.7 trillion loss in global bonds in November 2016.

You may be asking what is the co-relation of the above statements and what does this really mean to Myanmar. It turns out quite a lot.

Strictly speaking in economic terms the honeymoon period of easy money for emerging and frontier markets is over, Myanmar included. Every country will need to compete ever harder for investment dollars and its governments will need to make their cases for its economic and investment policies to appeal to a

higher standard demanded by the global financial markets (we are not talking about fancy PR exercises and media buying on global news channels or global road shows) and this new standard is coming faster than you can imagine.

Myanmar cannot afford to be complacent in this regard, even the world's second largest economy i.e. China (which is also slowing and re-calibrating its own economy) is being forced to make some difficult monetary policy decisions to address its exchange policies vis. a vis. an independent monetary policy and open capital borders all at the same time. It is doing so with more transparency than previously accustomed too, because it knows that it needs to make the global bond markets its friend not foe. So the lessons being that Myanmar will not be immune to shifts of money flows taking apace globally. Since the focus of economies big and small is 'money' and as we know there is cost of capital regardless if you are Sovereign Nation, Corporate, a well established Family Business, Individual, Farmer or a Laborer, regardless of your foreign exchange reserves, enterprise value, net worth, savings you are subject to a set of norms by which you are held accountable for the repayment of principal and interest. However lucky are those who can get competitive credit or in some cases credit alone.

In Myanmar you have probably heard stories of corporates who feel short changed by pay-

ing high interest rates and cannot compete locally with the incoming global products and services or heard the complaints of successful Myanmar businesses that could not access the bond markets of Singapore or other global financial centers, however the stories that really make me cringe are when I hear about farmers that are forced to borrow at unheard of interest rates or small business in villages that are indebted to borrow at double digit rates on a monthly basis and in some cases on a weekly basis.

The local banks and consumer finance companies are not the problem - they have their own complexities & high costs to deal with, nor am I pointing fingers at the predatory money lenders who have no scruples - they will continue to ply their trade regardless.

What I am humbly suggesting is what I have suggested for over a year since being more observant in Myanmar. Economically speaking, this country needs to focus on one "hurdle rate" first which when successfully overcome will have a multiplier effect in bringing down interest rates for large sections of its society. This fundamental 'hurdle rate' is something that is relatively simple for a nation to address however it needs economic leadership and the execution skills to implement in the shortest period of time. I am propagating the need to secure a Sovereign Rating as soon as possible. There is nothing more important for the health of this nation and its financial integrity

and security that Myanmar move judiciously and with much speed in securing itself a Sovereign Rating. The absence of which is impeding its economic growth, financial market transformation & growth, savings rate in financial instruments and the access to every form of competitive or structured financing at every level from corporate to the village farmer / laborer.

Qs. So what is holding Myanmar back? Answer: Prioritization & Communication.

Contrary to popular opinion it is not by giving permission or by internal acceptance or by parliamentary debate that one secures a Sovereign Rating. It is however by prioritization of the collection and communication of economic data, consistently in a transparent format within the well established norms of the Credit Rating agencies that affords them the comfort level by which to rate you.

It is this process by which the government and the central bank need to prioritize to communicate valuable economic data that can be authenticated in a consistent format continuously by which you gain the trust of Credit Rating agencies to assign you a Sovereign Rating and thereafter to constantly monitor your progress.

Approximately 130 countries on this planet benefit from a Sovereign Rating - it is about time that Myanmar its people and business benefit from a base line rate and thereafter build its various financial markets for the benefit of its society.

Myanmar for all its rich history of education and a historical center of trading has no reason why it cannot have an established and vibrant bond market, mortgage market, consumer finance market and other derivative forms of debt markets first for its own people and next regionally.

Myanmar can be an engine of growth and innovation regionally but the time to communicate economic data and policies (monetary and fiscal) is now. The cost opportunity of inaction or incommunicado is very high.

Sovereign Rating is the first step to prosperity and the financial health of this country.

*About the Author: Dinesh Ahluwalia is the Founder & Managing Director of Morning Harbour Investment Advisors Limited (MHIAL) a Private Equity Advisory firm based in Hong Kong. Dinesh is also the founder of the Myanmar Economic Forum (MEF) @ Asian Economic Forum Company Limited an economic focused public policy think tank based in Yangon. Follow MEF on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/myeconomicforum> Dinesh can also be reached at [dinesh@ahluwalia.us](mailto:dinesh@ahluwalia.us)*

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### Correction

A story on pages 8 and 9 of yesterday's Global New Light of Myanmar contained the incorrect name for the author of the article headlined "Yangon Sailing Club 'Rater Stay' Day." The correct author's names are Holger Rolf and Bo Colomby.

Holger Rolf is the Captain of Boats of the Yangon Sailing Club and Bo Colomby is a 20-year-long member of the Yangon Sailing Club. — Ed

# Abe vows to clear up Trump's "misunderstandings" on auto trade

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe indicated Monday he will seek to correct US President Donald Trump's "misunderstandings" about Japan's automobile trade practices when the leaders meet in Washington next week.

The 10 February meeting, the leaders' first face-to-face talks since Trump took office on 20 January, follows the president's singling out of auto trade with Japan as an example of unfair practices.

"If they're going to charge tax to our countries — if as an example, we sell a car into Japan and they do things to us that make it impossible to sell cars in Japan... it's not fair," Trump said at a meeting with US business leaders

last week.

"This is something that (people) at various levels on the US side, not just President Trump, constantly say to Japan, but the truth is there is no tariff barrier in Japan," Abe told a House of Councillors budgetary committee on Monday.

"If there are those sorts of misunderstandings on the US side, it's natural to let them know," he said.

While Japan does not directly apply tariffs to imports of US vehicles, US trade officials have identified various regulatory issues they say form barriers to accessing the Japanese market.

Abe blamed a lack of suitable marketing and dealerships for US automakers' poor sales in Japan.

"There are (barriers) on European vehicles but not on US vehicles, and for good reason -- this is something we have continually told the US side up until now," Abe said.

Ahead of his meeting with Trump, Abe plans to meet Toyota Motor Corp President Akio Toyoda this Friday, according to a Japanese government source. The gathering will also likely involve Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga.

Trump took aim at Toyota Motor while he was president-elect, threatening to impose a "big border tax" on Japan's top automaker if it proceeds with its plan to build a new plant in Mexico to produce Corolla cars for the US market.—Reuters



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga (far L) attend a meeting of the House of Councillors Budget Committee in Tokyo on 30 January, 2017. Abe said he is in "no position to comment" on Trump's travel ban, but that the "international community should work together to deal with refugees." PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Philippines puts anti-drug operation on hold to tackle rogue police

MANILA — Philippine police have suspended controversial anti-narcotics operations until they can rid their ranks of "scalawags", their chief said on Monday, following President Rodrigo Duterte's admission the force was "corrupt to the core".

Duterte, in a break from his steadfast support for the police, estimated 40 per cent of the force were corrupt and as "lousy as drug lords", responding angrily late on Sunday to the kidnap and killing of a South Korean businessman by drug squad officers.

Duterte has been unwavering in his defence of police involved in the campaign against drugs in the face of international outrage over the death toll, and repeatedly said he would protect those accused of wrongdoing.

He has, however, frequently voiced frustration at police corruption.

Duterte made it clear the drugs war would continue until his presidency ends in 2022 and his police chief, Ronald dela Rosa, said he hoped operations could resume within a month.

"To all the rogue cops, beware! We no longer have a war on drugs. We now have a war on scalawags," Dela Rosa told reporters after a flag-raising ceremony at the police headquarters where South Korean Jee Ick-joo, 53, was strangled in October.

"We will cleanse our ranks."

New York-based Human Rights Watch dismissed the suspension of the anti-drug campaign as a public relations stunt, unless Duterte "seeks meaningful accountability" for the wave of drug-related killings unleashed after he took office seven months ago.

More than 7,000 people have since been killed, about 2,250 during police operations. The remainder are being investigated.



Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Ronald Dela Rosa gestures during a news conference at the PNP headquarters in Quezon city, Metro Manila, Philippines on 30 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The drugs war has alarmed the West and rights groups accuse Duterte of tolerating a wave of extrajudicial killings by police. Police deny this, saying they have acted in self-defence.

While rights groups suspect many of killings being investigated have been police "hits", police have attributed the deaths to vigilantism, narcotics turf wars and other violence not related to drugs.

"His wilful blind-eye to those deaths constitutes a disgraceful betrayal of the public trust," Phelim Kline, the group's deputy Asia director, said in a statement, referring to Duterte.

Kline said it was "a telling indicator of his personal contempt for rule of law and the right to life of his fellow citizens".

Dela Rosa's decision to suspend the drug crackdown came a day after he announced the dis-

mantling of all anti-drugs units due to police abuses, including the planting of evidence.

The death of Jee was a disaster for the image of the police.

Jee was arrested for drug offences that his wife and lawyers said was an official cover for kidnap for ransom.

Senator Leila De Lima, Duterte's most outspoken critic, said the president had a problem with "cognitive dissonance" and it was baffling that he could so strongly denounce police yet vow no let-up in the campaign.

"I continue to worry about the state of the president's mental health," she said in a statement.

"This latest incongruence between his factual assertion of a rotten police force on the one hand and his reliance on them to continue prosecuting his drug war as official government policy, has dire consequences." —Reuters

## N Korea viewed as China's No 2 threat after US: China document

TAIPEI — North Korea is positioned as China's No 2 threat after the United States, according to a recent document written by strategists of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and seen by Kyodo News.

It shows that despite the two neighbouring countries' traditionally friendly diplomatic relations, North Korea is seen, from a military perspective, as a threat in view of its nuclear and missile development.

The document, issued in May 2016, is a wartime exercise guideline for preparing for threats from hypothetical enemies.

In their analysis of the situation facing China, the strategists cite "five potential threats," the foremost of them being the United States and its "rebalance to Asia." Mentioned secondly is North Korea, which they note has declared itself to be a nuclear power and has established

many nuclear facilities near its border with China.

If war breaks out again on the Korean Peninsula, the document says, this would pose a "huge threat" to the northern and northeast parts of China. Japan is mentioned thirdly, with the strategists citing the two countries' row over the Japanese-administered, China-claimed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. With aircraft and ships of the two countries coming and going through the area, military conflict may occur, they suggest.

In fourth place is the South China Sea where the claims of China and other countries such as Vietnam and the Philippines overlap. While noting that China is expanding its military power in that area, such as by deploying air defense radar on islands it occupies, China can only effectively control some parts, so China "cannot be optimistic." — Reuters

## US, S Korea agree to strengthen defence against N Korean threat

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump and South Korea's Acting President Hwang Kyo Ahn agreed Sunday to work together to better strengthen their defense against "the North Korean threat."

The two leaders spoke by telephone for the first time since Trump's inauguration on 20 January and Hwang's assumption of the role of acting president on 9 December, and pledged to "advance mutual security and prosperity," according to a White House statement.

It said that Trump reaffirmed the United States' "iron-clad commitment to defend the ROK, including through the provision of extended deterrence, suing the full range of military

capabilities," referring to South Korea by its formal name, the Republic of Korea.

The statement also mentioned an upcoming visit to South Korea by US Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis, adding that the occasion would "demonstrate the importance of the US-ROK alliance."

Mattis is expected to visit South Korea and Japan in early February.

During his presidential campaign, Trump demanded South Korea and Japan should pay a greater share of the costs associated with stationing US forces in their countries.

There are currently around 28,500 US troops stationed in South Korea.—Kyodo News

## New Zealand hires former Trump campaign director to lobby for business visas

WELLINGTON — New Zealand has hired a former campaign field director for US President Donald Trump to help its push for a long-sought visa that would give the Pacific nation's business employees easier access to the United States.

New Zealand's embassy in Washington hired boutique firm Sonoran Policy Group's Stuart Jolly to lobby the US administration for access to E1 and E2 business and investor visas, according to documents filed with a US government database last week.

Jolly acted as Trump's national campaign field director during the Republican primaries and joined the super PAC Great America, which backed Trump, as its national advisor in May.

"We are excited to help

facilitate interactions with the US Congress and incoming administration in order to ensure increased investment and trade between our two nations," Sonoran Policy Group CEO Christian Bourge said in a letter to New Zealand's deputy ambassador sent on 11 January. The letter was included in the US government's Foreign Agents Registration Act database on 25 January.

The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs was not immediately available for comment.

The E1 and E2 immigration programs have long been a priority for New Zealand as they would allow companies operating in the United States access to streamlined visas for their staff in line with neighboring Australia and around 50 other countries.

"It's been the number one focus of the embassy over there," said Catherine Beard, executive director of industry group Export NZ, adding that access to the visa program was generally granted after reaching a free trade agreement. "We've been trying for years to negotiate a free trade agreement with the US and we've never been high enough on their radar," she said.

The NZ embassy's contract with Sonoran runs for two months from 9 January at a cost of \$25,000 a month, according to the documents. New Zealand expressed disappointment when Trump last week pulled the United States out of a 12-nation trade pact, the Trans Pacific Partnership, and is now looking to strike a bilateral trade deal.—Reuters

## Tens of thousands in US cities protest Trump immigration order



Demonstrators during anti-Donald Trump immigration ban protests in Terminal 4 at San Francisco International Airport in San Francisco, California, US, on 29 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of people rallied in US cities and at airports on Sunday to voice outrage over President Donald Trump's executive order restricting entry into the country for travelers from seven Muslim-majority nations.

In New York, Washington and Boston, a second wave of demonstrations followed spontaneous rallies that broke out at US airports on Saturday as US Customs and Border Protection agents began enforcing Trump's directive. The protests spread westward as the day progressed.

The order, which bars admission of Syrian refugees and suspends travel to the United States from Syria, Iraq, Iran and four other countries on national security grounds, has led to the detention or deportation of hundreds of people arriving at US airports.

One of the largest of Sunday's

protests took place at Battery Park in lower Manhattan, within sight of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, long a symbol of welcome to US shores.

Democratic Senator Charles Schumer of New York told the crowd that Trump's order was un-American and ran counter to the country's core values.

"What we are talking about here is life and death for so many people," the Senate Democratic leader said. "I will not rest until these horrible orders are repealed." The march, estimated to have grown to about 10,000 people, later began heading to the US Customs and Border Protection office in lower Manhattan.

In Washington, thousands rallied at Lafayette Square across from the White House, chanting: "No hate, no fear, refugees are welcome here."

It was the second straight

weekend that Washington was the scene of protests. Last Saturday, hundreds of thousands of women participated in an anti-Trump rally and march, one of dozens staged across the country.

On Sunday, many of the protesters left the White House area and marched along Pennsylvania Avenue, stopping at the Trump International Hotel where they shouted: "Shame, shame, shame."

A crowd that police estimated at 8,000 people eventually arrived at the steps of the US Capitol, where a line of uniformed officers stood guard. As the crowd passed the Canadian Embassy en route to the Capitol, protesters chanted: "Hey hey, ho ho, I wish our leader was Trudeau." It was a reference to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Saturday Twitter message affirming his country's welcoming policy toward refugees.—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### PM May's spokesman says UK and US have strong relationship

LONDON — Britain and the United States have a strong relationship and should continue working together, a spokesman for Prime Minister Theresa May said on Monday when asked about a petition calling for US President Donald Trump's state visit to be cancelled.

Over a million people in Britain have signed the petition in a grassroots backlash against Trump's immigration policies. It says the visit, due to take place later this year, should be scrapped to avoid embarrassing Queen Elizabeth.

"The invitation has been extended and it has been accepted. The UK and the US have a very strong and close relationship and it is right that we continue to work together," the spokesman said.

He also said Britain had been clear it disagreed with Trump's travel restrictions.—Reuters

#### US embassy in Berlin suspends visas for nationals on Trump's ban list

BERLIN — The US embassy in Berlin said on its Facebook page on Monday that visa issuance had been suspended to nationals, or dual nationals, of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

"Per US Presidential Executive Order signed on 27 January, 2017, visa issuance to aliens from the countries of Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen has been suspended effective immediately until further notification," it said.

"If you are a national, or dual national, of one of these countries, please do not schedule a visa appointment or pay any visa fees at this time," the embassy added.—Reuters

#### Businessman questioned in Fillon 'fake work' inquiry-source

PARIS — French businessman and billionaire Marc Ladreit de Lacharriere was questioned on Monday by police investigating allegations of fake work by the wife of presidential candidate Francois Fillon, according to a source with knowledge of the case.

De Lacharriere's Fimalac holding company owns the literary review La Revue des Deux Mondes, one of Penelope Fillon's employers during a period in which the Canard Enchaîné newspaper says she was paid hundreds of thousands of euros for work she did not do.

Francois Fillon has said her work, which also included being an assistant to him, was real. An investigation was launched last week into the affair which has knocked his presidential campaign off course.—Reuters

#### Iraq asks Trump administration to "reconsider" travel ban

BAGHDAD — Iraq has asked the United States to reconsider a travel ban imposed on Iraqis, a foreign ministry statement said on Monday, adding that the US decision was "wrong".

"It is necessary that the new American administration reconsider this wrong decision," it said.

Recalling their continuing cooperation in the war on Islamic State, the statement added: "We affirm Iraq's desire to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries."—Reuters

#### Mexico says more meetings with US officials possible soon

MEXICO CITY — Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray said on Monday dialogue with officials from the Trump administration is continuing and further bilateral meetings could take place in the coming days.

"I don't rule out that there will be meetings in the next few days with officials from the administration," Videgaray said in an interview with Mexican television.

Relations between the two nations hit a low point last week when US President Donald Trump said his Mexican counterpart Enrique Pena Nieto should call off a planned meeting if he was not ready to pay for the American's planned border wall.

Pena Nieto quickly cancelled the trip, but the two leaders later talked by telephone and agreed between themselves not to discuss the thorny issue of payment of the wall for the time being, according to the Mexican government.—Reuters

# Hama-based rebel group withdraws from Syria ceasefire — statement

BEIRUT — A rebel group fighting under the Free Syrian Army banner in north-west Syria has withdrawn from a shaky nationwide ceasefire, blaming the government and its allies for violations.

“Due to Russia’s lack of commitment as a guarantor...we announce that, as of today, we are not bound by this agreement,” Jaish al-Ezza, a signatory to the deal brokered by Russia and Turkey, said in a statement on Sunday.

The group said its decision was in response to what it described as heavy Russian bombardment of its positions and surrounding areas in Hama province.

Fighting and air strikes have plagued the ceasefire between the government and rebel groups since it took effect in late Decem-



Rebels drive their vehicles on the outskirts of the northern Syrian town of al-Bab, Syria on 29 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ber, with the combatants accusing each other of violations.

After two days of negotiations in Kazakhstan last week, Russia, Turkey, and Iran agreed to ensure

full compliance with the fragile truce.

Jaish al Ezza, which has received foreign aid from states opposed to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, also blamed

government forces and allied militia for breaching the ceasefire in Wadi Barada near Damascus.

A month-long offensive against rebels in Wadi Barada ended on Sunday

when the government captured the valley, where a major spring supplies most of the capital’s water.

The Hama-based rebel group’s withdrawal from the truce could further complicate the battlefield in the insurgent-held north-western corner of Syria, where jihadists and more moderate Islamist factions are at war with each other.

The Syrian conflict pits Assad’s government, backed by Russia and Iran, against an array of mostly Sunni rebel groups, including some supported by Turkey, Gulf monarchies, and the United States.

Despite an overall reduction in violence, more than 400 civilians have died in clashes and bombardment since the truce began, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said.—Reuters

## US drones target two suspected al Qaeda militants in Yemen — officials

DUBAI — A suspected US drone strike killed two men believed to be al Qaeda militants in central Yemen, local officials said early on Monday, hours after American commandos carried out the first military operation authorized by President Donald Trump.

The officials said the pilotless plane targeted a vehicle traveling in Baihan in the province of Shabwa, in which two suspected al Qaeda members were traveling. Both men were killed, they said.

Al Qaeda has exploited a civil war in Yemen pitting the Iran-aligned Houthi movement against the Saudi-backed government of president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to recruit more followers and enhance its influence in the impoverished country. The United States, which sees the Yemeni branch of al Qaeda as a major threat to its regional interests, conducted dozens of drone strikes in Yemen throughout Barack Obama’s presidency.

It has acknowledged drone strikes to target militants, but declines to comment on specific attacks.

A US commando died and three were wounded during a dawn raid on Sunday in the rural Yakla district of central Yemen’s al-Bayda province. The US military also said that at least 14 suspected al Qaeda militants were killed.—Reuters

## Canadian PM says mosque shooting a ‘terrorist attack on Muslims’

QUEBEC CITY — Six people were killed and eight wounded when gunmen opened fire at a Quebec City mosque during Sunday night prayers, in what Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called a “terrorist attack on Muslims”.

Police said two suspects had been arrested, but gave no details about them or what prompted the attack.

Initially, the mosque president said five people were killed and a witness said up to three gunmen had fired on about 40 people inside the Quebec City Islamic Cultural Centre. Police said only two people were involved in the attack.

“Six people are confirmed dead — they range in age from 35 to about 70,” Quebec provincial police spokeswoman Christine Coulombe told reporters, adding eight people were wounded and 39 were unharmed. The mosque’s president, Mohamed Yangui, who was not inside when the shooting occurred, said he got frantic calls from people at evening prayers.

“Why is this happening here? This is barbaric,” he said. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement: “We condemn this terrorist attack on Muslims in a center of worship and refuge”.

“Muslim-Canadians are



Swat team police officer walk around a mosque after a shooting in Quebec City. PHOTO: REUTERS

an important part of our national fabric, and these senseless acts have no place in our communities, cities and country.”

The shooting came on the weekend that Trudeau said Canada would welcome refugees, after US

President Donald Trump suspended the US refugee program and temporarily barred citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States on national security grounds.

A Canadian feder-

al Liberal legislator, Greg Fergus, tweeted: “This is an act of terrorism — the result of years of sermonizing Muslims. Words matter and hateful speeches have consequences!”

The premier of Quebec province, Philippe Couillard, said security would be increased at mosques in Quebec City and Montreal.

“We are with you. You are home,” Couillard said, directing his comments at the province’s Muslim community. “You are welcome in your home. We are all Quebecers. We must continue together to build an open welcoming and peaceful society.”.—Reuters

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2017 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

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2017 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING  
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

## Russia and India to develop BrahMos light cruise missile for PAK FA 5th-generation jet

REUTOV — The BrahMos light cruise missile will be mounted both in submarines' torpedo launchers and on Russia's fifth-generation T-50 PAK FA (Prospective Airborne Complex of Front-line Aviation) fighter jet, CEO and General Designer of the Machine-Building R&D Consortium Alexander Leonov said on Friday.

"We are working on the missile's light version. It should fit the size of a torpedo tube and be almost 1.5 times smaller by its weight. It will be possible to mount our airborne missile on a wide range [of aircraft]. Of course, we'll be developing it, first of all, for the fifth-generation plane but, possibly, it will be mounted on the MiG-35 fighter, although we have not carried out such developments," he said.

The BrahMos super-



The missile has a range of 290 km and carries a warhead weighing from 200 to 300 kg. PHOTO: ITAR TASS

sonic cruise missile is the product of Russia's Machine-Building Research and Development Consortium and India's Defence Research and Develop-

ment Organization, which set up BrahMos Aerospace joint venture in 1998.

The missile's name comes from the names of two rivers: the Indian

Brahmaputra of and the Russian Moscow river. The missile has a range of 290 km and carries a warhead weighing from 200 to 300 kg.—*ITAR TASS*

## Tokyo taxis start lower minimum fare

TOKYO — Most taxi operators in Tokyo on Monday began offering a lower starting fare of 410 yen (around \$3.60) to attract foreign visitors and elderly people traveling short distances.

The minimum fare for up to 1,052 metres, which compares with the previous 730 yen for up to 2 km, applies to rides offered by taxi service operators based in Tokyo's 23 wards and adjacent western cities of Musashino and Mitaka.

The new fare structure allows passengers to travel at a cheaper rate for up to slightly less than 2 km, but at a higher rate for roughly 6.5 km or longer.

After the first 1,052 metres, passengers will be



A meter in a taxi shows a starting fare of 410 yen (around \$3.60) in Tokyo on 30 January, 2017. Most taxi operators in Tokyo began the lower starting fare the same day to attract foreign visitors and elderly people traveling short distances. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

charged 80 yen per every 237 metre, a steeper per-metre rate than the previous 90 yen per 280 metre.

The transport ministry and the taxi industry hope

the new fare table will help increase demand among foreign visitors and elderly people as the aging country gears up for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The number of taxi users has been on a decline, with Tokyo seeing a roughly 30 per cent drop in the past 10 years.

The transport ministry said it plans to monitor the impact of the new system on usage and whether it is beneficial.

The move comes after taxi operator Nihon Kotsu Co. applied for the fare revision in April last year and the transport ministry implemented trial runs within Tokyo in August and September.

The ministry concluded from the trial that taxis attract more users per month on average under the lower base fare system.—*Kyodo News*

## Kremlin says Putin and Trump could meet before G20 in July

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said on Monday it was too early to talk about any possible deals with the United States over sanctions on Russia, but that President Vladimir Putin could meet US President Donald Trump before the G20 in July.

Putin and Trump spoke by phone on Saturday and Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on a conference call on Monday the exchange had been a good one.

"(But) it's hardly possible to talk about any kind of deals (over sanctions)," said Peskov.

"To start with we must fix the date and time of a meeting between the two presidents. Aides are working on this now," he

said, adding that a meeting could happen before a G20 summit scheduled to take place in Hamburg on 7-8 July.

Peskov said that Putin and Trump had not discussed sanctions in their phone call on Saturday, their first conversation since Trump's inauguration.

But, he said: "We have seen a readiness to solve difficult problems through dialogue, which President Putin has long been calling for and unfortunately in previous years did not find a response (to)."

Peskov said that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi would attend the St Petersburg International Economic Forum in June.—*Reuters*

## Indonesia launches import incentives for materials used by export-oriented SMEs

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Joko Widodo launched on Monday an incentive programme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for importing materials to manufacture their export-oriented products, aimed at reducing their production cost.

"By reducing their manufacturing cost, we expect this programme would further boost the exports of SMEs products," the president said during the event to launch the programme, locally called KITE, in Tumang village located in Central Java province city of Boyolali. The president added that it would eventually improve Indonesian SMEs' competitiveness in international trade.

Tumang is a village

that houses SME firms producing copper-based goods for exports for the United States and European markets. The programme is applied by annulling import taxes and tariffs over materials, machinery and other necessities needed to produce export-oriented products by SMEs.

Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani, who was at presence, said that the program was part of government's efforts to further develop SMEs sector which gives significant contribution to the nation's economy. The minister said that SMEs sector contributes 61.41 per cent to Gross Domestic Products (GDP), employs 97 per cent of the nation's total workforce.—*Xinhua*

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2017 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES  
Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALACCA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2017 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

# Postgraduates flocking to carpentry jobs at small builder in Japan

By Michio Watanabe

TOKYO — Heisei Corp, a small construction company in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, has a pool of 220 carpenters comprising many who finished graduate programmes at the country's top schools, such as the University of Tokyo.

Carpentry is by no means a magnet for new graduates on the job front in Japan because of low wages, and like any other industry in Japan it is beset by the impact of a graying population.

"The construction industry is experiencing an acute aging (of workers) and carpentry may well be called an 'endangered species'," Hisao Akimoto, who heads Heisei, told Kyodo News in an interview in December.

"I wanted to lay down arrangements and build a company to prevent such professionals from becoming extinct from this world," said the 68-year-old president of the company based in the city of Numazu with a turnover of around 1.5 billion yen (\$131 million) in fiscal 2015.

The number of carpenters in Japan dropped to 400,000 in 2010 from roughly 1 million in the 1980s. They are projected to shrink further to 210,000 in 2020, when Japan hosts the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, a national event generating construction demand. Many



**Hisao Akimoto, president of Heisei Corp., speaks in an interview with Kyodo News about his construction company, where employees start working as carpenters.** PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

are thought to be in their 50s.

"Carpenters used to enjoy a solid reputation," said Akimoto, whose father was a master overseeing around 30 carpenters at his shop, which eventually went bankrupt. "A master carpenter himself was engaged in designing, building, management and training of apprentices."

But the profession has lost its appeal, he said, because construction work has become increasingly compartmentalized, and carpenters are assigned to assemble parts. "They sometimes don't know what they are working on is used for. Besides, it is low-paying work."

"In one way or another, I just wanted to restore dignity to carpenters," he said.

Heisei covers work from wooden houses to 10-story reinforced concrete buildings for apartments in the greater Tokyo area and has 575 people on its payroll, including the 220 carpenters.

Akimoto, a weightlifting enthusiast who once aspired to be an Olympic athlete, was a salesman with a home building company before setting up the company himself in 1989, aiming to be a business with a team of building professionals like a master carpenter in olden days who can undertake the whole program from design conception to execution.

"I took the trouble of going to numerous job offer meetings by businesses in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya just to speak about what makes carpentry fascinating," Akimoto said.

In addition to such job promotion efforts, he also decided to offer salaries to new recruits matching those of major general contractors and pay semiannual bonuses. "Then students themselves started coming to Heisei Corp.," he said.

One of those postgraduate carpenters is Taiyo Byakuno, 28, who joined in April 2014 after finishing a postgraduate program in architecture at Waseda University.

"I took up carpentry because I wanted to build stylish homes," the 28-year-old said at a Heisei construction

site in Mishima, Shizuoka Prefecture where a set of pillars had just been assembled on a rainy day in December.

"I wanted to feel what it was like to build something by using my own hands on a site," said Byakuno, who was among the seven working on a two-story home.

Byakuno said he does not have the experience of working with nails or chisels and learned how to use them in a training programme on a building site.

"I recently passed an exam for first-class architect," he said of the premier certification by the Japan Federation of Architects and Building Engineers Associations. "In the future, I want to engage in comprehensive home building covering design to site work."

Kosuke Naito, 28, is also a first-class architect who joined Heisei in 2012 after completing a programme in architecture at the University of Tokyo's graduate school. After a stint in carpentry for two years and nine months, he currently serves as a site supervisor. "When I was just thinking in my student days about what I would do in the future, I saw a Heisei carpenter who graduated from Kyoto University on a TV program," he said. "It grabbed my attention and I just joined the company without thinking too much," he said.

Hanae Kawakami, 28,



**Taiyo Byakuno engages in carpentry on a home building site. He and scores of other postgraduate students from top schools in Japan have taken up jobs with Heisei Corp, a small construction company offering competitive salaries to graduates wishing to work as carpenters.** PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

completed studies in architecture at Tokyo University of the Arts' graduate school and took employment with Heisei three years ago. Certified as a first-class architect, she also did her share of carpentry work before being assigned to designing in September last year.

"In my student days, design was a world made up of only lines," she said.

"What is fascinating about my current work is this sense of experiencing a narrowing distance between lines on a drawing and what is actually being built." President Akimoto is a believer in general education. "It's necessary to have a cultured mind to come up with quality buildings that incorporate customer needs," he said.—*Kyodo News*

## Naha Airport runway temporarily closed after F-15 fighter problem

TOKYO — The sole runway at Naha Airport in Okinawa was forced to close temporarily on Monday after a Japanese Air Self-Defence Force F-15 fighter jet had trouble with its front-landing gear, forcing

at least 60 commercial flights to be canceled or diverted to other destinations.

The fighter jet became unable to take off after the front-wheel tire became detached before it was due to

depart together with three other fighters at around 1:20 pm, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the airport operator. Following removal of the jet, the 3,000-metre

runway resumed operations shortly after 3 pm, the airport office said.

The airport is used jointly by Self-Defence Forces aircraft and civilian planes flying in and out of Okinawa, Japan's southern

island prefecture.

Naha Airport is the base of an ASDF unit which has scrambled planes to the airspace near the Japanese-controlled Senkaku Islands, claimed by China, in the East China Sea.

The number of such scrambles involving the unit accounted for nearly 70 per cent of the nationwide total between last April and December, according to the Defence Ministry.—*Kyodo News*

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

**MV FREDENSBORG VOY. NO (17002)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FREDENSBORG VOY. NO (17002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES PTE  
LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

**MV GLOBAL LEGEND VOY. NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GLOBAL LEGEND VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.1.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 NAVAL BULK CORP**

Phone No: 2301928

### TRADE MARK CAUTION

**Anita Dr. Helbig GmbH**, incorporated in Austria, of Endach 40, A-6332 Kufstein/Tirol, Austria, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



**Reg. No. 3063/2015**

in respect of "Corsetry, lingerie, bras, swimsuits, breast prostheses".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for **Anita Dr. Helbig GmbH**  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
e-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm  
Dated: 31 January 2017

## 'Hidden Figures,' 'Fences' lead politically charged SAG awards

LOS ANGELES — "Hidden Figures" was the surprise best film ensemble winner at Sunday's Screen Actors Guild awards, a show overshadowed by politics as stars slammed US President Donald Trump for restricting entry for travelers from seven Muslim-majority nations.

"Hidden Figures," the true story of three black female mathematicians during the 1960s space race, ousted awards front-runners "Manchester By the Sea" and "Moonlight" to claim the night's top prize.

"This story is about what happens when we put our dif-

ferences aside and we come together," star Taraji P Henson said.

"Thank you for appreciating these women, they are hidden figures no more," she added.

"Fences," based on August Wilson's award-winning stage play about blue-collar African-Americans, claimed two major acting awards.

With awards darling "La La Land" out of the running for the top SAG prize for best ensemble, the win put "Hidden Figures" firmly into the race for the best picture Oscar, the top accolade in the film

industry. Voted for by about 120,000 US actors, the two-hour televised SAG awards show often anoints top Academy Award winners since actors comprise the largest body within Oscar voters.

A surprised Denzel Washington won best actor for "Fences," beating out front-runners Casey Affleck for "Manchester By the Sea" and Ryan Gosling for "La La Land." Washington's co-star Viola Davis, who won best supporting actress, thanked the late playwright Wilson for honoring "the average man, who happened to be a man of color." —Reuters



The cast of "Hidden Figures" poses backstage with the award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture during the 23rd Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, on 29 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Aspiring French dentist wins Miss Universe; advocates teaching, toothcare

MANILA — A dental student from Paris was crowned Miss Universe on Monday, becoming the second Frenchwoman to win the title in the pageant's history and the first champion from Europe in more than a decade.

Iris Mittenaere beat 85 other hopefuls in the finale in the Philippines in the 65th edition of the three-hour show that focused on diversity and empowering women to overcome the struggles of life.

"I was very surprised I won, I feel blessed," said the 24-year-old, whose competition profile had described her goal as advocating for dental and oral hygiene if she won.

Having clinched the crown, Mittenaere said she wanted to go beyond that and promote education for children and young women.

"Miss Universe was a dream, every girl wants to be Miss Universe ... the stage is amazing, everything is amazing," she said, beaming throughout her victory news conference.

"I want to help people, I want to understand people, I want to meet people, that's why this is a dream for me."

Haiti's Raquel Pelissier was the first runner-up, while Andrea Tovar of Colombia placed second runner-up.

Thirteen contestants were picked for the swimsuit round of the finals after a preliminary competition last week, before being reduced to nine for the

evening gown segment. The contenders were then trimmed to six, including Thailand's Chalita Suansane, Mary Esther Were of Kenya and local hopeful Maxene Medina, who overcame a torrent of domestic criticism of her public-speaking skills.

Medina had a hard act to follow in the run-up to the competition, with the wildly popular Filipina Pia Wurtzbach the reigning champion, and hogging much of media attention.

Wurtzbach said she was happy with the result and congratulated Medina.

Steve Harvey returned as show host after a gaffe in the 2015 competition, when he mistakenly announced the wrong winner.

Canada's Sierra Bearchell, a 23-year-old law student and entrepreneur, also won a Top 13 spot despite getting some tough comments from fans about her weight, and how she was bigger than her rivals.

"This competition is more than what we look like. It's about being comfortable with who we are," she was quoted as saying in a media interview.

It was the third time for the Philippines to host the pageant, and its major local sponsor, tycoon Luis Singson, paid \$13 million in a one-off deal to bring the contest to the country.

—Reuters



Newly-crowned Miss Universe Iris Mittenaere from France waves during a news conference inside a Mall of Asia arena in metro Manila, Philippines on 30 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Brand Beckham? No, we stay together for love, says David

LONDON — Former England football captain David Beckham has rejected suggestions he and wife Victoria stay together for commercial reasons — the Beckham "brand" — saying they simply love each other.

The A-list celebrity, who helped Manchester United achieve an unprecedented treble of winning the Premier League, FA Cup and UEFA Champions League in the 1998-99 season, said his family was a "strong unit".

"People have talked about 'Do we stay together because it's a brand?' Of course not," the 41-year-old told interviewer Kirsty Young on BBC radio's Desert Island Discs on Sunday.

"We stay together because we love each other. We stay together because we have four amazing children."

Beckham married Victoria Adams, "Posh Spice" in the globally successful Spice Girls pop group, in 1999, creating a high-profile celebrity partnership.

The footballer said the early

stages of their relationship were conducted in his new BMW in the far-from-posh setting of a car park at a Harvester, a popular chain of pubs in Britain.

"We used to kiss, of course, and just spend time together," he said.

Beckham was the guest for the 75th anniversary of Desert Island Discs, a show that asks a "castaway" to pick eight recordings to keep them company on an imaginary uninhabited island.

He failed to pick any Spice Girls' hits though.

He said his first two song choices, "Every Time We Say Goodbye" by Ella Fitzgerald, and "What a Fool Believes" by Michael McDonald & the Doobie Brothers, reminded him of his grandfather and father. He said his dad would analyze every football game he played from the age of seven. "I knew that my dad would be proud of my achievements, but the only time my dad turned around to me and said, 'You know what son you've done really well', was when I got my 100th cap for England," he said.

—Reuters



Victoria and David Beckham arrive for the Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty exhibition gala at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, on 12 March, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Who are the Knights of Malta?



Members of the Order of the Knights of Malta arrive in St Peter Basilica for their 900th anniversary at the Vatican on 9 February, 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

VATICAN CITY — The Knights of Malta, an ancient Catholic order which operates as global charity, has its headquarters on one of Rome's most exclusive streets, the cobble-stoned Via Condotti where red-and-white flags bearing the Maltese Cross fly above the entrance.

The leadership of the order — formally, the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Je-

rusalem of Rhodes and of Malta — has been locked in a battle with the Vatican for the past two months.

Here are some facts about the order:

- The Knights of Malta started in 1048 as the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, a monastic community which ran a hospital for pilgrims in the Holy Land. In 1113, it became a lay religious order, with all knights bound by the three

monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. It later became a military order to defend its centres and access roads.

- In 1291, after the loss of the Holy Land, it moved to the island of Cyprus. In 1310, it moved to Rhodes and became a major naval force in the Mediterranean. The Knights were defeated by the forces of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in 1523 and moved to Mal-

ta, where they stayed until 1798, when they were forced to leave by Napoleon.

- The order settled definitively in Rome in 1834 and since then it has concentrated on its original mission, mostly through its humanitarian aid arm, Mal-taser International.

- Today the institution is a worldwide charity that counts 13,000 members, 80,000 volunteers and some 25,000 paid employees, most of them medical staff.

- The top leadership consists of the Grand Master, the Grand Commander, the Grand Chancellor, the Grand Hospitaller and the Receiver of the Common Treasure (finance minister). They sit above a Sovereign Council, made up of six members.

- The all-male top leaders are not clerics, but they take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience to the pope.

- The institution has the status of a sovereign entity, maintaining diplomatic ties with more than 100 states and the European Union. It also has permanent observer status at the United Nations.—Reuters

# Cockfighters reap Year of Rooster bonus in Thailand

BANGKOK — Prized birds faced off in front of thousands of spectators at a stadium near Thailand's capital on Sunday as celebrations for the Year of the Rooster brought a windfall for some.

Although cockfighting is banned in many countries on grounds of animal cruelty, it is a lucrative business in Thailand as well as a popular pastime. Sunday's top bird sold for over \$70,000.

"This year is a very good year for us. It's the year of the golden rooster. The value of the roosters has gone up," said Banchej Changyai, 55, who was running the contest south of Bangkok on the second day of celebrations for the Lunar New Year.

Each fight involves two roosters facing off in a pit. They lurch at each,

inflicting damage with beaks and wings.

Each round is 22 minutes long, and there can be up to six rounds depending on the roosters' endurance.

"Today, the rooster brought me a lot of money. I love cockfighting, it's a hobby of mine," said Narongsak Sealee, 22, after winning 500,000 baht (\$14,170) at the Thedthai cockfighting stadium in Samut Prakan province.

Unlike in many countries, the Thai cocks do not fight to the death. Instead, the first bird to cower away loses.

"This rooster is so good that it gives me, the owner, a great reputation and makes me very happy," said Virat Patcharaphangkorn, after buying the event's prize rooster for 2.5 million baht (\$70,840).—Reuters



A cockfight is seen during the event organised to celebrate the Lunar New Year and the year of the Rooster on the outskirts of Bangkok, Thailand on 29 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Iranian Oscar winner to boycott ceremony over "unjust" travel ban

DUBAI — Oscar-winning filmmaker Asghar Farhadi will boycott this year's ceremony in protest at US President Donald Trump's "unjust" ban on people from his country — Iran — and six others.

Announcing his decision, the director, who won the 2012 best foreign language film award for "A Separation" and is nominated again this year, compared the Trump administration to Iranian hardliners

as both use the fear of outsiders "to justify extremist and fanatic behaviour by narrow-minded individuals".

"Hardliners, despite their nationalities, political arguments and wars, regard and understand the world in very much the same way," Farhadi said in a statement, published by the New York Times and some Iranian media.

"In order to understand the world, they have no

choice but to regard it via an 'us and them' ... This is not just limited to the United States; in my country hardliners are the same," he said, announcing he would not attend the Oscars even if he were given special permission to travel.

Taraneh Alidoosti, the female lead of Farhadi's "The Salesman", which is nominated for this year's foreign language Oscar, has already announced she would boycott the ceremony

in protest at Trump's "racist" travel ban.

Farhadi is unpopular with Iranian hardliners who criticised "A Separation" as it illustrated gender inequality in Iran and the desire by many Iranians to leave the country. Sociologist Ebrahim Fayyaz was quoted in Iranian media calling it "the worst Iranian film ever" as it was incompatible with Islamic morality and the ideal of defying the West.—Reuters

## mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(31-1-2017 07:00am ~ 1-2-2017 07:00am) MST

|       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Am | News   |
| 07:26 | Am | All About Orchids                            |
| 07:40 | Am | Image Of The Monks                           |
| 07:57 | Am | [Doctor][Painter]                            |
| 08:03 | Am | News   |
| 08:26 | Am | Rakhine The Land Of Sublime Pagodas          |
| 09:03 | Am | News   |
| 09:26 | Am | Choral Dance By Female Dancers               |
| 09:35 | Am | Lively Group Folk Dance of Kayan Nationals   |
| 09:39 | Am | A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2)             |
| 09:50 | Am | Today Myanmar: Yangon Books Street           |
| 10:03 | Am | News   |
| 10:26 | Am | The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & |

Mural Painting  
10:45 Am Myanmar Traditional Toys

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

### Prime Time

|       |    |                                      |
|-------|----|--------------------------------------|
| 07:03 | Pm | New                                  |
| 07:26 | Pm | A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5)          |
| 07:53 | Pm | My Life & My Art                     |
| 08:03 | Pm | News                                 |
| 08:26 | Pm | Taste of Myanmar (Shan Noodle Salad) |
| 08:43 | Pm | Hip-Hop and Design                   |
| 08:48 | Pm | Chef Life - Thanakrit Chamnongbutr   |

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

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

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

(For Detailed Schedule - [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))

## MRTV Programme Schedule (31-1-2017, Tuesday)

|          |                                       |   |
|----------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 6:00 Am  | ◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | (Seson-3) Conflict Dealing (Complaints or Ignorance) (Part-4) |
| 7:00 Am  | ◆ Breakfast News                      | 3:15 Pm   |
| 7:30 Am  | ◆ Socio economic Scenes               | ◆ TV Drama Series   |
| 8:30 Am  | ◆ Law Affairs                         | 4:35 Pm   |
| 9:30 Am  | ◆ MRTV's Youth Programme              | ◆ Mono Classical Songs  |
| 10:30 Am | ◆ MRTV's Education Programme          | 5:15 Pm   |
| 11:15 Am | ◆ Teleplay                            | ◆ Catch Asia News   |
| 11:35 Am | ◆ MCN Debate                          | 5:35 Pm   |
| 12:35 Pm | ◆ TV Drama Series                     | ◆ Money Talk Myanmar  |
| 1:00 Pm  | ◆ Radio Dramar                        | 6:15 Pm   |
| 1:50 Pm  | ◆ Real Story Real Movies              | ◆ Football Magazine   |
| 2:30 Pm  | ◆ Year or No Talk Show                | 6:35 Pm   |
|          |                                       | ◆ Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than                             |
|          |                                       | 7:15 Pm   |
|          |                                       | ◆ TV Drama Series   |
|          |                                       | 8:00 Pm   |
|          |                                       | ◆ News/International News/ Weather Report                     |
|          |                                       | 8:35 Pm   |
|          |                                       | ◆ Political Parties   |
|          |                                       | ◆ Compain Speeches  |
|          |                                       | 9:00 Pm   |
|          |                                       | ◆ News/ Weather Report  |
|          |                                       | ◆ TV Drama Series   |
|          |                                       | ◆ Pyi Thu Ni Ti   |

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

# Federer says his game-style made him believe he could win 18th slam

MELBOURNE — In his darkest moments last year when he doubted if he would ever get back to full fitness following his knee injury, Roger Federer clung on to one thought — he still had the game to maybe sneak another grand slam title.

He was right.

Federer, who missed the Rio Olympics and US Open last year while he recovered, outlasted Rafa Nadal in five sets on Sunday to clinch his 18th grand slam title at Melbourne Park, four and half years after his last.

“There’s never a guarantee but I was always positive,” the 35-year-old told the Australian Open website about how he got through the doldrums last year.

“It was about staying calm and believing the work’s paying off and that the variety I have in

my game maybe allows me to maybe sneak in one or a couple.”

Federer said his belief was also based on the fact that until his injury, he was still competing well, reaching two grand slam finals in 2015 and two semi-finals in 2016.

“If you look back at my results, in 2016 and especially in 2015, I think I played some really good tennis and some good attacking tennis,” he said.

“Honestly I believed I could do it, the question was how’s Novak (Djokovic) going to play, how’s Andy (Murray) going to play, Rafa and everybody.

“I knew it was going to be hard because they’re not getting any worse and I am getting older so I don’t have much time.”

With Murray and Djokovic both going out before the quar-

ter-finals at Melbourne Park, Federer took his chance, beating Kei Nishikori, Stan Wawrinka and then Nadal.

Federer, who had promised to “party like rock stars” after the victory was bleary eyed when he turned up to the champions’ photo shoot in Melbourne on Monday.

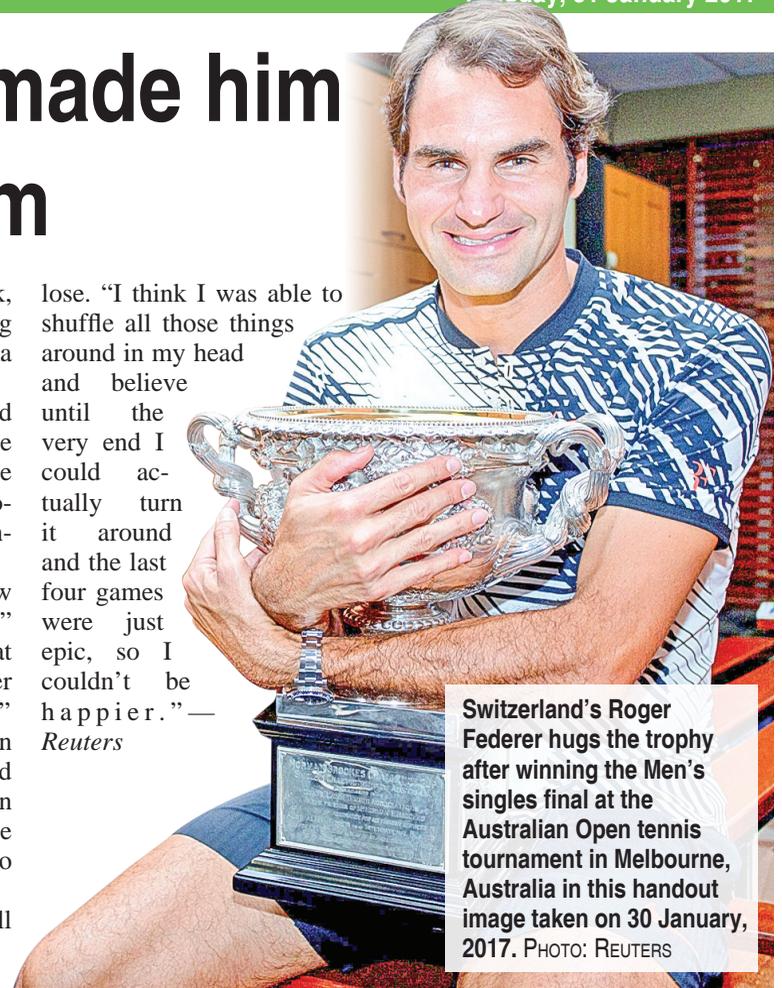
“Waking up, I don’t know if I slept, even if I did sleep,” said Federer. “I had to look at the highlights again to remember how close the match was again.”

Federer climbed to 10th in the rankings after his win and added it was his self belief when he had been trailing 3-1 in the final set that had helped him to victory.

“I said to myself, ‘I’m all in,’” he said. “I still had the mindset that I had nothing to

lose. “I think I was able to shuffle all those things around in my head and believe

until the very end I could actually turn it around and the last four games were just epic, so I couldn’t be happier.” — Reuters



Switzerland's Roger Federer hugs the trophy after winning the Men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia in this handout image taken on 30 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Mourinho hits out at Man United's 'crazy' fixture congestion

LONDON—Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho complained about his team's ever-growing fixture list after their FA Cup victory over Wigan Athletic in the FA Cup on Sunday added to his problems.

United face Southampton in the League Cup final on 26 February, so their Premier League derby against Manchester City must be rearranged and they also resume their Europa League campaign this month.

“It’s absolutely nonsense and I know that applies with many other clubs. Liverpool are going to play 16 matches, Chelsea will play 16 matches... and we are in this crazy situation,” Mourinho told British media.

“I think Southampton will

have 15 days without football before the final and we are going to have in these 15 days two matches... so the calendar in the best country of world football is nonsense.

“In a realistic way I think the Premier League is almost an impossible mission but I just think about winning the next match and the next match is not an impossible mission.” Mourinho said Ashley Young could leave before the transfer window closes on Tuesday.

“The only player that I am aware of a possibility to leave, and I am waiting for 31 January to know what really is going on, is Young, a player that I would love to keep,” he added.

United, who are sixth in the league table, host second-bottom Hull City on Wednesday.—Reuters

## Van Aanholt takes flight from Sunderland to join Eagles

LONDON — Crystal Palace have signed Dutch left back Patrick van Aanholt on a four-and-a-half-year deal from Premier League relegation rivals Sunderland, the London club said on Monday.

No financial details of the deal were released, though local media reported Palace had paid an initial fee of nine million pounds (\$11.28 million), which could rise to 14 million, to lure Van Aanholt to Selhurst Park.

Sunderland accepted a bid from Palace on Friday after Van

Aanholt submitted a transfer request, opening the way for the 26-year-old to be reunited with Sam Allardyce, having previously worked with the manager at the Stadium of Light.

“Finally got Patrick over the line. You like to bring players you’ve worked with before and should bring something to the team,” Allardyce told reporters on Monday.

“Hopefully his impact is instant. He was instrumental in Sunderland’s fight for survival last year, not just as a full back

but for goals,” Allardyce added of the full back who scored eight times in 95 appearances for Sunderland.

“We want him to defend well because we’re conceding too many goals. He’ll help at both ends.”

Palace are 18th in the league on 16 points after 22 games and travel to 12th-placed Bournemouth on Tuesday. Sunderland, who are bottom on 15 points, host third-placed Tottenham Hotspur at the same time.—Reuters

## Banned Wenger says critics would prefer to see him jailed



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger brushed off suggestions that his four-match touchline ban for pushing a fourth official was too lenient, saying his critics would still not be satisfied if he was put behind bars.

Wenger was slapped with a fine of 25,000 pounds (\$31,327.50) for verbally abusing and pushing fourth official Anthony Taylor during Arsenal’s Premier League win over Burnley this month.

“Those who don’t like me, any sentence will be too lenient. They would like to put me in jail somewhere without anything in the middle of winter — and that

will still be lenient,” Wenger told British media. “My reaction (to the ban) is what I said after the game. Let’s not bring this situation back again. I do not want to judge what the judge says.

“I got a sentence and I decided not to appeal just to get this behind me. There is no need for me to come back on that.”

Wenger watched from the stands as Arsenal thrashed Southampton 5-0 at the St Mary’s Stadium on Saturday to advance to the fifth round of the FA Cup.

Arsenal, who are second in the table, eight points behind Chelsea after 22 games, host 14th-placed Watford on Tuesday.—Reuters