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DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS INSEPARABLE: STATE COUNSELLOR AT MON CELEBRATION

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a dinner in celebration of the 70th Mon National Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, at which she spoke of dignity for all the ethnic groups in the country.

The State Counsellor said she took pride in events that occurred in the history of the Mon people and described Mon National Day as the day for revitalization of the Mon ethnic people, as well as the Union.

She also stressed the importance of unity, mutual respect to and value among all ethnic peoples, stressing that no one should look down on the culture and customs of others.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also said she was proud of the many celebrations that gathered together ethnic peoples to promote traditional cultures because this was a reflection of the Union of Myanmar, which is established based on diversity.

"The dignity of the Union is the dignity of all national peoples. To have dignity, we want to build a democratic nation. The democratic system respects the people and the country. Therefore, democracy and human rights are inseparable.

We cannot call it a democracy if it does not respect human integrity," she said.

She also said there are challenges in the country and stressed the need to face the challenges in the right ways in order to promote the dignity of the Union and the quality of each citizen, expressing her belief that all national people can overcome the country's challenges with full confidence and bravery.

Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin also called on all national people to actively participate in the peace process as part of efforts for building a federal democratic country. During the dinner, Mon music and dance troupes entertained the dignitaries with traditional songs and dances. The dinner was also attended by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and wife, Chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Union Ministers and wives, Deputy Speakers of the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, the Union-Attorney General, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and MPs.

— Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sees Mon traditional dresses displayed at the dinner to welcome the 70th Mon National Day. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Vice President U Henry Van Thio urges conservation of state bird, tree in Chin State

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio observed development tasks in Chin State, including construction of a suspension bridge in Manipura, an affiliated building for the hospital Falam and an airport in Falam.

During his inspection tour yesterday, the Vice President conveyed a message from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the conservation of great pied hornbills and Taungzalat trees (rhododendron) as they are

symbol of the state.

"All are obliged as a national duty to conserve Chin State's hornbills and the Taungzalat trees so they will not become extinct," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio at meeting with local people

in Falam.

The population of the great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*) also known as the great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill, is declining in Chin State, according to environmental

conservationists.

At the meeting, he also urged the local people to grow "Lu" and "Sap" rice, indigenous species of rice which are also facing extinction in the state.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

BFM, Smile Asia to conduct free surgeries to 110 children with cleft lips and palates in Taunggyi

MORE than 100 ethnic children with cleft lips and palates will undergo free surgery in Taunggyi under the seven-day programme jointly conducted by Smile Asia and the Kanbawza's Bright Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM).

The programme launched yesterday at the Women and Children's Special Hospital in Taunggyi, Shan State, with an opening address by Chief Minister of Shan State Dr Lin Htut.

Dr Vincent Yeow, founder of Smile Asia, gave an update on the International Friendship Medical Mission 2017 and U Nyo Myint, Senior Managing Director of the KBZ Group of Companies, expressed thanks to employees of the KBZ Group of Companies and BFM for their voluntary services to the medical program.

More than 100 ethnic children of Shan, Pao, Kayah, Kayan,

Larhu, Danu, Palaung, Kachin and Bamar from Sagaing Region and Shan and Kayah states have enrolled for the programme and a total of 31 medical staff from China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore and the United States are carrying out medical check-ups and blood tests in preparation for the upcoming surgeries.

"Everyone accepts that a smile is an expression which brings kindness and friendship to each other. Bringing back smiles to the children can promote the friendship among communities in Myanmar and the future of our children," said Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of BFM, which has mainly sponsored all of the costs, including accommodation and other expenses of the children, and also provided Ks50,000 to each of the chil-

dren's families.

The philanthropic foundation has already contributed more than Ks33.3 billion to the development in Shan State from 2010 to 2016.

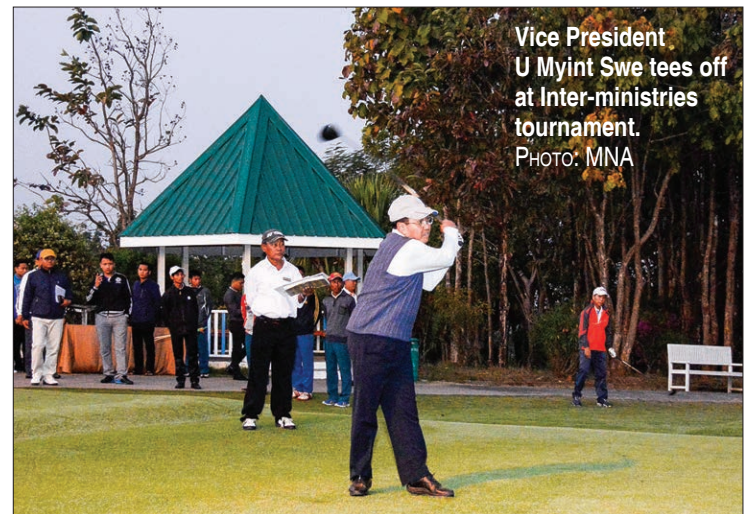
Smile Asia has provided free medical care to children with cleft lips and palates since 2010.

This year's mission by Smile Asia comes for the third time to Myanmar.

More than 170 children received medical check-ups, and of them more than 110 received surgery in the second mission last year at Yangon General Hospital in Yangon. Since its establishment in 2008, when Cyclone Nargis ravaged Myanmar, BFM has carried out social welfare activities nationwide, adopting five tasks for corporate social responsibility and spending more than Ks170 billion nationwide.—*Thura Lwin (Eco)*



A child with cleft lips and palates is ready to receive medical check-up before undergoing surgery.
PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)



Vice President U Myint Swe tees off at Inter-ministries tournament.
PHOTO: MNA

Inter-ministries golf tournament held in Nay Pyi Taw

As a gesture of hailing the Union Day, Inter-ministries golf tournament was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The tournament which attracted 21 team was opened by Vice President U Myint Swe at the City Golf Course in Nay Pyi Taw.

Vice President U Myint Swe, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of the

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann and Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win teed off at 6 am.

In the afternoon, Union Minister U Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and officials presented prizes to the winners of the tournament.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Villager murdered in Maungdaw Township

A man was killed near a fish farm in Yay Khat Chaung Sone Village in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State on Saturday morning.

The victim, MarMatEdrit, of Yay Khat Chaung Sone Village, was found dead from a cut on his

throat, two stab wounds in the cheek and one stab wound in the stomach.

The body was carried to the Maung Daw Hospital by the border guard police.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Six suspected attackers approach police station in Maungdaw

POLICE are in hot pursuit of six unidentified men who approached Aung Zayya Police Station in Maungdaw Township at about 2 am on Friday.

The six men fled as the police fired warning shots. The police are conducting an area clearance operation to find the six men.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS

One dead, one injured in motorcycle-truck accident

ONE person died and another was injured in an accident on Thursday on Kani-Thayagone Road in Kani Township, Sagaing Region.

A motorcycle driven by Maung Ko Wam, 28, with U Bak Wam, 58, on board from Thayagone township to Kani crashed into a 10 wheeled-Nissan driven

by Aung Phyo Win, 23, as the motorcycle attempted to overtake the truck. The motorcyclist died at the scene and the passenger from motorcycle sustained serious injuries. The police have taken action against the truck driver under sections 304-A/338 of the Penal Code.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Illegal timber confiscated in Katha

A team of officers and staff from the Katha district forestry department confiscated illegal timber and materials in the No. 12 Mankat forest reserve, Banmauk Township, on Thursday.

Acting on a tip off, the team searched the forest reserve and found 60 illegally felled timbers weighing 0.577 tonnes, 22 teak logs weighing 5.877 tonnes, two

chain saws, one 25 HP engine and two manual saws measuring four feet in diameter. The team also arrested Nyunt Win, 36, Tin Wam, 43, Thein Zaw, 23 and Khin Zaw, 38, from Thayagone village. The four suspects are being charged under section 6(1) of the Public Property Protection Act by the Banmauk police station.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Fire breaks out at refilling station in Monywa

A FIRE broke out at a refilling station in Monywa, Sagaing Region, Friday, with no casualties nor injuries occurring in the accident.

The fire started when a worker was filling a 52-gallon tank with fuel at about 5 pm at the Kyeenue Refilling Station in Ahlon Ward. The fire was put under control by firemen and volunteers within about 35 minutes.

The fire destroyed two buildings and properties worth about Ks9 million.

A local police station has opened a file against U Ohn Maung, who owns the refilling station, for negligence.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Two motorbikes collide in Chaung U Township

TWO motorbikes collided head-on between mileposts 65/2-3 on the Mandalay-Monywa Road in Ngar Shart village, Chaung U Township on Thursday.

According to the investigation, one motorbike driven by Maung Kyaw, 25, from Ngar Shart Village, crashed into the other motorbike driven by U Paw Htay, 60.

The accident killed U Paw Htay on the spot, while Maung Kyaw was seriously injured. Both drivers have been charged under sections 304-A/338 of the Penal Code concerning reckless driving.—*Myanmar Police Force*



Maung Kyaw, 25.
PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

President visits Cambodia's Angkor Wat Temple

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin visited Angkor Wat, The Bayon and Ta Prohm temples in Siem Reap City yesterday accompanied by the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for the Royal Palace.

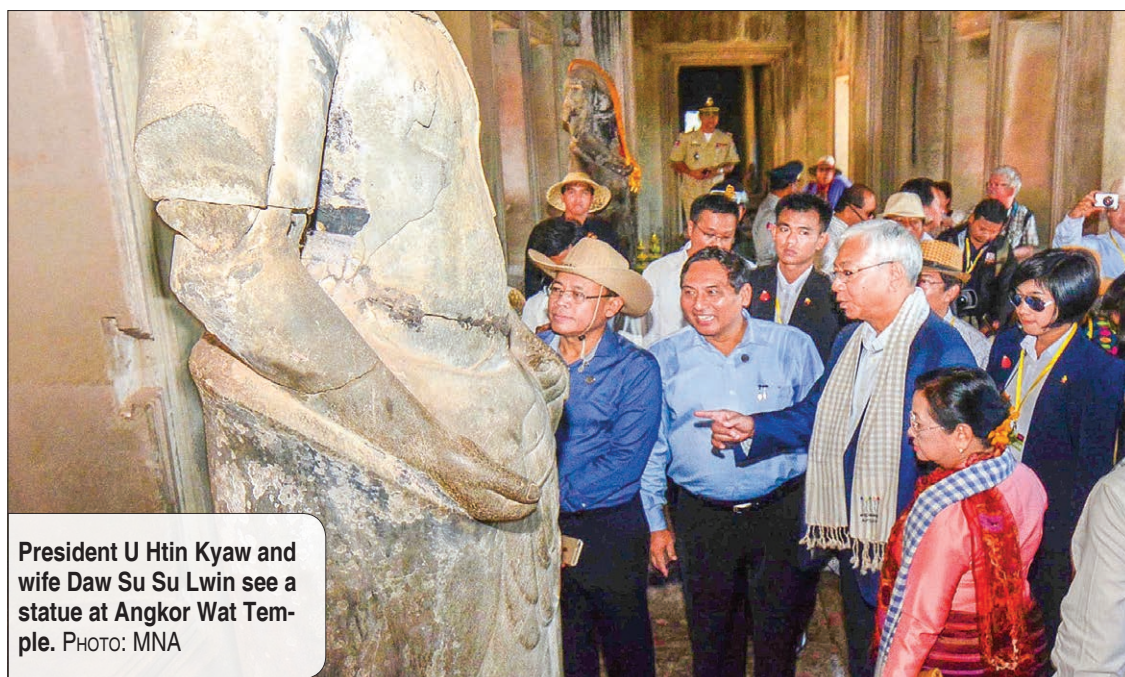
Angkor Wat Temple is the largest religious monument in Angkor region, which was originally constructed as a temple to the Hindu god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, gradually transforming into a Buddhist temple toward the end of the 12th century. It was built with smooth stones laid down in a very tight matrix without using mortar.

The Angkor region became a world heritage site in 1992 by UNESCO. In the region there are the Phnom mountains, the towns of Sisophon and Poipet along the western border of Thailand and Tonle Sap Lake, the largest lake in Southeast Asia.

Angkor was constructed by the Khmer King Suryavarman II more than 800 years ago. It was very famous in Southeast Asia for its unique art, including the relief arts on the wall and dragons statues at the gate of the temple.

The president and wife also visited the Bayon temple, which is built with sand stone blocks, and a second well-known and richly decorated Khmer temple constructed by the Mahayana Buddhist King Jayavarman VII at Angkor in Cambodia before visiting to the Artisans Angkor Vocational Training School, where they observed the teaching of painting, casting, lacquerware, stone sculpture and silk-weaving.

The Artisans Angkor vocational training school, with the vision of poverty reduction, job opportunities, income generation and the preservation of Khmer tradition, was opened in 1992 for people between the ages of 18



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin see a statue at Angkor Wat Temple. PHOTO: MNA

and 25 from rural area. Instruction is given at no charge.

The school was initiated by the cooperation of govern-

ment, public companies and art experts, and is now comprised of 1,100 staff members including 800 artists who work in 48

workshops in 12 villages. As part of their compensation, they receive free health care services. —Myanmar News Agency

Vice President U Henry Van Thio ...



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects construction of the suspension bridge in Manipura. PHOTO: MNA

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Before meeting with local people, the Vice President discussed with Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu and Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Hlyan Lwe about the agricultural and education sectors in the state.

The Vice President also inspected the water supply project built over the Ti River in Hakha and assisted in maintenance of the dam of the project.

During the trip, U Henry Van Thio also observed construction of the airport in Falam and assisted in the needs for the project. —Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Motion Picture Museum to be repaired this year

THE Myanmar Motion Picture Museum, located in Yangon's Bahan Township, is planned to be repaired this year, according to the Myanmar Motion Picture Organisation.

Funded by the organisation, major repairs to the museum will be made before the end of the year, said U Aye Kyu Lay, deputy chairman of the MMPO.

The move aims to maintain the historic objects being kept in the museum. The organisation made minor renovations in some parts of the structure in previous years, he added.

The Myanmar Motion Pic-

ture Organisation has already submitted a proposal to carry out heavy renovation of the film museum to the Yangon City Development Committee. After finishing the project, the history and documentation of every aspect of the country's film industry will be displayed at the museum for public observation. The museum was established in 1998 to display the efforts of successful film directors, actors and producers in the motion picture history of Myanmar.

The film museum has been open since 1998 and since then has become a popular venue, especially on public holidays.—200

Cash donated to renovation of pagodas in Bagan

A CEREMONY on contribution of cash to renovation of ancient pagodas and religious edifices in Bagan was held for the third time in Yangon yesterday. Union Prime Min-

ister for Religious Affairs, Thura U Aung Ko and Deputy Permanent Secretary of the ministry U Aung Myint received more than K32 million and \$7,000.

The total amount of donation to renovation of pagodas damaged by the earthquake in Bagan is K 5,137,285,203 and \$1,099,168. —Myanmar News Agency

Culturally diverse group studies development of Nay Pyi Taw



A group of cultural troupes from regions and states visits Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

A GROUP consisting of people from a wide range of regions, states, cultures and ethnicities will observe the development of Nay Pyi Taw starting today.

The group will first visit National Park, the Defence Museum, the Zoological Garden and the Astrospace Centre.

The group comprised of 328 people from seven regions and two states will then continue their observation tour to Parliament, the Gem Museum, Buddha Gaya, Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Water Fountain Garden, Junction Centre and the Capital Hyper Market. The group will continue its activities through February 8. —Myanmar News Agency

Only 2.9 million tourists visited Myanmar in 2016

TOURIST arrival in Myanmar has decreased in 2016, compared with that of the same period last year because the department statistics do not add the number of tourists who visited Myanmar via the border, said U Tint Thwin, Director-General of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

"Myanmar received 4.6 million tourists in 2015. About 2.9 million of tourists visited Myanmar, a 35 per cent drop in 2016

compared to 2015. Decreasing the number of tourists can be attributed to our ministry counting the number including the tourists who entered Myanmar from the border road. Now, The Immigration Department jointly with Central Statistics Department and Central Bank of Myanmar issued accurate number of the tourists," said U Thit Thwin at a media conference which was held at Myanmar Tourism Federation.

Counting the number of tourists who visited Myanmar with the official visa makes the accurate number. If we count the number of tourists who entered from the border in 2016 will be the same as of tourists 2015, he added. I guess the number of the tourists will decrease in the coming year because there are a few restricted areas in Myanmar. But, we are planning to create new tourist destinations. —Myanmar Alinn

LOCAL Business



Workers prepare for putting fish from farms in cold-storage boxes of the Sanpya Fish Market in Yangon.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Fisheries exports reaches about \$450 million: MoC

MYANMAR earned about US\$450 million from the export of fisheries products over the first ten months of this fiscal year, \$76 million more than at the same time last year, according to official figures issued by the Commerce Ministry.

The country exported \$368.843 million worth fisheries products to international trade partners from private sector in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

From 1 April of last year and 27 January of this year, the export value of fisheries items rose to \$445 million from \$368 million.

The country sold 368.970

metric tonnes of marine products worth \$502 million to partner countries in the 2015-2016 fiscal year, 338.210 metric tonnes worth \$482 million in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and 345.267 metric tonnes worth \$536 million in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Over the past ten months, the country exported \$9.333 billion worth products, including agriculture products worth \$2.254 billion; animal products worth \$7.639 million; mineral products worth \$787.782 million; forest products worth \$194.695 million; industrial products worth \$4.365 billion and other products worth \$1.277 billion.—Nyein Chan

Border trade value increases by \$150 million

MYANMAR'S border trade value up until 27 December of this fiscal year reached about US\$6 billion, an increase of over \$150 million compared with the similar period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 April of last year and 27 January of this year, border trade value totalled \$5.973 billion. Border trade exports amounted to \$3.720 billion while the total imports reached \$2.253 billion.

During the period in 2015-2016, border trade was worth \$5.822 billion, including \$3.667 billion from the export sector and \$2.155 billion from the import sector.

The country has carried out border trade with neighbouring

Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee and Mawtaung border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittwe and Maungtaung, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.

Border trade camps with China include Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung. Among all border gates, the Muse border has the highest volume and value of total border trade. According to the ministry, the Myanmar-Chin border value of this fiscal year was down by over \$27 million.

Myanmar predominantly imports personal goods, industrial raw materials, construction

equipment, automobiles and capital goods mainly from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong. It exports agriculture products, fisheries products, mining products, forest products and industrial goods.

Roughly 80 per cent of Myanmar's total external trade is through sea routes.

Efforts are being made by the ministry to promote the country's export sector by shipping new valued-added products from the manufacturing sector within the next five years, according to the second five-year National Development Plan for the period between fiscal years 2016-2017 and 2020-2021.—*Khine Khant*

Import value declines by \$580 million over past ten months

THE total import value over the past ten months of this fiscal year reached US\$13.075 billion, a decrease of nearly \$580 million compared with the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. From 1 April of last year to 27 January of this year, the government sector bought capital goods, raw materials and personal goods that amounted to over \$477 million from international trade partners, while the private sector imported \$12.597 billion worth of products. The import value over the first ten months of last financial year totalled \$13.654 billion, including \$2.217 billion from the government sector and \$11.436 billion from the private sector, with the country importing \$7.032 bil-

lion worth capital goods, \$3.979 billion worth of industrial raw materials and \$2.642 billion worth of personal goods. Myanmar normally imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, foodstuff and electronic devices mainly from neighbouring countries.

Over the past ten months, the country exported \$9.333 billion worth of products including minerals, fish products, animal products and agriculture products through sea routes and border trade camps, an increase of more than \$700 million compared with the same time last year, according to the official figures of the ministry.—*Shwe Khine*

Myanmar earns \$2.4 billion from natural gas exports

THE export value of natural gas as of January this financial year amounted to US\$2.4 billion, whereas in the same period of last year the figure was \$3.5 billion, a slump of more than \$1.1 billion, according to the Commerce Ministry.

An expert said the decline in the export value of the gas is linked to the falling prices for natural gas in the global market.

Natural gas is included in the list of major export items of Myanmar. About 60 per cent of the country's total export earning comes from natural gas sale.

Situated offshore from Rakhine State, the Shwe natural

gas field was discovered in 2014. Natural gas extracted from the field is exported to China.

The Yadana natural gas project is conducted by TOTAL Company with its pipeline to Thailand. According to 2014 statistics, the daily production from the Yadana natural gas field totalled 910 million cubic meters, over 700 million cubic meters of which went to Thailand.

Discovered in 1992, Yedagon is a gas field located along offshore of Taninthayi. About 330 million cubic meters were daily exported from this gas field. Located in the Gulf of Moattama, the gas from Zawtika

Project mainly goes to neighbouring Thailand.

According to the second five-year National Development Plan (from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021), the Yadana, Yedagon, Zawtika and Shwe gas projects are expected to collectively produce over 500 billion cubic feet of natural gas for export and another 160 billion cubic feet for local consumption in the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, the majority of foreign direct investment goes to the country's oil and gas sector.—*Kyaw Kyaw*

Thousands of gallons of fuel oil to be sold by MPE

MYANMA Petrochemical Enterprises (MPE), a state-owned enterprise, announced that it will sell thousands of gallons of petrol, diesel and Coker Gas Oil (CGO) this month.

The MPE, under the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy, will sell diesel produced by the petrochemical industry (Thanpayakan) which is located at Min Hla Township in Magway Region at a price of Ks 2,500 per gallon. At least 30,000 gallons of diesel must be purchased with a cash down payment system.

Similarly, petrol will be sold for Ks2,400 per gallon and those wishing to buy must purchase at least 15,000 gallons using the cash down payment system.

Customers must pay a lump sum amount.

The sale price of CGO refined by No. 1 oil refinery in Thanlyin, Yangon Region will be Ks2,040 per gallon inclusive of Ks40 per gallon for transporting costs. The CGO refined by Thanpayakan refinery under Min Hla petrochemical enterprise in Magway Region will be sold for Ks2,000 per gallon and at least 100,000 gallons of CGO must be purchased with the cash down payment system.

Blue oil refined by No. 2 oil refinery in Chauk township in Magway Region will be sold for Ks1,700 per gallon and the customers must purchase at least 3,000 gallons.—*Hnin Zaw*

China, Australia launch Year of Tourism in Sydney

BEIJING — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull have sent their congratulations to the China-Australia Year of Tourism 2017, which was officially launched in Sydney on Sunday.

In his congratulatory message, Li said people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the Chinese and Australian people is one of the important pillars supporting the development of bilateral relations.

Li said he was happy to see that China and Australia have become popular tourism destinations for each other, with the total number of two-way arrivals between the two countries reaching nearly 2 million last year.

Li expressed his hope that the two countries can use the Year of Tourism as an driving opportunity to broaden and deepen bilateral cooperation and exchanges in various fields including people-to-people and cultural exchange-

es, to build a more solid popular basis for all-round development of bilateral ties.

The Chinese premier said the two countries respect civilizational diversity in the world, and on the basis of sound development of bilateral relations in the past 45 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, China and Australia should continue to uphold equality in treating each other, tolerance and openness, and learn from each other to jointly safeguard world peace and promote regional stability, and achieve new results from mutually beneficial cooperation in the greater interest of the two peoples.

The Australian prime minister said in his congratulatory message that more than 20 years of partnership in tourism between Australia and China has borne many fruits and China has become Australia's most valuable tourism market with 1.2 million Chinese tourists visiting Australia last year.—*Reuters*

Philippines' Duterte scraps peace talks with communists



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said on Saturday evening his government is pulling out of peace talks with the country's communist

movement, a day after he lifted the government's unilateral cease-fire with the insurgents.

In an interview with the media in his hometown of Davao on Mindanao island, Duterte said his position to scrap the negotiations, which resumed when he won the presidency in June last year, will not change anymore throughout the remainder of his six-year term, unless a compelling reason to revive it "in the interest of the nation" comes up. "I'll just order the Philippine contingent — (led by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Processes Jesus) Dureza, (government lead negotiator with the communists Silvestre) Bello, and company — to fold up their tents and come home," Duterte said. The current talks are being held in Norway, which had been serving as third-party facilitator. The on-and-off negotiations began in 1987, around two decades after the communist movement started waging war against the government, including attacks on private businesses.

"I tried everything. As you can see, I walked

the extra mile — released (communist) prisoners, released their leaders so they can go to Oslo to talk," Duterte said. "Let it not be said that I did not try very hard."

The communist group, whose armed fighters number no more than 4,000, based on military estimates, was the first to announce this week the lifting of its unilateral cease-fire with the government after the latter refused to release hundreds of their comrades in jail and amid alleged violations by the Philippine military. The resumption of the rebels' offensives will take effect on 10 February.

The government, on the other hand, complained about the rebel group's persistent attacks on soldiers and private entities despite the cease-fire, which both parties issued in August last year.

"I told the soldiers: go home to your camps, clean your guns, and prepare for the long struggle," Duterte said.—*Kyodo News*

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Cancer becomes No.1 killer in Brunei: minister

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN — One of four Bruneians will develop cancer at some point in their lifetime and the disease is Brunei's biggest killer now, Brunei's Minister of Health Haji Zulkarnain said on Sunday. Around 600 people in the sultanate were diagnosed with cancer in 2016 and "many of us personally, and among our friends and families, know what it

is like to experience the effects of cancer in our lives," the minister said in a speech on World Cancer Day. The minister highlighted, however, that it is not enough to merely ensure that treatment options are available for those with cancer.

"Indeed, the theme for this year's World Cancer Day, 'We Can. I Can.' demands that we go further in two key aspects of con-

trolling this disease," Zulkarnain said.

"First, in prevention, and second, in early detection. These two go hand-in-hand and forms the bedrock of our national strategy to reduce cancer deaths in Brunei." He noted that almost half of all cancers are due to the four leading behavioral and dietary risks: smoking, being overweight, not eating enough fruits and

vegetables, and not enough physical activity. The minister said that as the national healthcare provider, Brunei's Ministry of Health continues to improve medical services for patients, especially in ensuring that any suspected cancers are referred to the appropriate specialty in order to be diagnosed early, and start the necessary treatment in a timely manner.—*Xinhua*

Indian police bust \$550-million internet scam that duped thousands

NEW DELHI — Indian police have busted an internet scam in which around 650,000 people lost a combined 37 billion rupees (\$549 million) after sending money to a company that promised they would earn cash by clicking on web links, police said on Friday.

Police, who described the pyramid-style scheme as one of India's biggest ever, said they had arrested three ringleaders on the outskirts of New Delhi, the capital, and seized more than 5 billion rupees (\$74 million) from bank accounts.

"They learned that if you give some money back to members, the invest-

ments would go up exponentially," Amit Pathak, head of a police cyber crime unit in India's populous northern state of Uttar Pradesh, told Reuters.

The men ran a series of websites that promised would-be subscribers a chance to earn five rupees (\$0.07) each time they clicked or liked web links sent to their mobile phones, police said.

The unsuspecting investors each paid thousands of rupees into the company's bank accounts to join the scheme, but the web links they received were fake.

The company running the alleged scam had operated for years, but earned

almost all the money over a few months from last August, after it began to distribute some of the proceeds, using the beneficiaries to draw in more investors.

Police said the ringleaders had not yet appointed lawyers as the chargesheet was still being prepared.

When police raided the company's head office in the city of Noida they found 250 passports of employees and members who had been rewarded with a holiday to Australia. The scammers planned to film the holiday and then post it online as promotional material to lure more subscribers.

The alleged master-

mind spent some of the proceeds on houses, cars and celebrity parties. Pathak said it would take time to trace most of the money, and several bank employees were believed to be involved.

"It's a very big task for us. We have brought in the income-tax department, and other government agencies, to trace the money," Pathak said. Cyber crime in India, home to the world's second largest number of internet users, jumped 350 per cent in the three years to 2014 as criminals exploited booming smartphone use, a study by auditing services firm PwC and industry lobby group Assocham showed last year.—*Reuters*

Australian army chief to meet Indonesian military leaders after spat

JAKARTA — Australian army chief Angus Campbell will meet Indonesian military leaders in Jakarta on Wednesday, after defence cooperation was suspended last month over “insulting” teaching material found at an Australian base.

Campbell is due to meet Indonesian military (TNI) chief, Gatot Nurmantyo and army chief of staff Mulyono, TNI spokesman Wuryanto said.

Indonesia’s military chief declared the rupture in military ties after an Indonesian officer found “offensive” teaching material while on a language training course in Australia late last year.

Nurmantyo said that the material “discredited the TNI, the nation of Indonesia and even the ideology of Indonesia”, referring to material concerning East Timor and “Papua needing to be independent”, as well as mocking the country’s founding principles, known as Pancasila.

Both governments moved quickly to try to cool tensions and Indonesia’s chief securi-



Indonesian military Chief Gatot Nurmantyo talks to reporters in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 5 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ty minister, Wiranto, later said only cooperation related to the military’s Australia-based language training programme had been suspended.

Australian media said Campbell would discuss the findings of an investigation by the defence department into the issue after Indonesia had sought

assurances over the training material.

TNI spokesman Wuryanto declined to comment on the agenda for Wednesday’s talks.

A spokesman for Australian Defence Minister Marise Payne confirmed the visit but also declined to comment further on the talks.

The countries have extensive military cooperation, which ranges from counter-terrorism cooperation to border protection.

But they have had a rocky military relationship in recent years.

Australia stopped joint training exercises with Indonesian special forces (Kopassus) after accusations of abuses by the unit in East Timor in 1999 as the territory prepared for independence.

Ties resumed when counter-terrorism cooperation became imperative after the 2002 nightclub bombings on the resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians.

Indonesia most recently suspended military ties in 2013 over revelations that Australian spies had tapped the mobile telephone of then president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono—*Reuters*

Philippines govt says church ‘out of touch’ in attacking drugs war

MANILA — The Philippine government derided Catholic bishops on Sunday as “out of touch” after they used weekend sermons to attack a war on drugs they said had created a “reign of terror” for the poor.

Members of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) had dramatised President Rodrigo Duterte’s campaign and, instead of criticising, should focus on contributing to the “reign of peace” that innocent people now felt, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said.

The church assailed bloodshed that had caused suffering, and said killing people was not the way to deal with illegal drugs.

In a pastoral letter read out on Saturday and repeated to con-

gregations at churches on Sunday, bishops said it was disturbing that many Filipinos were indifferent to the killings, or even approved of them.

Abella, a former pastor, said the war on drugs had made the country safer, “far from the ‘terror’ the bishops paint rather dramatically.”

“The officials of the CBCP are apparently out of touch with the sentiments of the faithful who overwhelmingly support the changes in the Philippines,” Abella said in a statement.

More than 7,600 people have been killed since Duterte unleashed a ferocious crackdown seven months ago, more than 2,500 in police raids and sting operations.

Human rights groups believe many other deaths that police had attributed to vigilantes were carried out by assassins likely colluding with police. The government and police vehemently deny extrajudicial killings have occurred.

The CBCP’s message was read at numerous churches in Manila attended by Reuters, though not all. Church sources said the Archdiocese of Manila issued a circular telling parishes to read the pastoral letter, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters prior to the first readings.

The drugs war is a contentious issue, with some bishops keen to make a stand and others hesitant to risk a backlash by criticising a campaign that enjoys broad public support.

Duterte has routinely attacked the Church, and as recently as this week called for a “showdown” with priests whom he has accused of having wives, engaging in homosexual acts, graft and child abuse.

Katrina Rufael, an office worker who attended mass at the Baclaran Redemptorist Church, said the pastoral letter was justified.

“We have to oppose the war on drugs, because we cannot just put an end to the life of people who have made mistakes,” she said. “Let’s give them a chance to change.”

Elsewhere in Manila, at the Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord, a packed congregation listened attentively to the plea to stop the

killings.

“Life is a gift from God, and only God can take it away,” said Ligaya Reyes, a government worker. “It was a strong statement, it should have been made a long time ago when the killing began.”

The statement was also heard at a chapel in the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters on Saturday. Not all agreed with it.

“They’re not being killed if they just surrender,” said a policeman’s wife, who gave her name as Dolores and said the PNP had been unfairly depicted as murderers for shooting drugs suspects resisting arrest.

“What the president’s doing right now ... he’s doing good. Because for the common people, it’s our safety.”—*Reuters*

Mobile app helps China recover hundreds of missing children

BEIJING — A mobile app helped Chinese authorities recover hundreds of missing children last year, Xinhua news agency reported on Saturday, in a country where child trafficking is rampant.

The Ministry of Public Security said 611 missing children were found last year, Xinhua said. The “Tuanyuan”, or “reunion” in Chinese, app developed by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd was launched in May and has allowed police officers to share information and work together. Users near the location where a child has

disappeared receive push notifications, including photos and descriptions. Notifications are sent to users farther and farther from the location of the disappearance if the child is still not found.

A new version of the app in November has expanded its reach through cooperation with other popular mobile apps, such as Alibaba’s online shopping website Taobao, search engine Baidu, Tencent Holdings Ltd’s instant messaging software QQ and mobile ride-sharing platform Didi Chuxing.

Child trafficking is common in China, where population control policies, although recently relaxed, have bolstered a traditional bias for male offspring.

Boys are seen as the main support for elderly parents and heirs to the family name.

This has resulted in abortions, killings or abandonment of girls.

The imbalance has created criminal demand for abducted or bought baby boys, but also for baby girls destined to be future brides attracting rich dowries.—*Reuters*

China to deepen reform in agricultural sector

BEIJING — China will deepen supply-side structural reform in agriculture to cultivate new development engines for the sector, according to a policy document released on Sunday.

The major problems facing China’s agricultural sector are structural ones, mainly on the supply side, according to the document by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council.

The document calls for improving structure in the industry, promoting “green” production, extending the sector’s industrial and value chain, boosting inno-

vation, consolidating shared rural development and enhancing rural reforms.

This is the 14th year in a row that the “No 1 central document” has been devoted to agriculture, farmers and rural areas.

The “No 1 central document” is the name traditionally given to the first policy statement released by the central authorities in the year and is seen as an indicator of policy priorities.

When carrying forward supply-side structural reform for the sector, national grain security must be guaranteed, according to the document.—*Xinhua*

Russia's Lavrov backs renewal of UN-led Syria talks



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov meets with Syrian opposition representatives in Moscow, Russia on 27 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSCOW — Russia supports the continuation of talks on the Syrian crisis under United Nations auspices, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

In an interview published on the ministry's web site on Sunday, Lavrov said international talks on Syria that took place in Kazakhstan's capital Astana in January were a "breakthrough step" in efforts to resolve the crisis.

The format of Astana talks between representatives of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and opposition groups, however, should not replace the Geneva talks led by UN special envoy Staffan de Mistura, Lavrov said.

The next round of Geneva talks have been scheduled for 20 February, diplomats told reporters last Tuesday. They had been planned to begin on 8 February

but Lavrov said last week that they had been postponed.

The minister also reiterated Moscow's stance on relations with new US President Donald Trump. Lavrov said the two countries were in a position to solve bilateral issues, improve ties and coordinate efforts to fight "international terrorism", but only on the basis of mutual respect.—Reuters

Poll gap between Merkel's conservatives, Social Democrats shrinks to 4 points

BERLIN — The lead in voter support for German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative alliance over the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) shrank to a multi-year low of 4 percentage points, an opinion poll showed on Sunday.

The SPD, which a week ago appointed Martin Schulz as leader, scored 29 per cent in the survey published in newspaper Bild am Sonntag — a six-point jump that Bild said was the biggest pollster Emnid had ever recorded for the party.

The jump took SPD support to its highest in over four years.

Support for Merkel's CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the CSU, fell 4 points to 33 per cent — cutting the gap between the two blocs to its narrowest in records compiled by poll tracker wahlrecht.de going back to September 2013.

"Martin Schulz is managing above all to win back former SPD voters and to appeal to them emotionally," Emnid's Torsten Schneider-Haase told the news-

paper, adding: "Such a strong shift in party preferences within a week is a one-off."

The SPD appointed Schulz, a former European Parliament president, as leader last Sunday, replacing Sigmar Gabriel who said he was standing aside to boost the party's chances.

The move has re-energised the SPD, junior partner in Merkel's 'grand coalition', ahead of September's federal election.

Schulz has vowed to unseat Merkel with a campaign aimed at overcoming "deep divisions" that he says have fuelled populism in Germany in recent years.

In a theoretical head-to-head contest for chancellor, the Emnid poll showed Merkel pipping the Social Democrat to victory with 41 per cent support to his 38 per cent.

The SPD has held exploratory talks with the environmentalist Greens and the far-left Linke party about forming a left-lean-

ing coalition government after the election but they need more support if that is to become a viable option.

The Emnid poll — a survey of 2,233 voters conducted from 26 January to 2 February — showed support for both the Greens and the Linke falling 2 points to 8 per cent.

The anti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) was unchanged on 11 per cent, with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) on 6 per cent, also unchanged.

Schulz has called for higher wage increases for workers, described US President Donald Trump's policies as "un-American" and warned against lifting sanctions imposed against Russia over its role in the Ukraine crisis.

Merkel is meeting her Bavarian allies on Sunday for two days of talks aimed at rallying their troubled alliance ahead the 24 September election, which she expects to be "tough like no other".—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

304 department-level officials receive disciplinary punishments in 2016

BEIJING — In 2016, 304 department-level officials from central government bodies received disciplinary punishment, according to disciplinary authorities.

Among the 304 officials, 126 were punished for violating the "eight-point" guidelines against bureaucracy and extravagance, according to a work conference on disciplinary work of central government bodies.

In 2016, discipline inspection authorities dealt with over 22,500 tip-offs concerning disciplinary violations of central state agencies' officials, four times that of the previous year.—Xinhua

Man sentenced to jail for robbing ancient graves

SHENYANG — A man was sentenced to jail for 10 and a half years for robbing ancient tombs in northeast China's Liaoning Province, a local court said on Sunday.

Qi Jingyu was convicted of robbing a tomb in the protected Hongshan Culture site in Lingyuan city twice in June 2013, using a spade, pick and metal detector. He found three jade items. In October, he robbed another tomb, unearthing three jade bracelets and a jade hoop.

The cultural relics protection center of Liaoning found that the two tombs were more than 5,000 years old, and the theft resulted in serious damage and loss of archaeological information.

The Lingyuan court also found Qi stole from and damaged three other sites between 2013 and 2014, including one from the Warring States Period (475BC-221BC).

Qi was also found 40,000 yuan (5,826.7 US dollars). His three accomplices were also sentenced.—Xinhua

One hiker killed, four injured in fall down California 'ice chute'

LOS ANGELES — One person was killed and four injured on Saturday when they fell down a steep, icy ravine known as an ice chute while hiking in the mountains near Los Angeles, officials said.

The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department said on Twitter that one of the survivors had only minor injuries, and the other three were taken to a trauma centre by helicopter.

The five, who were not named in the initial law enforcement postings on Twitter, were hiking in the San Gabriel Mountains northeast of Los Angeles Saturday afternoon when they lost control and fell, the sheriff's Special Enforcement Bureau said.

The agency did not release additional information on Saturday night.—Reuters

Bomb blast hits outside Bahraini capital, no casualties: state news

DUBAI — A bomb exploded on a main thoroughfare on the outskirts of the Bahraini capital Manama on Sunday damaged several cars but caused no injuries, in what the interior ministry described as a "terrorist" act.

There have been increased protests in the Sunni Muslim-ruled kingdom after the execution last month of three Shi'ite Muslim men convicted of killing three policemen in a bomb attack in 2014.

Bahrain has suffered unrest and several bomb attacks since 2011 "Arab Spring" protests led by its Shi'ite majority were repressed with the help of its Gulf Arab neighbours.

An off-duty policeman was shot dead outside the capital late last month in what authorities also deemed a politically-motivated attack.—Reuters

Romania's government repeals decree decriminalising some graft offences

BUCHAREST — Romania's Social Democrat government of Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu on Sunday repealed a decree decriminalising some graft offences, a government source said.

"The decree was scrapped," a government official told Reuters, adding that an official statement would be released soon.

Romania's prime minister said on Saturday he would scrap the decree following mass protests. It would have shielded dozens of politicians from prosecution for corruption.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

The task to be urgently implemented

Khin Maung Oo

ACCORDING to Myanmar belief, cemeteries, hospitals, police stations and law courts are the four places that should not be overcrowded. But these days we see a great number of people in all of these places. Generally the first two seem to be connected with health, and we say we cannot avoid going to these places one day or another. We assume that only greed, anger and ignorance push us to the last two places. Greed of self-centered people and our ignorance—lack of knowledge on hygiene, make us go to hospitals and untimely deaths.

At the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw, 4th regular session's 2nd day meeting, a parliamentarian, put forward a motion, urging the State Government to effectively control and ban the sale of unhealthy, chemical dyed foods in the market, including school canteens across the country. The motion presented by this parliamentarian highlighted to us the true situation to be urgently solved by the whole populace, including the government

and all of us.

As for the consumers, especially immature children, due to the lack of knowledge regarding basic hygiene, they cannot decide which food is safe and which food is dangerous. What is worse, food with their colorful design and appearances being sold at school canteens attract children. These foods are of low quality. If restriction on these foods cannot be made, children are in danger of food-poisoning and other kinds of diseases. It is a danger challenging the lives of younger generation. For children to be free from eating these dangerous foods, parents, teachers and sellers themselves need to cooperate so that the future health of our children will be safe. To guarantee that our school children have of hygienic food to eat, departmental organizations, food producers and sellers of imported food should get together and make a concerted effort to solve this problem before it is too late.

People at the grass-roots level consume food depending

on their income, so safe, nutritious and healthy foods are out of their reach. In Myanmar our traditional food—fish paste or Ngapi, is said to be contaminated with arsenic, and sometimes with urea fertilizer. Also, it is said that various kinds of chilli powder are contaminated with chemical dyes and fungi. Thus, the situation is very dangerous for our country.

As we all know, most of the road-side Myanmar food sellers rarely use gloves in preparing food for their customers. And it is very disgusting to see them use unclean water to clean dishes and plates. These bad practices should be strictly prohibited. Also our people love chemical-contaminated foods and drinks. So long as these unhygienic sellers carry on their business without any action from the authorities concerned, more and more health problems will increase at an alarming rate. Severe actions need to be taken against these undisciplined street vendors. Only then will public health improve.

Most of us know that can-

cer is a serious disease that is caused when cells in the body grow in a way that is uncontrolled and not normal, killing normal cells and often causing death. Out of various kinds of cancer, leukemia is a kind of blood cancer. Patients receiving medical treatment at the hematological department of the Yangon General Hospital were found to have been affected by chemicals and chemical-contaminated things such as fertilizer, drugs, dyes, smells and foods. Although they know that smoking and chewing betel-quid are hazardous to health, people still cannot abandon their habits. To put it simply, education campaigns on public health at the community is still weak and inadequate. People need to be made aware of the dangers of unhealthy foods, especially foodstuffs contaminated with chemical dyes. If we all agree that the future of a country belongs to the youths of today, our future looks very bleak indeed unless we solve this problem with the urgency it deserves.

Functions of Notary Public

U Mya Thein B.A., B.L.

Notary Public is a very ancient institution in England originally ecclesiastic in nature, and the appointment of these Notaries in England is in the hands of Archbishop of Canterbury. Ordinarily, their functions are "to attest deeds, contracts and other instruments that are to be used abroad and to give a certificate of the due execution of such documents, which certificate, if duly authenticated by his signature and official seal, is accepted in all countries where notarial acts are recognized as proof the acts done in his presence and attested by him. The force and legal effect of the notarial acts consist in the fact that they are in themselves *presumptio veritatis et solemnitatis*; they are presumed to be true and regular until the contrary is established, and by law of nations the Notary has credit everywhere.

In olden days Notary Publics administer oaths or affirmation. This practice becomes unwritten law for long. In foreign countries they can do so. Even Notary Public can issue Certificate of Identity (C of I) in lieu of Passport especially to those who want to go to Taiwan in those days. Basically Notary Publics are lawyers so they can prepare or draw any document in accordance with law and shall have to take the responsibility of the le-

gality. Any question of law involved, they have to answer.

S. 138 of the Negotiable Instrument Act deals with the appointment and removal of Notary Publics and S. 139 deals with making of rules.

From S. 99 to S. 108 of the Negotiable Instrument Act deals with noting and protest.

Noting and Protest.

S. 99. When a promissory note or bill of exchange has been dishonoured by non-acceptance or non-payment, the holder may cause such dishonour to be noted by a notary public upon the instrument, or upon a paper attached thereto, or partly upon each.

Such note must be made within a reasonable time after dishonour, and much specify the date of dishonour, the reason, if any, assigned for such dishonour, or, if the instrument has not been expressly dishonoured, the reason why the holder treats it as dishonoured, and the notary's charges.

As soon as a bill or note is dishonoured, the holder has an immediate right of recourse against the drawer and the indorsers on the instrument. When a bill is to be noted, the bill is taken to a Notary Public who represents it for acceptance or payment, as the case may be and if the drawee or acceptor still refuses to accept or pay the bill, the bill is noted, that is, a minute is prepared containing the particulars

above stated.

S.100. When a promissory note or bill of exchange has been dishonoured by non-acceptance or non-payment, the holder may, within a reasonable time, cause such dishonour to be noted and certified by a notary public. Such certificate is called a protest.

When the acceptor of a bill of exchange has become insolvent, or his credit has been publicly impeached, before the maturity of the bill, the holder may, within a reasonable time, cause a notary public to demand better security of the acceptor, and on its being refused may, within a reasonable time, cause such facts to be noted and certified as aforesaid. Such certificate is called a protest for better security.

The next step for the notary to take is to draw the protest, which is a formal declaration, on production of the bill itself it can be obtained; otherwise, on a copy thereof, that it has been presented for payment, and the payment was refused and why, and that holder intends to recover all damages and expenses which he or his principle or any other party to the bill may sustain on account of its non-payment.

Other sections are Contents of protest, Notice of protest and so on.

Under the Evidence Act

In the Evidence Act we can find some relevant sections about Notary Public.

S. 56. No fact of which the Court will take judicial notice need be proved.

It means if a fact can be taken as judicial notice by the Court needs not be proved.

S. 57. The Court shall take judicial notice of the following facts:-

(6) all seals of which English Courts take judicial notice; the seal of all the Courts of Admiralty and Maritime Jurisdiction and of Notary Public, and all seals which any person is authorized to use by any Act of Parliament or other enactment in force in the Union of Myanmar;

It means the seal of Notary Public shall take judicial notice by the Court needs not to be proved.

S.78. The following public documents may be proved as follows:-

(6)public documents of any other class in a foreign country,-by the original, or by a copy certified by the legal keeper thereof, with a certificate under the seal of a notary public, or of a British Consul or diplomatic agent or the diplomatic agent of the Union, that the copy is duly certified by the officer having the legal custody of the original, and upon proof of the character of the document according to the law of the foreign country.

A copy of a public document for example an official appointment letter of a gazetted officer by the Ministry concerned certified by a Notary Public of Myanmar can be used in foreign countries as a good document as proof.

S.85. The Court shall presume

that every document purporting to be a power of attorney, and to have been executed before, and authenticated by, a notary public, or any Court, Judge, British Consul or Vice- Consul, or representative of His Majesty. Or the Union of Myanmar was so executed and authenticated.

Under the Registration Act.

S.32. Except in the cases mentioned in section 31 and section 89, every document to be registered under this Act, whether such registration be compulsory or optional, shall be presented at the proper registration office -

- (a) by some person executing or claiming under the same, or, in the case of a copy of decree or order, claiming under the decree or order, or
- (b) by the representative or assign of such person, or
- (c) by the agent of such person, representative or assign, duly authorized by power of attorney executed and authenticated in manner hereinafter mentioned.

S.33 (1) For the purpose of section 32, the following powers of attorney shall alone be recognized, namely:-

(c) if the principal at the time of aforesaid does not reside in the union of Myanmar, a power of attorney executed before and authenticated by a Notary Public, or any Court, Judge, British Consul or Vice-Consul or representative of His Britannic Majesty or of the Government:

SEE PAGE 9>>

News: Inn Nationals Development Party presents policy and programs



U Thawdar, Political Advisor of the Inn National Development Party.

U Thawdar, Political Advisor of the Inn National Development Party presented the policy, political outlook and programs of their party on 5 February 2017 from the Radio and TV programs.

The full text of his presentation is given below:

1. Citizens of the Union, all ethnic nationals living in the Inle region of Nyaungshwe Township, and all those who love Inle lake, I send my Metta with respect for your physical and mental wellbeing.

2. I am U Thawdar, Political Advisor of the Inn National Development Party. In this By-Election also, I am State Hluttaw Representative for Nyaungshwe Township No. 1 and also a candidate. Our party was established on 1 June 2019 and our serial number is 27. In the 2010 Multi-party elections our party won four seats in the various Hluttaws. We also have work experience in the State government and the various Hluttaws.

3. Although our party is called "Inn National Development Party", we do not have narrow racial views. In the current Multi-party Democracy System, out of (91) political parties, (57) political parties have given ethnic national names openly and transparently. We may say this is the way a Multi-party Democracy operates. We have had many good and capable resident ethnic nationals during the many different political periods, in areas such as politics, economics, in administration and in the social life, but we have been left behind and only had the chance to take

what was given, supplement others and receive indirectly what was given to others. That is why we formed this political party and contested in this election to get a political platform. The significant point is that we are contesting only in the Inle area of Nyaungshwe Township where the majority of Inn Thars live. This is our way of showing "Union spirit" which means friendship among ethnic national races and for all ethnic nationals to get equal opportunities. It is now because we want political power or because we crave for power. If we cannot get onto the political stage, no matter which government comes to power or what party wins in the elections, Inn Thars will always be in the last position. We know this from the lessons of history, dear ethnic nationals.

4. Today in our country, we can see that the Tatmataw, ethnic armies, the people and political parties were able to successfully convene the Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong for the second time and are working with deep commitment and high spirits.

5. In February 1947, to gain independence, General Aung San and those who took a major role in signing the Panglong Agreement successfully namely Sawbwa of Nyaung Shwe Sao Shwe Thaik and people's representative U Tin Aye (Shan States) were people's representatives, and people with political acumen. To put it another way, they gave birth to the Union spirit and the Panglong spirit. That is why I wish to boldly say that the Inn

Thar National Development is fully imbued with Union Spirit.

6. Our Party's aims and national policy

(a) We will work for the progress of all ethnic nationals on an equal basis and for the Union to develop in the areas of economics, education, health and social welfare and furthermore to be on the same level as other Asean countries.

(b) We will establish a Federal Republic system.

(c) We will work for all ethnic nationals to have equal rights and will always support the right to self-determination.

7. Our political outlook

We will practice a Multi-Party political system; there shall be no discrimination and there shall be equal rights. We will treat all other parties with respect

8. Our Economic Program

(a) We will practice a Market economy system. We will work for the progress of the banking sector. We will give special encouragement to foreign banks to set up banks in Myanmar.

(b) In the economy there shall be no special privileges for anyone. The Union government will give encouragement to local entrepreneurs who wish to produce goods, housing, roads and bridges. The Union government will give encouragement.

(c) The Union government will guarantee all legal tender.

(d) Taxation must not become a burden for the citizens. We will give necessary assistance to all those who have paid taxes whether they are individuals or companies.

9. Our political program

(a) We will have relations with all countries with respect. We will give priority to economic, social and transport areas and cooperate.

(b) We will cooperate with other countries for the preservation of the environment, combatting terrorism and world peace.

(c) We will live in peace with all neighbouring countries according to the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

10. Defence program

(a) We will use the Tatmataw as the main pillar for national defence and security matters and allow the people to assist



Party Logo.

with patriotic spirit.

(b) We will introduce a national draft law under which all males must serve in accordance with the wishes of the people.

(c) We will work towards a highly skilled, modern, professional and patriotic Defence services.

(d) We will work to elevate the political, military and economic powers, namely the Three Strengths with a good management system.

11. Ethnic nationals program

(a) We will work effectively in accordance with the law for protecting the rights of ethnic nationals.

(b) We will cooperate with other ministries for the development of handicrafts of ethnic nationals.

(c) We will give special priority to develop the life of minorities.

12. Labour affairs program

(a) We will work for the Union government and the private sector to cooperate to conduct training programs for enhancing the professional skills and qualifications of workers.

(b) We will work for the enactment of laws to protect the rights and benefits of citizens who work in foreign countries.

(c) We will reform existing regulations so that there is guarantee of employment and to ensure that health and social benefits are modern and in line with the times.

13. Programs for farmers

(a) We will work for the expansion of farmland as a matter of priority and to ensure success under any circumstances.

(b) We will work properly and speedily for the system of

giving back farmland to farmers in accordance with the wishes of the farmers.

(c) We will seek new ways for the Union bank and private banks to cooperate to make sure that farmers will be able to farm work with ease.

14. Conclusion

The Inn National Development Party was able to work with success for the emergence of a National Day for Innthars. After overcoming many difficulties, we were able designate a reunion day for Innthars as a first step. Now we have "Inn Nationals Day" recognized.

Citizens and ethnic nationals,

We will submit in accordance with the law for the emergence of an Administrative Area of Inn National at the Union Peace Conference – (21st Century Panglong Conference where the wishes of the Ethnic Nationals can be expressed and presented. We have worked hard to present these wishes during the last five years.

We also wish to boldly state that the Inn National Development Party had never seceded from the Shan State and will also never secede from the Union.

In conclusion, I wish to urge you to choose our Inn Nationals Development Party, a party owned by the Inn Thars who row their boats with their legs and are known worldwide. We have worked for the Inn National to get on the political stage and to uplift their dignity. I therefore urge you to vote for the Inn National Development Party with votes from the depths of your hearts, for the emergence of a Federal Union and for the beauty of the Inle region. I request this to all the people of Nyaungshwe Township.—(Unofficial Translation)

Functions of Notary Public

>> FROM PAGE 8

Under Diplomatic Officers and Consular Officers (Oaths and Fees)

Diplomatic officers and consular officers of the Union of Myanmar, while they are acting their duties in any other place or in foreign countries may give oaths or affirmation

and may act all the functions of Notary Public under section 3 of the Diplomatic Officers and Consular Officers (Oaths and Fees) Act. (Act number 19 of 1954)

The court shall presume, if an oath or affirmation or any other document executed and authenticated before the diplo-

matic officer or consular officer, his designation, signature, seal shall be admissible in evidence without further proof.

Under the Stamp Act

If noting or protest under the Negotiable Instrument Act, it shall bear adhesive stamp of two hundred and fifty kyats as article 50 and other notarial acts

need to be stamped as article 42 of the Stamp Act. The stamp fee is one thousand kyats.

As in practice, well experience and reputed senior Advocates are appointed as Notary Publics. They are dignified persons who observe the Bar Council rules and Code of Conduct of lawyers. Being lawyers are the officers of court, the honorable courts pay due respect to the Notary Public Lawyers.

Notary Publics are the pub-

lic officers presumably bear good reputation and character, who pay due respect to the honorable courts in turn.

We may recognize the Notary Publics as internationally recognized lawyers. Good reputation is the key element for all lawyers. The embassies usually don't recommend the name of the lawyers but they make a list of reputable Notary Publics yearly.

Kuwait denies it imposed travel ban praised by Trump

DUBAI — Kuwait has denied a media report which said it had imposed a travel ban on citizens from several Muslim-majority countries, a story which US President Donald Trump praised on Facebook.

“Smart!” a post on Trump’s official Facebook page said on Thursday, linking to a report on Jordanian news website Al Bawaba which alleged that Kuwait had “mirrored” a decision by the Trump administration to temporarily bar travellers from several countries.

The article alleged that “Syrians, Iraqis, Iranians, Pakistanis and Afghans” would not be allowed to enter the Gulf state “while the blanket ban is in place”.

But Kuwait’s foreign ministry refuted the report, which was widely picked up by news websites popular with Trump supporters including Breitbart, Infowars and Sputnik.

Kuwait “categorically denies these claims and affirms that these reported nationalities ... have big communities in Kuwait and enjoy full rights,” a

ministry spokesman was quoted as saying on state news agency KUNA on Friday.

Citizens of the countries mentioned visit Kuwait regularly, it added.

Confusion and protests at airports greeted the executive order Trump signed last weekend to bar for 90 days entry into the United States by travellers from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Representatives of the proscribed countries as well as several neighbouring nations condemned the

move, but Trump on his Twitter account said the initiative enjoyed support in the region.

“Interesting that certain Middle-Eastern countries agree with the ban. They know if certain people are allowed in it’s death & destruction!” he wrote. The United Arab Emirates was one country which did publicly give the ban a measured response. Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed called the ban an internal US matter which did not target Muslims. —Reuters

Iran will issue visas for US wrestlers — IRNA

TEHRAN — Iran will issue visas for a US wrestling team to attend the Freestyle World Cup competition, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported on Sunday, reversing a decision announced on Friday to ban visas for the team in retaliation for an executive order by President Donald Trump banning visas for Iranians.

Bahram Ghasemi, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, issued a telegram message

on Sunday noting that visas would be issued for the Americans partly because of the decision by a US federal judge to “halt the execution of discriminatory restrictions against the entrance of Iranian citizens to America”, IRNA reported.

On Friday US District Judge James Robart put on hold the travel ban for refugees and citizens of seven mainly Muslim countries called for in Trump’s executive order. —Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO CONSULTANT COMPANIES FOR DEVELOPING VEHICLE REGISTRATION BY RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) SYSTEM

1. In connection with economic growth of Myanmar, transport sector is developing with high momentum and motorization has been rising rapidly. As the impact of the increase of the number of motor vehicles, we are facing the problems such as traffic congestion and crashes, vehicle related crimes and higher illegal use of motor vehicles. As Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC) aims to overcome these issues, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) System should be introduced throughout the country.

2. Proposals for Expression of Interest (EOI) are invited from the interested consulting companies to advise the processes of implementing RFID system. Local Company, Foreign Company and Joint Venture are permitted in competition.

3. The information and application forms concerning RFID project can be obtained from **Director, Computer Division, Road Transport Administration Department, Building No. (29), Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar** from the date of 7th February 2017 during office hours. EOI Proposals from the interested companies shall be delivered in sealed envelopes contained one original, two additional copies and one electronic copy in PDF format saved in CD-ROM to the said address not later than 10th March 2017 at 14:00 hour (2 PM). Late submission will not be considered at all.

4. Proposals submitted by E-mail are also not solely entertained in consideration. If the sealed-envelope is opened (or) damaged, it shall not be considered at all.

5. Details are posted on the website of Road Transport Administration Department: www.myanmarrtad.com. For inquiry, please contact +95 67 405359 during office hour.

**Tender Evaluation and Selection Committee
Ministry of Transport and Communications**

Turkey detains some 400 Islamic State suspects in biggest roundup

ANKARA — Turkish police on Sunday detained some 400 suspected members of Islamic State in anti-terror raids in six provinces, state media said, the biggest roundup to target the organization in Turkey.

Those held were mainly foreign nationals, Anadolu news agency said. At

least 60 suspects were detained in the capital Ankara, while 150 were arrested in Sanliurfa province near the Syrian border.

Thirty-nine people, mainly foreigners, were killed at New Year when an Islamic State member opened fire inside the Reina night club

in Istanbul.

In the latest police operations, 30 alleged Islamic State militants were detained in simultaneous counter-terror operations in Konya province, and 10 others were held in Adiyaman province.

Police also detained 18 suspects in Kocaeli and

Istanbul, 47 in Gaziantep and 46 others in Bursa province.

In addition to the latest arrests, Turkey says at least 780 people, including 350 foreigners, remain in detention — some of whom have been convicted — over suspected links to the jihadist group. —Reuters

Dozens killed as heavy snow blankets parts of Afghanistan, Pakistan

KABUL — Parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan struggled to dig out from heavy snow on Sunday, with dozens of people reported killed and some major highways closed.

Heavy snow also blanketed the Afghan capital of Kabul, where the government closed its offices.

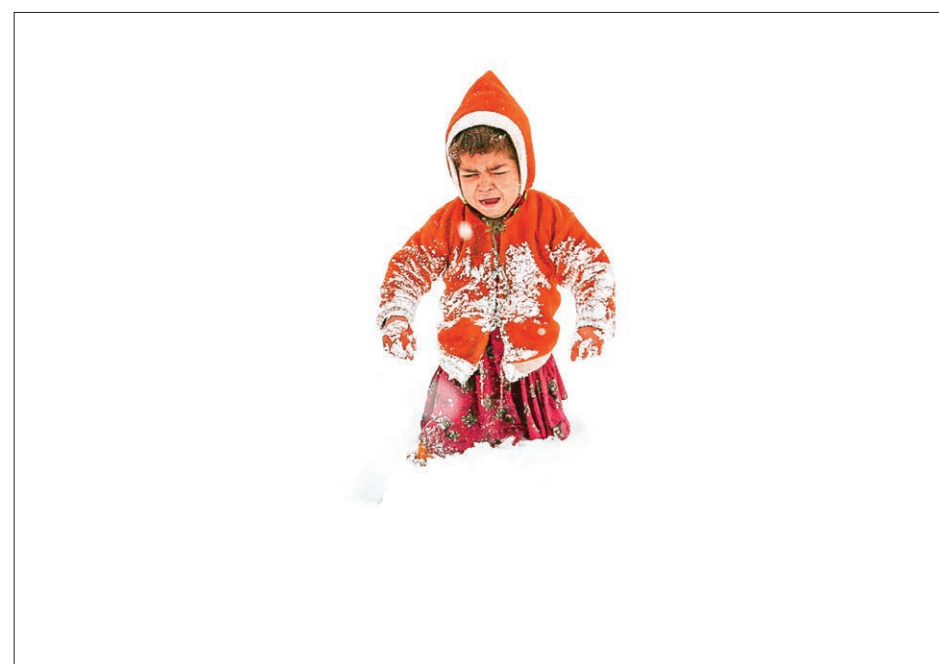
In northern Afghanistan’s Badakhshan province, over the past two days as many as 19 people were killed and 17 injured by avalanches, collapsed roofs and road accidents, said Naweed Frotan, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

The government was working to reach at least 12 districts in Badakhshan that had been completely cut off, he added.

On the other side of the border, at least nine people, including children, were killed by an avalanche in northern Pakistan’s Chitral district, with as many as 14 residents believed to still be trapped in collapsed houses, said district official Syed Maghferat Shah.

“So far the rescue workers have recovered nine bodies and efforts are under way to retrieve more,” he said.

The avalanche struck a small village of 25 houses,



An Internally displaced Afghan child cries as he gets stuck in waist-deep snow outside his shelter during a snowfall in Kabul, Afghanistan on 5 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

es, but evacuation operations were delayed by the weather, said Chitral deputy commissioner Shahab Hameed Yousafzai.

“There is no way to rush the injured persons to Chitral hospital because all roads in the valley have been blocked due to heavy snowfall,” he said.

In a separate incident in the Chitral region, a government rescue worker was killed when an avalanche struck a check post near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, the commanding

officer told Reuters.

The snow wreaked havoc on major roads in Afghanistan, including the Kabul-Kandahar Highway, where police and soldiers had to rescue around 250 cars and buses trapped by the storm, said Jawid Salangi, a spokesman for Ghazni province, where as much as two metres of new snow was reported.

“Some people were carried to local residents’ houses and some to military and police checkpoints,” he said, noting that

officials expected the road to reopen quickly. “Fortunately we arrived on time and there is not a single casualty.”

The Salang pass north of Kabul was also closed under as much as two and a half metres of snow, according to police general Rajab Salangi, who oversees the area.

“It will remain blocked until the snow is cleared from the main road, facilities are provided and it is safe to travel,” he said. —Reuters

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK

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

YGN TO DMK

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

YGN TO CAN

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

YGN TO SIN

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

YGN TO NRT

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

BANGKOK TO YANGON

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

DMK TO YGN

Flight no.	Dep	Arv	Days
FD-251	7:15	8:00	Daily
FD-255	11:35	12:25	Daily
FD-253	16:20	17:05	Daily
FD-257	20:15	21:10	Daily
DD-4234	10:30	11:15	Daily
DD-4230	6:30	7:15	Daily
DD-4238	19:25	20:15	Daily
SL-200	08:45	10:00	Daily
SL-206	17:10	18:35	Daily

CAN TO YGN

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

SIN TO YGN

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

NRT TO YGN

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

YGN TO ICN

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

YGN TO KUL

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

YGN TO KMG

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

YGN TO TPE

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

YGN TO PEK

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

YGN TO HAN

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

YGN TO SGN

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

YGN TO HKG

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

YGN TO DOH

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

YGN TO CNX

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

YGN TO DAC

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

MDL TO DMK

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

ICN TO YGN

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

KUL TO YGN

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

KMG TO YGN

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

TPE TO YGN

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

PEK TO YGN

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

HAN TO YGN

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

SGN TO YGN

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

HKG TO YGN

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

DOH TO YGN

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

CNX TO YGN

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

DAC TO YGN

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

DMK TO MDL

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

AIRLINE CODES

8M = Myanmar Airways International

BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines

MH = Malaysia Airlines

MU = China Eastern Airlines

NH = All Nippon Airways

SQ = Singapore Airways

PG = Bangkok Airways

UB = Myanmar National Airlines

VN = Vietnam Airline

3K = Jet Star

AI = Air India

CI = China Airlines

DD = Nok Airline

KA = Dragonair

MI = Silk Air

TG = Thai Airways

AK = Air Asia

CA = Air China

CZ = China Southern

FD = Air Asia

KE = Korea Airlines

QR = Qatar Airways

TR = Tiger Airline

Vietnam taking measures to prevent bird flu spread from Cambodia

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnam’s southern Tay Ninh province is taking immediate measures to prevent the spread of H5N1 bird flu and foot and mouth disease from Cambodia. Cambodia has just reported an outbreak of bird flu in the southeastern province of Svay Rieng, Vietnam News Agency quoted Nguyen Van May, director of Tay Ninh’s Animal Health Department, as saying on Sunday. In the Cambodian province, at least 68 poultry had died and another 322 had been culled, the Cambodian government said in a statement posted on the web-

site of the World Organization for Animal Health on 31 January. Tay Ninh is strengthening inspection and prevention of traders and residents from bringing poultry and cattle into Vietnam from Cambodia. Vietnamese officials have been instructed to spray chemicals and disinfect vehicles coming from the infected areas. All livestock and poultry farms as well as households have been ordered to vaccinate their cattle and poultry, spray chemicals regularly and clean their breeding facilities to prevent an outbreak.—Xinhua

Russia to announce ban on import of poultry from EU countries suffering from bird flu

MOSCOW — Rosselkhoznadzor will within two weeks announce a ban on import to Russia of poultry products and hatching eggs from the EU countries, where avian influenza cases have been registered, the authority’s representative Yulia Melano told TASS on Saturday.

“We do not have an exact date yet,” she said. “But we consider announcing the ban within two weeks.” Earlier, the authority announced minor limits on supplies of agricultural products from certain districts of European countries, where outbreaks were registered.—ITAR TASS

China scientists develop diseases and insects resistant rice with genome-wide chip

WUHAN — A new rice variety, developed with genome-wide breeding chip technology, will be grown in northeast China’s Helongjiang Province, China National Seed Group announced on Saturday. The new variety is expected to be the first disease and insect resistant, and high-yield rice in the country, the company said at the signing ceremony with Rongzhong Capital Investment Group in Wuhan city, central China’s Hubei Province.

“The use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers have caused environmental and food safety problems,” said Zhang Qifa with Chinese Academy of Sciences. “But the genome-wide chip helps develop a new variety to cope with the problem.” In May 2012, scientists from China National Seed Group, Peking University and Huazhong Agricultural University selected more than 40,000 useful gene

markers in countless gene data and developed the first genome-wide breeding chip in the world. “It helped to improve the diseases and insects resistance of the current rice variety,” said Zhou Fasong, leading scientist at China National Seed Group. “We have been identifying the genes in the past five years, and recently finally developed the new breed.” The new rice variety will be cultivated in Heilongjing Province in April.—Xinhua

Mexico confirms first case of microcephaly from Zika

MEXICO CITY — Mexico has confirmed the first case of microcephaly linked to the Zika virus, the health ministry said on Friday. The affected child, a girl, was born prematurely on 5 November, 2016, and died at the moment of birth, the ministry said in a statement. Between November 2015 and this January, 7,634 cases of Zika infection have been confirmed, the ministry added.—Reuters

An aedes aegypti mosquito is pictured on a leaf in San Jose, Costa Rica on 1 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Serbian police destroys WWII bomb in centre of Belgrade

BELGRADE — Serbian police and the Sector for Emergencies successfully destroyed a recently uncovered aerial bomb left over from the Second World War on Sunday in the centre of Belgrade.

The controlled detonation of the bomb was announced by an emergency siren on Sunday morning, followed by a damp sound, mild shock and thick smoke as the 250 kg of

device's charge exploded underground.

The press release of the Interior Ministry said that maximum security measures were taken to protect residents and passersby in a 500-metre-perimeter around the detonation site near Belgrade's main bus and railway stations, as well as the highway.

Because of this, the traffic in the surrounding

streets was suspended, while the nine-metre-deep hole in which the bomb was found was covered with sand that absorbed the shock from the explosion and prevented the spread of unwanted debris.

People were asked to stay in their apartments during the operation, with window shutters closed, and to move their vehicles outside the danger zone.

The 70-year-old,

500 kg bomb was found on Friday by the company appointed to perform construction works at the Belgrade Waterfront, a modern settlement being built along the Sava River in Belgrade, and had to be immediately destroyed.

Police said "the bomb was in a state that prevented it from being destroyed at another location, transported or moved in any way".—Xinhua

US court denies request to immediately restore travel ban



A demonstrator against the immigration rules implemented by US President Donald Trump's administration, protests at Los Angeles international airport in Los Angeles, California, US, on 4 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — A US appeal court late on Saturday denied a request from the US Department of Justice to immediately restore a immigration order from President Donald Trump barring citizens from seven mainly Muslim countries and temporarily banning refugees.

The court ruling dealt a further setback to Trump, who has denounced the judge in the state of Washington who blocked his 27 January order on Friday. In tweets and comments to reporters, the president has

insisted he will get the ban reinstated.

Trump says the temporary immigration restrictions on citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, and on all refugees, are necessary to protect the United States from Islamist militants. Critics say they are unjustified and discriminatory.

The judge's order and the appeal ruling have created what may be a short-lived opportunity for travellers from the seven affected countries to

get into the United States while the legal uncertainty continues.

In a brief order, the appeals court said the government's request for an immediate administrative stay on the Washington judge's decision had been denied.

It was awaiting further submissions from Washington and Minnesota states on Sunday, and from the government on Monday.

The government's appeal says the decision by judge James Robart in

Washington posed an immediate harm to the public, thwarted enforcement of an executive order and "second-guesses the president's national security judgment about the quantum of risk posed by the admission of certain classes of (non-citizens) and the best means of minimizing that risk".

Trump denounced the "so-called" judge in a series of tweets on Saturday and told reporters: "We'll win. For the safety of the country, we'll win."—Reuters

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT Invitation for Bids

Date: 6th February, 2017

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: Steel Poles for National Electrification Project

Reference No. : C1-G3

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards payments under the contract for Steel Poles for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of steel pole 10 meter and 12 meter, for the total quantities of 11,484 poles to be delivered in 2017 and 2018 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods will be grouped into 10 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmo.moep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours at the address given below.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in CD with English language may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Myanmar Kyats 100,000. The method of payment will be transferred to the following account:

Electricity Supply Enterprise, account no. SEE 10316 at Myanma Economic Bank in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The transferred slip shall be submitted with the above application. Once the application and the transferred slip received, the bidding documents will be provided in the CD.

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

1. Director General
Department of Electric Power Planning
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
City: Nay Pyi Taw
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email: dep.pssp.info@gmail.com

2. Ms. Xiaoping Wang, Task Team Leader
The World Bank
Address: 30th Floor, Siam Tower.
989 Rama I Road, Pathumwan Bangkok
10330, Thailand
Email: xwang3@worldbank.org

6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 am, 4th April, 2017. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below at 10:00 am, 4th April, 2017.

Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No (27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as described in the bidding document.

8. The address referred to above para 4 and 5 are :
Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 67 410203
Facsimile : +95 67 410077
E-mail : nep.pmoep@gmail.com
Web site : <http://www.moep.gov.mm>

Trump says US will work with Kiev and Moscow to end Ukraine conflict

WASHINGTON/KIEV — US President Donald Trump said he was willing to work with both Kiev and Moscow to resolve a separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine, following a telephone call with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Saturday.

The call was the first direct contact between the two leaders since the inauguration of Trump, whose aim to improve relations with the Kremlin has alarmed Kiev while the nearly three-year-old conflict remains unresolved.

It followed fresh artillery attacks in Ukraine's Donbass region, which broke a lull in shelling at a frontline hot-spot that had raised hopes the conflict's worst escalation in months was waning.

"We will work with Ukraine, Russia, and all other parties involved to help them restore peace along the border," Trump said in a White House statement after talking to Poroshenko.

Trump's open admiration for Russian President Vladimir Putin and campaign pledge to mend ties with Moscow have raised questions over his administration's commitment to maintaining sanctions



Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko. PHOTO: REUTERS

against Russia for its involvement in the fighting and annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

Poroshenko's office said the conversation with Trump paid particular attention to "settlement of the situation in the Don-

bass and achieving peace via political and diplomatic means."

"The two sides discussed strengthening the strategic partnership between Ukraine and the United States," it said in a statement.

Earlier the Ukrainian military and Russia-backed separatists accused each other of launching a new wave of shelling.

The past week has seen a flare-up in hostilities in which more than 40 people have been killed in

both government- and rebel-held areas.

The escalation near the town of Avdiivka has left thousands on both sides of the front line with little or no access to power or water amid freezing winter temperatures, prompting aid agencies to warn of a possible humanitarian crisis.

The US and EU sanctions against Russia are linked to accusations from Kiev and NATO that the Kremlin has fuelled the conflict by supporting separatists with troops and weapons — a charge it denies.

Russia says Ukraine instigated the latest surge to firm up Western support, while Kiev accuses the Kremlin of stirring up the violence to test the new US administration's will to involve itself in the crisis.

Trump said his respect for Putin would not affect his foreign policy.

"I respect a lot of people but that doesn't mean I'm going to get along with him. He's a leader of his country.

I say it's better to get along with Russia than not," Trump said in an interview with Fox News host Bill O'Reilly on Saturday.—Reuters

China punishes 11 for dereliction of duty after deadly bus fire

BEIJING — The government of the northern Chinese region of Ningxia has punished 11 officials for dereliction of duty after a deadly bus fire last year killed 18 people in the regional capital Yinchuan.

The man blamed for starting the fire, Ma Yongping, was executed in December. He set alight two plastic bags filled with gasoline on the bus after getting involved in a personal work dispute, according to an official account of his crimes.

In a statement late on Saturday carried by the ruling Communist Party's anti-corruption watchdog, the Ningxia government said the fire exposed a lack of concern and lack of sense of responsibility by certain officials. Warnings that Ma could carry out an extreme act were ignored, and steps were not taken to prevent him starting the fire, it said.

Two of the 11 officials punished for dereliction have already been handed over to authorities for prosecution, including a senior Yinchuan police officer, while others have been given administrative punishments, the government said.—Reuters

Incumbent secures 5th term as Tokyo's Chiyoda ward mayor



Incumbent Masami Ishikawa (R), backed by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike (L), secured a fifth term as mayor of Chiyoda Ward in Tokyo in an election on 5 February, 2017, defeating two newcomers, including one supported by the Liberal Democratic Party, according to Kyodo News projections. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Incumbent Masami Ishikawa, backed by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, secured a fifth term as mayor of Chiyoda Ward in Tokyo in an election Sunday, defeating two newcomers, including one supported by the Liberal Democratic Party, according to Kyodo News projections.

The election was

widely seen as a forecast for prospects for the governor's administration and she is expected to use the victory as a springboard for a Tokyo metropolitan assembly election to be held this summer, a contest that will determine the breadth of support for her.

During the campaign, the 75-year-old Ishikawa emphasized his achieve-

ments during his 16 years in office including zero-waiting lists for nursery schools and after-school clubs for elementary school students, as well exemption of medical costs for those under 18 years old.

Ishikawa beat the 41-year-old LDP-backed challenger, Makoto Yosano, a company employee and a nephew of former Finance Minister Kaoru Yosano, and independent Asao Igarashi, a 41-year-old former company employee and brother of Tatsuo Igarashi, the mayor of Tsukuba in Ibaraki Prefecture.

In the 2 July Tokyo metropolitan assembly election, the governor is considering fielding 30 to 40 members from a political academy she founded last year in an attempt to wrest control of the 127-member assembly, in cooperation with friendly forces, from the ruling LDP.—Kyodo News

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော
MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

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

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I get way more attention than I should for my career: Padma

MUMBAI — Padma Lakshmi is a model, actress, author and a recurring host of “Top Chef” but she feels in the US, she gets way too much attention for her career by the paparazzi which at times gets quite “dangerous and obnoxious”.

Lakshmi says it is quite a task to deal with photographers on a daily basis as they try and click pictures of not only her but also the model’s family including her six-year-old daughter, Krishna.



Padma Lakshmi . PHOTO: PTI

“You try to shield your family from it, I have signed up to be in the industry. Those close to me are very private people. I don’t face it nearly as bad as many people who are in the limelight. I just have a TV show, a food show.

“I somehow manage to get way more attention than I should for my career. But if you are really a movie star it can be obnoxious. I have friends in that situations, its almost dangerous,” Lakshmi told reporters on the sidelines of Lakme Fashion Week during which she walked the ramp for her friend, designer Tarun Tahiliani.

Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra, who has been enjoying a flourishing career in the US, had also said that the paparazzi culture in the West is too much to take in.

Meanwhile, Lakshmi, 46, says photographers in India are respectful and asked if they can take pictures but in the US it is a different story and celebrities from India may find it shocking.

“When someone from India goes to the US it can be quite a shock. I would imagine that somebody like Priyanka Chopra coming from this to that culture, she would be used to a lot of attention but it is not on the same level at all.

“Here I am able to move freely, people are respectful, they ask for pictures most of the time. In New York, it is pretty unbearable.” —PTI

‘La La Land’ director Chazelle wins top DGA award, stoking Oscar hopes

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood directors named Damien Chazelle the best film director of 2016 for “La La Land” at a gala ceremony on Saturday, placing the musical in a strong position for the movie world’s top honors, the Oscars, later this month.

The Directors Guild of America (DGA), the leading industry group representing film and television directors, chose Ezra Edelman as the best documentary maker for “O J: Made in America,” which is nominated for the best documentary feature Oscar.

Past DGA feature film award winners have often gone on to claim the best director Oscar and see their films win best picture from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Australian director Garth Davis won the first-time feature DGA honor for the drama “Lion”.

It was Chazelle’s first DGA win and first nomination for

only his third feature film, which scored a record-tying 14 Oscar nominations last month, including best picture and best director for Chazelle.

So far this year industry awards from the Producers Guild and now the DGA have gone to “La La Land”, a musical set in Los Angeles starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone which now appears to be the odds-on Oscars favourite.

The Oscars will be handed out in Hollywood on 26 February to producers, directors, actors and actresses in a star-studded television show viewed around the world and among the most-watched TV programmes in the United States.—Reuters



Feature Film Award nominee, Damien Chazelle, poses for photographers at the 69th annual DGA Awards in Beverly Hills, California, US on 4 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Taisuke Nakao (C) of Japan came third in the Prix de Lausanne ballet competition in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 4 February, 2017. Michele Esposito of Italy won top prize, with three Asian dancers including two Japanese among the eight prize winners at the prestigious ballet event.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Italian tops Swiss ballet contest, 2 Japanese win prize

LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND — Seventeen-year-old Italian Michele Esposito won top prize Saturday in the Prix de Lausanne ballet competition, with three Asian dancers including two Japanese among the eight prize winners at the prestigious Swiss event.

Japan’s Taisuke Nakao, 17, came third in the 44th edition of the annual event, considered one of the most important platforms for up-and-coming

young ballet dancers, according to the organizers. The eight prize winners, who are awarded a scholarship, also included 15-year-old Japanese student Koyo Yamamoto, who came fourth, and Sunu Lim, 17, from South Korea in eighth. The competition began on 30 January with 67 selected candidates performing classical and contemporary variations, with 20 of them chosen to compete in the finals.—Kyodo News

“The Red Turtle” wins independent prize at Annie Awards

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Animation Studio’s “Zootopia” won the Best Animated Feature honour at the annual Annie Awards, while “The Red Turtle,” produced by Japan’s Studio Ghibli and others, took the Best Animated Feature - Independent award on Saturday.

A film by Japanese director Makoto Shinkai, “your name.” went without an award despite it seeing success in Japan and many other countries. The film was nominated for the independent prize and for the outstanding achievement prize in directing in an animated feature.

The Red Turtle, directed by

Dutch-British animator Michael Dudok de Wit, is the first film made by a non-Japanese director at the Studio Ghibli animation company best known for the works of award-winning Japanese animation director Hayao Miyazaki.

Independent award nominees come from a pool of animated films that have been shown in fewer than 1,000 theaters in the United States.

Mamoru Oshii, a Japanese director, as well as Dale Baer and animation pioneer Caroline Leaf were presented with the Winsor McCay Award for their contribution to the art of animation.—Kyodo News



“The Red Turtle,” produced by Japan’s Studio Ghibli and directed by Dutch-British animator Michael Dudok de Wit, takes the Best Animated Feature - Independent award at the annual Annie Awards ceremony in Los Angeles on 4 February, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Blue-collar bathers revel at alternative to Rio beach scene

RIO DE JANEIRO — In a city best known for fashionable beaches and world-class surf, bathers at one local watering hole take pride in the exact opposite — the no-fuss atmosphere of a giant, artificial pond.

Known as the “piscinão,” or big pool, the swimming hole brims daily with locals from the surrounding neighbourhood of Maré and other working class districts nearby, especially on steamy days of the ongoing Brazilian summer.

Filled with seawater and covering an area the size of three soccer fields, the pond, near Rio’s international airport, is scoffed at by some locals, especially at posher points along the city’s verdant Atlantic shoreline.

But the proudly blue-collar piscinão is a ha-

ven for many who prefer not to spend time and money commuting and buying refreshments at tourist-filled beaches like Ipanema or Copacabana, more than 20 kms and a socioeconomic gulf away.

“This is a joyful place,” says Moacyr Dos Santos, 35, who brings his own food and drinks to spend the entire day. “There’s not much money here, but it’s relaxed.”

The piscinão was built in 2001 by the state government and is administered by various local agencies, including a municipal department that filters and treats the 30 million litres pumped in from nearby Guanabara Bay. It attracts everyone from families to retirees to flirtatious, mingling youths.

Among the hundreds



An artificial pond known as piscinão, or big pool, is seen next to the Mare slums complex, in the northern suburbs of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 15 January 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

gathered one recent Sunday were many parents of young children who said the calm waters, despite abundant litter floating in some corners

of the pond, make the piscinão a great kiddie pool, especially compared with the ferocious tides and crashing waves typical of Rio

beaches. “They can walk out to the middle and I don’t have to worry about them drowning,” said one 26-year-old father, holding a

beer in one hand and a fried fish in the other while wading and pointing to his small children splashing nearby.

Several bathers noted an irony of a leisure spot located amid some of the most violent neighborhoods of a city notorious for turf wars among drug traffickers, gangs and police.

Whereas Rio’s wealthier beaches are often targets of petty thieves and so-called “arrastões,” or fast sweeps by pickpockets working in groups, locals are largely left alone at the piscinão.

“I was once left with nothing but my bikini in Copacabana,” says a 52-year-old vendor who rents chairs and parasols and identified herself only by her nickname — Madonna. “That doesn’t happen here.” —Reuters

Candidates take 2017 college entrance exam for art majors in E China



Candidates take the 2017 college entrance exam for art majors of Shandong University of Art and Design in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province, on 5 February 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

A Tokyo hotel for bookworms

TOKYO — A hotel in Japan is defying the digital books trend and appealing to guests who prefer to curl up with a traditional paper book.

Book and Bed Tokyo, a variation of Japan’s famous capsule hotels, offers guests a closet-sized bunk embedded in rows of bookshelves.

The walls, ceiling and most of the decor of the hotel are packed with 3,200 books in different languages. A common room serves as a lounge for day visitors who can also come to share the experience of reading books together.

“There are many visitors staying in one big space, so we can communicate and feel relaxed,” said

student Natsuki Suno, who was taking a break from her studies. The hotel, which opened 18 months ago, has 60 cube rooms equipped with a mattress and reading lamp.

Depending on the room, overnight rates range from 3,800 yen (\$33) to 4,800 yen (\$42). Daytime visitors can lounge in cushioned corners of the hotel for 500 yen an hour.

Kei Asai, chief executive of Book and Bed, said he wanted to offer something beyond the traditional capsule hotel. “The reason why I came up with this concept was that I wanted to stay in this kind of hotel where you can fall asleep while enjoying something fun,” he said.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(6-2-2017 07:00am ~ 7-2-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	The Rising Glory Of Myanmar Arts
07:54	Am	Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Discovering Tribes- Bwe
08:54	Am	Porcelain and Glass
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA OBOE)
09:51	Am	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Pet Fish Biz
10:38	Am	Tour of The National Heritages and Archeological Site

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:27	Pm	Food Trip (EP-1) (Part-2)
07:54	Pm	Temple Stalls
08:03	Pm	News
08:27	Pm	Moe Ne’ Keeps Its Tradition Alive
08:51	Pm	Entrepreneur: Dr. Thin Nwe Win

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

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

MRTV Programme Schedule (6-2-2017, Monday)

6:00 Am ♦ Paritta by Venerable Missionary Sayadaw 7:00 Am ♦ Breakfast News 7:30 Am ♦ People’ Talks 8:30 Am ♦ Women in Myanmar Society 9:30 Am ♦ World Heritage “Egypt Pyramid” 10:45 Am ♦ 70 th Anniversary Union Day Programme 11:15 Am ♦ Documentary (ASEAN) 11:35 Pm ♦ MRTVs Youth Programme 12:35 Pm ♦ Teleplay 1:30 Pm ♦ Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance	2:35 Pm ♦ Tasty Trip 3:10 Pm ♦ Teleplay 3:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series 5:15 Pm ♦ This Week’s Special Interest 5:35 Pm ♦ Yes or No Talk Show 6:15 Pm ♦ Foot ball Magazing 6:35 Pm ♦ Law Affairs 7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series 8:00 Pm ♦ News/International News/ Weather Report 8:35 Pm ♦ Political Parties Campaign Speeches 9:00 Pm ♦ News/ Weather Report ♦ TV Drama Series ♦ MCN Debate
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Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Spurs can still win title — Pochettino

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur may have struggled to find the back of the net against Middlesbrough, but manager Mauricio Pochettino praised his team for their performance in a gritty 1-0 win and says they are ready to win the Premier League title.

After successive draws against Manchester City and Sunderland, Harry Kane scored from the spot to give second-placed Spurs a 1-0 win in Pochettino's 100th game in charge, leaving the 44-year-old happy despite the narrow margin of victory. "It's difficult. In the last few weeks we have seen how difficult it is to score, to win games, and we're in a position, second in the table, we keep the gap with Chelsea at nine points," he told a news conference. "I'm pleased with the performance, we're in a position where it's difficult to win games," he said.

Arsenal manager Arsene

Wenger, who saw his side go down 3-1 at Stamford Bridge in the day's early kickoff, said that the title was Chelsea's to lose, but Pochettino says Spurs are still in the running.

"It's good to put the standard higher, I'm happy to put pressure on us and to say that we are a real contender," he said.

"We are a team ready to win a title. If you put us on that level, it's okay, it's good to put pressure on us. I manage the pressure very well, no problem."

The 1-0 defeat leaves Middlesbrough in a precarious position at the other end of the table on 21 points in 15th place, ahead of Leicester City and Swansea City on goal difference and just one point above the drop zone.

Despite the defeat, Boro manager Aitor Karanka gave credit to his players for their overall performance.

"Once again we showed that



Middlesbrough's Alvaro Negredo shoots at goal during the match of Premier League between Tottenham Hotspur and Middlesbrough at White Hart Lane on 4 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

we can compete against every single team, and once again the players have been amazing," he told reporters, adding that Boro

would be concentrating on their own results as the relegation battle unfolds. "We have to think about ourselves. We depend on

us, we are good enough to stay (up), we have to forget the opponents and be confident," Karanka said. —Reuters

Real Madrid game at Celta postponed after stadium damaged in storm

MADRID — La Liga leaders Real Madrid's game with Celta Vigo on Sunday has been postponed amid safety fears after the Balaidos stadium roof was damaged by storms, the league's governing body announced on Saturday. "According to the report issued from the city hall in Vigo, they consider that the Balaidos stadium is not safe for spectators or for players to attend the game on Sunday," said a statement from La Liga.

"La Liga will propose possible dates for the game to be played after listening to the opinions of the clubs and the television broadcasters."

The mayor of Vigo, Abel Caballero, announced earlier on

Saturday that the town hall had decided the game could not go ahead in the interest of public safety. "The storm has damaged a part of the roof in one of the stands and there's no time to fix it for the game," Caballero told Radio Marca. "The stadium is not in the right condition to hold the game. Firefighters can't access the damaged area, we have to prioritise the safety of supporters."

Spanish sports daily Marca said Real had been resisting the postponement as the team had no free dates in their schedule to play a rescheduled game. Real's participation in the Champions League and Celta's in the Europa League limits both sides' availability. —Reuters

Messi collects another record as Barca sink Athletic Bilbao

BARCELONA — La Liga champions Barcelona stayed on the heels of leaders Real Madrid by coasting to a 3-0 home win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday as Lionel Messi became the club's top scorer from free kicks. Paco Alcacer scored his first league goal since joining from Valencia last year by turning in a pass from Neymar in the 18th minute while Messi whipped in an angled strike in the 40th, his 27th goal from a free kick for Barca. Aleix Vidal scored the most impressive goal of the game by finishing off an audacious solo run midway in the 67th. Luis Enrique made six changes to the team that beat At-

letico Madrid 2-1 in Wednesday's King's Cup semi-final first leg, resting top scorer Luis Suarez, and it looked a risky move as Athletic made a bold start, although the hosts' quality soon shone through.

Barca stayed second in the standings, moving one point behind Real Madrid but have played two games fewer than the leaders, who are due to visit Celta Vigo on Sunday although the game is in danger of being postponed due to extreme weather conditions.

Third-placed Sevilla visit Las Palmas on Sunday and Atletico Madrid host Leganes later on Saturday. —Reuters

Bayern held by Schalke as Lahm makes 500th appearance

MUNICH — Bundesliga leaders Bayern Munich survived several first-half scares in a 1-1 home draw with mid-table Schalke 04 on Saturday as Philipp Lahm made his 500th appearance for the Bavarian club.

Second-placed RB Leipzig lost ground after losing 1-0 at Borussia Dortmund and were left fuming after Federico Palacios had a goal disallowed with almost the last kick of the game for offside.

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored the winner for last season's runners-up after a superb run and cross by teenager Ousmane Dembele.

Bayern, who have 46

points from 19 games as they chase a fifth successive title, increased their lead over Leipzig to four points while Dortmund (34) points stayed third, ahead of Hoffenheim on goal difference. Robert Lewandowski finished off a flowing move by clipping the ball over Ralf Fahrenmann for this 15th goal of the season in the ninth minute but Schalke levelled four minutes later when Naldo's low free-kick found its way past Manuel Neuer.

Eleventh-placed Schalke, the fourth team to take a point from the Allianz Arena this season, then missed several chances for a halftime lead.

Neuer denied Sead Ko-

lasinac who had a clear run on goal, then Guido Burgstaller hit the crossbar and finally Leon Goretzka dallied over a shot, allowing Juan Bernat to get back and tackle.

Lahm, 33, came on in the second half to a rapturous reception and Schalke were forced on to the back foot as Bayern took control.

Javi Martinez drilled a shot just wide before some superb defending by Matija Nastasic foiled the Bavarians.

"We can be very satisfied," said Schalke coach Markus Weinzierl. "My team played really well and put the early setback behind them."

"We should have taken the lead before halftime and in the second half we were put under pressure....We can certainly live with a point."

Dortmund's match with Leipzig was a stop-start affair until Dembele collected the ball near the halfway line, turned and beat Marvin Compner, then flicked the ball past Willi Orban before delivering a pinpoint pass which Aubameyang headed in for his 17h Bundesliga goal of the season. Aubameyang and Marco Reus both squandered further chances in the second half and Dortmund almost paid dearly when Palacios broke clear to fire past Roman Buerki in stoppage time only to have his celebrations cut short by the linesman's flag. —Reuters



Thomas Muller of Bayern Munich in action with Matija Nastasic of Schalke during the match of German Bundesliga between Bayern Munich and FC Schalke 04 at Allianz-Arena, Munich, Germany on 4 February, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS