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Women's role in peace stressed



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

ON International Women's Day, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi highlighted the role of women in the peace-making process, urging women who are taking part in economic sectors to make the best use of their wealth and proficiency in business for the peace of the country.

Speaking at the ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to mark International Women's Day 2017, the State Counsellor said she wanted women to

think about how their economic might and the sheer number of female entrepreneurs could be used for the peace and stability of the country, stressing that peace is of great importance not only in Myanmar but also for the world.

"It is not wrong for entrepreneurs to give priority to their businesses. Only if they are successful in their own sector will they be on the right path. But I think that peace is of great importance not only for our country but

for the whole world. So, I want our women to think deeply as to how their economic strength and the strength of the entrepreneurs will be employed for the whole nation's peace and the whole world's peace and stability," she said.

The State Counsellor also revealed her opinion on whether brute force or brainpower are more effective.

"Every civilised person regards that the truth is the strength and they do and say as regarded

by them. Contrariwise, uncivilised ones regard that the strength is the truth. In this way, they are not convinced any longer what the truth is, before they realise it. They come to rely upon brute strength," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

She also expressed her views that the country's mass of women should take 50 per cent of responsibility for the peace, as they are also taking part in 50 per cent of the economic sector of Myanmar.

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Nationwide matriculation exam starts

OVER 700,000 students registered to take the matriculation exams which began yesterday. Established were 1,577 examination centres and 17 foreign examination centres totalling 1,594 centres across the country.

A total of 114,237 students registered for the exams, with 63,999 students from government schools and 50,238 from private schools in Yangon Region.

With Myanmar Literature as the first subject, Dr. Myo Myint, Chairman of National Educational Policy Commission, and other responsible personnel inspected the examination centres at three BEHS schools. At Yangon General Hospital arrangements were made for hospitalised students who wished to take the examination.

Out of 114,237 students registered for the exams in Yangon Region, 104,256 students took the exam. Absent were 9,981 students. Six students took the exam at Yangon General Hospital, with no absentees.—GNLM



Students return home following the end of the first day of matriculation examinations at BEHS-6 in Botataung, Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



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Pyithu Hluttaw

Establishment, cancellation, categorisation of pastureland discussed

At the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting held at 10 am yesterday, Major-General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, replied to the motion submitted by U Kyaw Min, of Letpadan constituency, urging the Union Government to lay down a policy promptly for practical utilisation of existing pastureland in the country as farming land or land for the village area or pastureland or some other use, after hearing the wishes of the local populace.

The deputy minister clarified that the deputy commissioner/commissioner is empowered with the establishment of pastureland, while the commissioner is authorised to cancel the pastureland under the directives in the Burma Land Revenue Directions, 1911, and rules and regulations of Upper Burma Land and Revenue Act.

“Nay Pyi Taw Council, Region and State Cabinets seldom grant removal and cancellation of pastureland easily. Depending upon the long-lasting utilisation of the land on which one is working, needs to expand the town and

village area, establishment of land used for education, health, social affairs, holy land, land for cemeteries and farming land for farmers without land, in the interest of the people, are being scrutinised in accord with the existing laws and principles. For unnecessary situations not to happen, local people’s attitudes are needed to be taken into consideration. In Myanmar, there is no pastureland in Kayah and Shan States, with buffalo and bovine pastureland in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and other Regions and States. Formerly there were 865,777.44 acres of pastureland in total. Until March 2016, there were 130,404 acres of pastureland cancelled, within the reign of the incumbent government 2514.22 acres of pastureland cancelled. Hence, there are still 732,854.10 acres of pastureland left under the current circumstance,” the Deputy Minister said. U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, took the approval of Hluttaw, announcing that the Hluttaw will put it on record to observe.

As regards the motion sub-

mitted by U Kyaw Min of Letpadan constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency seconded.

“Over 70 per cent of the populace in Myanmar is living in rural areas, eking out their lives by farming. Out of 756,000 acres, most pastureland turned into residential areas and farming land. Laws protecting these pasturelands and the rules and regulations of cancellation and removal of pastureland still exist in the country. If it is necessary for the benefit of the people or utilisation of the land as pastureland is less, cancellation and removal is to be carried out by taking people’s desires. In the 2008 constitution, it is described that the State is to promulgate necessary laws to protect the rights of farmers.

Ministries concerned should implement the use of pastureland as farming land. Only if the remaining pastureland can be divided among farmers without farming land, will it be helpful to reduce poverty and to develop rural areas. The motion of acqui-



Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

sition of sufficient farming land for the most populace is wholly supported.”

Regarding U Kyaw Min’s motion, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency, U Ne Myo Tun of Htantapin constituency, Dr U Than Aung Soe of Minhla constituency, U Kyaw Myint of Takkayi constituency, U Phone Myint Aung of DaikU constituency, U Khin Aye of Nattalin constituency, U Tin Htwe of Waw constituency, U Thein Tun of Thabaung

constituency, U Aung Win of Hmawbi constituency, Dr U Aye Kyu of Labutta constituency, U U Tun Maung of Ponngkyun constituency, Daw Soe Nwe Aye of TadaU constituency, U Sein Win of Maubin constituency, Major Sein Tun, Tatmadaw representative, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constitution Dr Myint Thein of Nyaunglebin constituency and U Win Myint Aung of Debeyin constituency spoke in support of the motion. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Upgrading of Myitkyina-Minkin Road to be completed in April

UPGRADING of Myitkyina-Minkin Road in Myitkyina, Kachin State, will be completed no later than April.

Myitkyina-Minkin Road, which crosses Union Road, is being expanded. The road was originally 18 feet wide. Now, the road was enlarged to be 24 feet wide between Thidar bridge and the Fire Services Department office. Myitkyina-Minkin Road will be paved with nylon tar. The construction will include a platform, drains and car parking.

A special road team will spend Ks1.06 billion from the Union budget to upgrade the road in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Construction of the bridge started in June, 2016.

“The bridge is being extended to be 24 feet wide from 18 feet. We will also add seven feet for sidewalk and car parking lots. We will build drains to prevent flooding the road,” said U Ye Aung, a junior engineer 2 from the roads department under the ministry of construction.

Upon completion of the Myitkyina-Minkin Road, Myitkyina-Shwebo Road and Myitkyina-Putao Road will also be upgraded. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Construction of Falam-Thaingngin-Tiddim 66 KV transmission line 28 per cent complete

THE 55-mile long Falam-Thaingngin-Tiddim 66 KV transmission line is under construction and the project is 28 per cent complete, said the Deputy Minister for Electric Power and Energy Dr Tun Naing in response to the question raised by U Kyint Khant Paung, a parliamentarian for Constituency No. 6 in Chin State at the 16th day, fourth regular session of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

As to whether arrangements have been made to ensure electricity access for the locals in Tiddim and Tonzang Townships in Chin State through the national grid, the deputy minister answered that the aforementioned transmission line and a sub-power station will be developed in Tiddim at a cost of Ks6.03 billion, saying Ks3.98 billion budget is expected to be spent for construction of a 20-mile long Thaingngin-Tiddim transmission line and Tiddim sub-power station. Ks50 million is submitted to the union government for the 2017-2018 FY and the finance commission meeting approved the requested fund and it was sent to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval.

The 29-mile long Tiddim-Tonzang transmission line and a sub-power station in Tonzang Township will be implemented only when the requested budget is approved, he added. He explained that Kyikhar Town is not connected to the national grid, and the Chin State government is

planning to construct Karlay creek hydropower plant project to supply sufficient electricity.

Regarding the motion on how to measure the land area of the former Ahbaw airport in Ye Township, Mon State where necessary land preparation works will be made to construct a sub-power station and Ks78.9 million compensation was paid to the rubber plantation owners asked by U Myo Win, a Member of Parliament from Mon State Constituency No. 8, the deputy minister replied that the proposal to construct 180-mile long transmission line and sub-power stations to distribute electricity from Mawlamyine, capital of Mon State to Taninthayi Region’s Dawei City through the US\$ 500 million loan from the Asian Development Bank was sent to the ADB with the approval of the cabinet meeting. Out of 133.90 acres of the land area on the former Ahbaw airport, a 63.35-acre plot of land was chosen for construction of the sub-power station, he said.

He went on to say that Ks78.9 million compensation for crops was given to 12 farmers on 4 July 2014 and the chosen site for the sub-power station is located in the airport area.

The township General Administration Department informed the local people that they are allowed to object to the submission on construction of the sub-power station on 63.35 acres land area in Ahbaw village-tract,



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Ye Township. Land reclamation and compensation for the crops and farmland were carried out in accord with rules and regulations, he added, saying construction of fence for the sub-power station will be implemented in 2017-2018 FY. He also answered the question of U Zong Hlwe Htan, an MP for Constituency No. 4 in Chin State, that there was a plan to supply electricity to Reedhorda Town from Falam Township, Chin State through the national grid, the question of U Pe Tin, a lawmaker from Constituency No. 6 in Mon State, that there was a plan to construct a sub-power station to supply the power to Domar, Htonman, Setthweye and Kwamkave villages in Mudon Township via the Mawlamyine-Mudon-Thabyuzayet 33 KV transmission line, a question asked by U Khin Zaw Oo, a legislator for the Constitu-

ency No. 3 in Mon State, that there was an arrangement to provide the residents from Nyaungbinseik Ward in Mawlamyine, Mon State with electricity, and a proposal submitted by U Myint Naing, an Amyotha Hluttaw representative from the Constituency No. 5 in Rakhine State over the measures to supply electricity to Apaukwa Village, Kyauktaw Township in Rakhine State.

Member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee Daw Nang Ni Ni Aye read out the findings and reviews concerning Oil and Petroleum Products Bill sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with its amendments and U Larl Min Htan, the findings and reviews on the Bill on the Transfer of the Culprit. The Upper House speaker asked the MPs to enlist their names if they wanted to discuss the bills. — *Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives IAPC Former Chairman

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Rick Ridder, President of RBI Strategies and Research and former Chairman of International Association of Political Consultants (IAPC) from the United States yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The State Counsellor was awarded The Democracy Medal in 1995 by the IAPC. Mr. Rick Ridder, on behalf of the IAPC, presented the medal to the

State Counsellor during the meeting.

The IAPC was established in 1968 and lays emphasis on the flourishing of democracy around the world. The democracy medal award was introduced in 1982 to recognize the people and organisations that make sacrifices for the development of democracy. Among the recipients of this medal are labour activist Mr. Lech Walesa from Poland and Mr. Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa. —*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, right, accepts The Democracy Medal from Mr. Rick Ridder, President of RBI Strategies and Research and former Chairman of IAPC in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

UPDJC holds discussions

Thura Zaw

FOR smoother and systematic processes in political discussions, the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) formed 5 Working Committees on 16 February 2017.

Yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw's National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) negotiation meetings were held for these working committees with committee members from government departments, ethnic armed groups, and political parties in attendance.

A conference for the UPDJC was first commenced before the various working committees began discussions.

Discussion for policies based on a Federal System

The Working Committee for Political Discussions was led by U Khin Zaw Oo, Dr. Lian Mhone Sar Khaung and Sai Kyaw Nyunt and discussed on the committee's procedures and other various other topics on securing a strong

foundation for a federal system. Attending this discussion meeting were Brig-General Tin Aung, Brig-General Hla Than Maung, U Htay Win Aung, U Kyaw Kyaw Han, Dr. Sai Oo, Saw El Kalu Say, Saw San Nyein Thu, Saw Ku Ku, U Zam Za Mone, Sai Bo Aung, Dr. Too Gyar and U Aung Kyi Nyunt.

Discussion for policies based on Social Development

The discussion meeting for Working Committee for Social Affairs was led by U Zaw Htay, U Sai La and U Naing Ngan Lin and discussed on the committee's procedures, topics concerning social resettlement, relief and welfare. In attendance were Major General Nay Lin, Daw Zin Mar Aung, U Naing Swe Oo, Saw Sel Bwe, Khun Thomas, Daw Aye Thida Myint, U Tin Swe, U Saung Sam kar and U Shwe Min.

Discussions for policies based on economic and finance sector in a Federal System

The discussion meeting for

economic sector was led by U Hla Maung Shwe, Daw Saw Mya Yazar Kin and Min Kyaw Zayar Oo and discussed on topics concerning regional development policies and developing the economy and financial sector in line with a federal system. In attendance were Brig-General Thike Soe, Mi Khun Chan, U Barrat Sin, Salai Htalar Hay, Pado Saw Tar Do Muu, Sai Lian, Khun Tin Shwe Oo, U Htun Naing, U Thein Htun, U Marcos and U Thar Htun Hla.

The discussion meeting for security sector was led by Major General Soe Naing Oo, U Myo Win and U Thar Hla Pe and discussed on various topics concerning the legal sector. In attendance were Major General Tin Maung Win, Brig-General Sein Htun Hla, U In Htone Kar Naw San, Dr. Chaw Chaw Sein, Se Baung Kay, Pado Saw Aung Win Shwe, Pu Htet Ni, Dr. Aung Myat Oo, U Saw Htun Aung Myint and Daw Nan Khin Sein Myint.

Discussions for policies based on agriculture in a Federal System

The discussion meeting for policies for agriculture and environmental issues was led by U Aung Soe, Khun Myint Htun and U Myint Soe on agricultural policies, conservation policies for the natural environment and protective measures from natural disasters with Brig-General Aung Thein Oo, U Soe Win, U Zaw Min Lett, U San Ni, Saw Del Nel, Sai Sai Ngin, Daw Bwe Bu, U Hla Khaing, Khin Htun Shwe and U Aike Saw in attendance.

The various working committee discussion meetings will be held from 8 to 10 March.



A working committee discussing the political sector. PHOTO: MNA

Yangon Police to secure by-elections

Ko Moe

YANGON Region Police yesterday announced that half of its police force will be on patrol before, during and after the 1 April by-elections in order to maintain security and ensure that voters can exercise their right to enjoy clear, unimpeded access to voting booths.

"This is done so the citizens can freely participate in the elections," said Police Major Hla Wai of Yangon Region Police Force. "Half of the townships involved in the by-elections are located in the Yangon Region. Just like in the 2015 elections we are deploying 50 per cent of our police force to ensure the security and successful transition of the election," he said.

Of the 2,000 voting booths in the entire country, 942 booths are located in the Yangon Region alone.

"We will place our forces strategically and to prevent security breaches there will be sentry duties and patrols," Po-

lice Major Hla Wai said.

The police force will be on duty before the elections, during campaigns, in the election process, and after the election. Sentries and patrols on bicycles, motorbikes and other vehicles will be deployed, he said.

The by-elections will decide contests for four seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw among candidates from New Dagon City (Port), New Dagon City (East), Kawmhu and Hlinetharya Townships, while candidates from Dagon Seikkan, Latha, Lanmadaw, Ahlone, Kyimyindine, Kamayut and Hlaing Townships will be competing for one seat in the Amyotha Hluttaw.

With three seats in the Amyotha Hluttaw, nine seats in the Pyithu Hluttaw and seven seats in Regional Hluttaws, a total of 19 seats are being vied for in the coming April 1 by-election. The by-election will be held in 22 townships involving 96 candidates from 24 political parties.

Untimely rainfall warning

ACCORDING to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, due to the convergence of moving cold air from the west and warm air from the Bay of Bengal and Easterly waves, rain are likely to be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and isolated in the remaining Regions and States within next (5) days.



Myanmar to cooperate with Asia-Pacific countries to emerge better healthcare system

THE Digital Health Conference in the Asia-Pacific and 5th AeHIN General Meeting was opened at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in administrative capital Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe at the meeting said the healthcare information system was carried out through the paper-base system in the past and the ministry is now undertaking the healthcare information system with the use of information technology. The healthcare information system plays a vital role in health-

care system, he added, saying that only when correct health news is collected, will better healthcare system be materialized. The union minister urged the participants to cooperate with the countries from Asia-Pacific Region for improvement of the electronic health (eHealth).

The Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka Dr. Rajitha Senarathne and the officials from the World Health Organization (WHO), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) made speeches and the union

minister posed for a documentary photo together with those present. The meeting is scheduled to continue till 10 March at the same venue and will focus on exchanging experience between the countries for development of healthcare system (eHealth).

The role of information technology is of great importance in managing affordable and effective healthcare systems in Myanmar. The conference is annually held in the member countries since 2012 and Myanmar hosted the 5th AeHIN conference for the first time.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Coffee origin tour starts in Ywangan



Workers dry coffee beans under the sun in Ywangan. PHOTO: COMMUNICAFEE INTERNATIONAL

COFFEE origin tours have begun in Ywangan, a popular coffee-production village in Taunggyi District, southern Shan State, by Genius coffee with the aim of promoting the country's tourism sector and creating more job opportunities for residents.

This is part of a plan to boost international tourist arrivals to the country through agriculture-based tourism. The

new plan targets coffee lovers at home and abroad, with the project implementers planning to extend agri-tourism services to other townships in the future.

Under the tour plan, visitors travel to the village to observe the manufacturing process and development of the country's specialty coffee industry. They will gain a lot of knowledge about the cultivation of marketable coffee

beans, ways to boost production and other agricultural-related information in the region.

The coffee grown in Ywangan village is the Costa Rican coffee bean variety that was introduced as a substitution crop for opium in 1985. The township boasts 6,600 acres of coffee plantations across over 120 villages, which has the capacity to produce over 700 tonnes of coffee beans annually.—200

Social Security Board pays over Ks17billion in benefits to insured workers in Yangon

UNDER the new Social Security Law, the Social Security Board paid Ks17.68 billion in benefits to individual employees in Yangon who have a social security number over the past 36 months, according to the SSB.

The SSB spent Ks4.387 billion for worker benefits, over Ks297 million for healthcare services and Ks12.551 billion

for buying medicines and medical equipment for workers' hospitals and social security clinics.

According to the new law enacted in 2012, the SSB shall manage and keep the social security systems including health and social care insurance system; family assistance insurance system; and invalidity benefit, superannuation pension

benefits and survivors' benefit insurance system.

Under the Myanmar social security system, workers have to pay two per cent of their monthly salary to the SSB. The social security card holders will receive free medical care and cash benefits for sickness, educational allowance benefits for children and other social security benefits.—200

Anti-narcotics police record nearly 700 drug cases in February

DESPITE the rule of law programme to reduce drug-related crimes and the trade of opium, yaba pills and other illegal substances, a total of 679 drug cases were recorded by the anti-narcotics police in February.

Although anti-narcotics police are conducting awareness training courses to eliminate drug abuse and smuggling, there are altogether 679 cases with 863 drug abusers and sellers arrested in February.

The police recorded 33 cases of opium, 211 cases of hero-

in, 379 cases of Yaba pills, three cases of lower-quality opium, five cases of yaba pills powder, 13 cases of marijuana, nine cases of opium powder, eight cases of opium oil, one case of ice, one case of brown opium, two cases of cocaine, one case of Tramadol, one case of opium liquid, 11 cases of failure to register and one other drug-related case.

The police seized opium weighing 65.73 kilos, heroin weighing 69.11 kilos and 13,037,866 Yaba pills.—*Than Oo (Laymyethna)*

Crime NEWS

Opium and stimulant pills seized in Momauk and Lashio

A local anti-drug squad in Bhamo discovered 5.4564 kilos of opium and 3,920 stimulant pills from a house owned by Wint Shod in Aung Myae Village in Moe Mauk Township on Tuesday.

Similarly, local police from Lashio police station stopped and searched a motorbike driven by

Sairon with Shone Pong on board on the way from Lashio to Theinni on Pyidaungsu Road, Ward 12, Lahio Township and seized 11,960 stimulant pills.

The suspects are being charged under the anti-narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances law.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Fires break out in Namhsam, Pinlaung

A fire broke out at a house owned by Ohn Maung, 49, in Ohnmatet village, Namhsam township in Shan State at 2:10 am on Tuesday.

The fire started in the kitchen and destroyed two houses. Local firefighters rushed to the scene and the fire was extinguished by 3:10 am.

Namhsam Myoma Police have filed charges against the house owner Ohn Maung under

section 285 of the Penal Code.

Similarly, another fire broke out at a house owned by Khun Shwe Tone, 33, in Teelon village, Pinlaung Township at 7:50 am on Tuesday. The fire started in the kitchen. Villagers were able to put out the fire, but the house was destroyed. Pinlaung Myoma Police have filed charges against the house owner under section 285 of the Penal Code.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Illegal timber seized in Hsenwi

STAFF from the Forestry Department seized eight Tamalan timbers weighing 0.2326 tonnes at the Yaypoo inspection gate in Hsenwi, Shan State at 7:30 am on Tuesday.

A Probox van was loaded with the Tamalan timber, also known as Myanmar tulip wood.

Acting on a tip off, the forestry staff stopped the vehicle driven by Kyaw Naing, 47, en route from Lashio to Muse. Hsenwi Myoma Police Station filed a lawsuit against Kyaw Naing under section 6(1) of Public Property Protection Act.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Amphetamine pills, arms seized in Shan State

AMPHETAMINE pills and arms and bullets were seized in Kengtung and Hsihseng townships in Shan State on 6 March.

A local anti drug squad in Kengtung stopped and searched a motorbike driven by Sai Nwet in front of Naung Phar police outpost in Kengtung Township and seized 20,000 amphetamine pills on Sunday.

On the same day, a local police in Taunggyi also discov-

ered 26,000 amphetamine pills, 2 arms with 8 bullets, one rifle with 20 bullets and one hand grenade on a vehicle driven by Aite Kyaw with Kyaw Sein and Sai Aung Sint on board on the Hopong-Hsihseng road near Hothi village in Naungmon Village-tract, Hsihseng Township.

The suspects are being charged under the Anti-Narcotics and Ammunition Laws.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

Korea to assist in development of Myanmar's fisheries

IN a bid to enhance Myanmar's fishing industry, the 6th Korea-Myanmar Ocean Forum was held at Sule Shangri La Hotel on 7th March in cooperation of Myanmar Maritime University and Korea Maritime Institute.

Myanmar and Korea have jointly held this forum since 2012. The Ocean Research Center was opened at Myanmar Maritime University with the assistance of Korea and eight researches are being conducted from this center, said Dr. Myat Lwin, the rector of Myanmar Maritime University.

Present at this forum were officials from the Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF) and experts from Korea and they discussed how to improve the fisheries sector in Myanmar.

"We are faced with many difficulties in developing fisheries enterprises, and the hatcheries are also required. We will exert concerted efforts to boost



A woman prepares fish at San Pya Fish Wholesale Market in Yangon, on 7 January 2017. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

the export volume of fish to Korea year by year," said U Soe Tun, the vice chairperson of MFF.

Currently, the volume of fishery exports to Korea

is small. Long-finned eels are mostly shipped to Korea, it is learnt.

Economic relations between Korea and Myanmar improved in late

2014. Korea put foreign investments worth US\$25,400million with 254 enterprises in 2015. Korea will contribute so as to effectuate the de-

velopment in Myanmar's fishery, said Mr. Joung Myung Saeg, vice president of Korea Maritime Institute.—*Myint Maung Soe*

Local rubber price slightly declines

THE domestic rubber price shows a slight decrease, resulting from the drop in price at the global market, where supply exceeded demand, according to the rubber market. The rubber price hit a record high of Ks1,300 per pound in the second week of February before the price began to decline, with the rubber price of around Ks1,200 per pound these days, said a rubber grower.

The local rubber market looks promising as the price began an upward trend starting in Oct 2016. The high price of rubber last year attracted many rubber growers to resume their businesses, which were forced to halt due to a drastic decline of price in the past four years.

Ninety per cent of rubber is exported, whereas only 10 per cent is for local consumption, said the rubber producers.

Myanmar's rubber was exported mainly to China but it is also shipped to Malaysia and Japan. Over 80,000 tonnes of rubber are exported annually, according to Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

To maintain the price on the rise, quality needs to be controlled so that Myanmar's rubber meets the export market's criteria. However, the quality of Myanmar's rubber is inconsistent. Quality rubber varieties need to be cultivated so as to boost the production rate, merchants said.—*Ko Khant*

Volume of mung bean exports up by over 90,000 tonnes

THE export volume of mung bean as of the end of February in this fiscal year increased by over 90,000 tonnes when compared to that in the similar period of last year, earning over US\$635million, according to the figures of the Commerce Ministry.

In the similar period of last FY, over 400,000

tonnes of mung bean were shipped abroad, fetching over US\$425million. With over 500,000 tonnes of mung bean exported this fiscal year, the export value was over US\$200million higher than last year. Over 1.2 million tonnes of various pulses have been exported so far this year. Pea exports fetched a good price

earlier in the year. The export volume of various peas this year is likely to meet the target, it is learnt.

The price of mung bean dropped at harvest time but rebounded a bit with demand from India in early March.

However, the prevailing market price significantly dropped against the mar-

ket price in the same period last year. India made up 70 per cent of pea exports, so its demand is positively related to the pea market.

Pea growers from Pwintbyu Township were battered from a low yield caused by the erratic weather this year. They are not doing well financially due to the drastic decline

of this year's yield.

With the high price of mung bean enjoyed in previous years, growers across the country extended their mung bean plantations. Unexpectedly, mung bean did not fetch a good price this year due to erratic weather, causing financial difficulties for the growers.—*Mon Mon*

FMI share price down by over Ks4,000 this week

THE share price of First Myanmar Investment this week is down by over Ks4,000 when compared to that of last week, according to the statistics of Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX).

The share price of First Myanmar Investment (FMI) was on the decline this week with the share prices of Ks20,500 on 3rd, Ks20,000 on 6th, Ks18,500 on 7th and Ks16,000 on 8th March.

FMI share price hit its highest mark of Ks41,000 on 29th and 30th March 2016, whereas the price hit a low of Ks15,500 per

share on 25th Nov 2016. The FMI share price turned to a downward trend in December, plunging to Ks13,500 per share on 30th Dec 2016.

The share price of First Myanmar Investment (FMI) was on the decline for a month and jumped to Ks15,000 on 15th Feb 2017 at Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX), according to the market statistics of YSX.

Currently, there are four companies trading shares on YSX; FMI, Myanmar Thailawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar



Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB).

The total stock trading volumes on 8th March hit 10,987 shares, whereas 43,765 shares were traded on 3rd March, 39,449 shares on 6th March and 10,794 shares on 7th March, according to the market summary of YSX.

On 8th March, FMI traded 3,617 shares while 4,173 shares of MTSH, 1,000 shares of MCB and 2,197 shares of FPB were traded on YSX, with the share price of Ks16,000 for FMI, Ks4,300 for MTSH, 9,100 for MCB and 32,000 for FPB at closing time.—*Mon Mon*

Domestic gold price falls due to slump in global price

THE domestic gold price slumped to Ks886,000 per tical on 7th March, in keeping with the dropping global gold price, according to gold and jewellery shops.

The global gold price is positively related to the local gold market, so gold dealers closely observe the global gold market. The cool market tends to shake because of a slight decrease in domestic gold price.

The gold price was above Ks900,000 per tical on 27th Feb in the local

market before it dropped down to over Ks897,000 on 2nd March. The price remained on the decline from 3rd to 7th March.

The global gold price was US\$1,257 per ounce on 27th Feb and then declined starting on 1st March, dropping to about US\$1,225 on 7th March, it is learnt.

When the global gold price jumped on 24th Feb, the domestic gold price soared to a record high of Ks903,500 per tical on 27th Feb.—*Ko Htet*

Women's role in peace stressed

>> FROM PAGE 1

She continued to say that peace does not come from a meeting room, but from the heart and brain, and women can help a lot in this sector by actively participating in the peace process. She reiterated that Myanmar women entrepreneurs should think about how they can support the country's peace process.

The ceremony was held under the world-wide theme "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030."

"I want to extend my gratitude to all the generous donors and business owners who have supported our effort for national reconciliation and the peace process. This not only helps in our peace process but also in the business sector too. The same is true to a certain degree in other underdeveloped and developed countries."

"Most successful and wealthy business owners look down upon those with less wealth and focus only on accumulating wealth for self-interest. Our wealth should be for the nation and by displaying the capabilities of business owners and women entrepreneurs we can boost the economic sector," said the State Counselor.

She further stated that all citizens should prioritize success for businesses and show how to use it to help others. It is important to design a business model so as to bring a balance between charity work and self-interest, because only in harmony can they be a truly powerful force. It is not



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits booth showcasing women's handiwork at International Women's Day Ceremony for 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

true that only the economic sector should be a priority in developing a nation. In fact, economics and politics, politics and social affairs, social affairs and peace are all interconnected. If you were to utilise your business to support the welfare of others, it will undoubtedly boost your own business as well.

"We all need to work hand in hand. Men need to work to the

best of their capabilities to elevate women status and support them and women are also obliged the same. Do not underestimate yourself or others.

I want to ask the men not to underestimate women or yourselves too, especially the young men of this generation, to try harder not to fall behind women in the education sector. Only then will

our country have a fair and equal future. This year's goal is the economic sector with the motto, "Empowering women entrepreneurs for a better world in 2030." The main determiner in shaping the world for the better is our mind. Financially you can only do so much, but to steer the world in the direction of peace, compassion, love and kindness we have

to start with changing our minds first. I want to request the women of this country to lead us in changing what we need to change and doing what we need to do in this endeavour."

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye stated that of the 51.4 million citizens in Myanmar, 49.2 per cent are male and 51.8 per cent are female. With women representing the majority of the population, they are a potential powerhouse in major changes and development in our country, which is why it is the duty of the State to dispel gender discrimination and is working with UN groups, International non-government groups, local NGO's, and civilian groups in this matter.

"On the never-ending road towards gender equality and empowering women and girls alike, it is important that everyone contributes to ensure security and peace for women, and actively take part in national schemes implemented set by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Ministries, Organizations from UN to also aid in women's role and activity", the Union minister said.

After the ceremony, the State Counselor and officials looked round the exhibition of photos showcasing women's developmental works, women and childcare movements, livelihood training workshops for women, and items from women's handiwork workshops and trainings.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Programs of transformation to Public Service Broadcasting discussed

DR. PE MYINT, Union Minister for Information received German Development Counsellor, Dr. Katharina Spiess at the Ministry of Information yesterday.

With a view to successfully implementing the transforming works from the state-owned MRTV to PSB, the tasks relating to drawing the action plan and time line, conducting capacity building course after setting the

human resource plan, cooperation in drawing the Broadcasting Law, enabling to work in accordance with rules and regulations set in the course of establishing MRTV Webportal, and enabling the expertise to attend and discuss the transitional programs at the Transition Forum which will be organized soon, were discussed during the meeting.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Government's one-year performance to be broadcast on MRTV, covered by state-run dailies

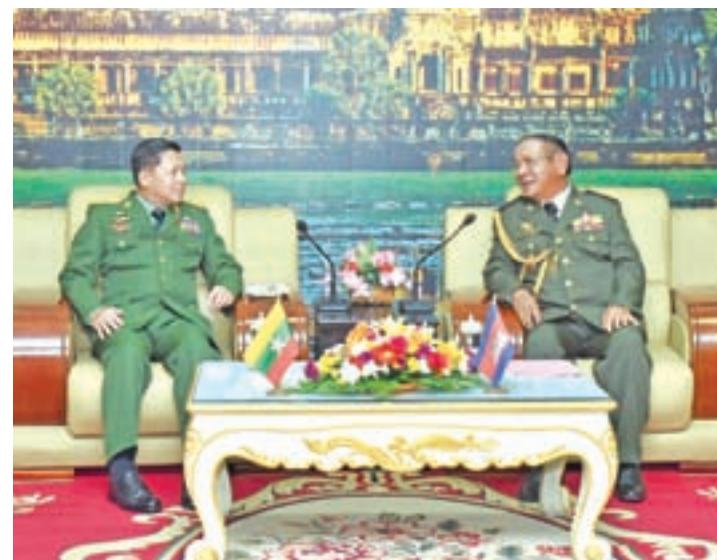
The public is informed that the performance within a one-year period of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the three pillars will be broadcast on MRTV, commencing at 9 pm on Friday and will be covered by Myanmar Alinn, the Kyemon and the Global New Light of Myanmar dailies starting on Saturday.—*Ministry of Information*

Myanmar, Cambodia to enhance cooperation in security and defense sectors

AT an invitation of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Pol Saroeun, Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who is a goodwill visit to Vietnam left Hanoi for Cambodia at 8 am local standard time yesterday.

They were seen off at Noi Bai International Airport by Lt-Gen Vu Chien Thang, Director of the Foreign Relations Department of Vietnam Defence Services and senior military officers, Myanmar Ambassador to Vietnam U Kyaw Soe Win and wife, Military Attaché Col Aung Kyaw Oo and officials. The Senior General and party were welcomed by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces General Eth Sarath, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Myint Soe and officials at Ponchentong Airport in Phnom Penh.

In the evening, the Senior General attended a welcoming ceremony and inspected the Guard of Honour together



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Pol Saroeun. PHOTO: MNA

with Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Pol Saroeun. The Senior General held talks with his counterpart and discussed matters on sending reciprocal visits, organizing friendly sports events and strengthening coop-

eration in security and defense sectors.

The Senior General also paid a courtesy call on Samdach Maha Sera Peday Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of Cambodia at the Peace palace.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vietnam to host Miss ASEAN Friendship 2017

HANOI — The Miss Friendship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will be held in Vietnam for the first time in the central Phu Yen province in July 2017, announced the country's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

The organizers will officially kick off the competition in Phu Yen province on 20 March, after holding a press briefing in the southern Ho Chi Minh City on 16 March to introduce the event to the public, reported provincial newspaper Phu Yen Online on Wednesday.

The regional pageant is part of several cultural activities to be held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN establishment in 2017. It is hoped to be an occasion for ASEAN member countries to meet up,

promote and exchange cultures, as well as strengthen multilateral relations and friendship, said the organizers.

The preliminary round is open for applications from 1 March to 28 April, 2017, then comes the final round from 1 June to 2 July, 2017. The final night is scheduled to be on 7 July in Phu Yen's Tuy Hoa City.

Situated in the south-central coast of Vietnam, Phu Yen province is famous for its beautiful landscapes of long beach under the shadows of coconut trees, unspoiled hills and natural lagoons.

This is also the ideal place for organizing various types of tourism activities such as mountain climbing, sea-diving, boat-racing, wind-surfing and sea exploring. —Xinhua

Philippine lawmakers dismiss Duterte loyalist over US citizenship saga



Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay gestures during a commission on Appointment hearing at the Senate headquarters in Pasay city, metro Manila, Philippines on 8 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — Philippine lawmakers dismissed a close ally of President Rodrigo Duterte as foreign minister on Wednesday, citing "compelling issues" about his qualifications and his failure to prove he was not a US citizen when he took the job. The Commission on Appointments unanimously decided not to approve Perfecto Yasay as minister, hours after a confirmation hearing in which he was grilled about his citizenship and inconsistent statements made during television in-

terviews and to legislators while under oath.

Yasay has been foreign minister since Duterte took office in June last year. In the Philippines, confirmation hearings can take place long after ministers start work. The US-educated lawyer, a former classmate of the president and member of his inner circle, was the first casualty in Duterte's eight-month-old Cabinet.

It is not clear who will replace Yasay in what is a crucial role for a government aggressively pursuing

tighter business and defence ties with China, Russia and Japan. The Philippines is also chair of the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Panfilo Lacson, head of the commission's foreign affairs panel, said Yasay's close relationship with the president was no guarantee he should keep his job and said his conflicting comments under oath raised questions about his honesty.

"It was the view ... that he was not telling the truth," Lacson told reporters.

"He was not forthright in the question-and-answer portion of the hearings."

Yasay was not present for the decision and an aide who answered his telephone said there would be no immediate statement.

Numerous allegations have been made against Yasay but the main point was whether he was a US citizen at the time of his appointment on 30 June last year. Yasay has denied being a US citizen, and said that although he was granted citizenship in the 1980s, he was disqualified because

he had acquired it with a prior intent to renounce it and return to live in the Philippines. He said his repeated use of a Philippine passport to visit the United States was "tacit acceptance" by Washington that he was not an American. However, records of the US Internal Revenue Service suggests Yasay may have held US citizenship when he became foreign minister. The US Federal Register last month published names of individuals who had lost citizenship, whose information had been received "during the final quarter" of 2016.

Yasay's statements to the committee on Wednesday were loaded with legalese, lengthy and at times, confusing. He apologised to lawmakers and said he had not sought to deceive them.

"I did not lie. I may not have fully disclosed what was required ... but this is really no fun in a process like this," he said. "You get nervous. You somehow come up with answers that you do not intend, and I apologise for that." —Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Acting Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Expatriate Consultant Editor
Mark Angeles

markrangeles@gmail.com

Senior Translators

Khin Maung Oo

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Copy Writer Min Zaw

International News Editor

Ye Htut Tin

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Local News Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw,

reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532, Hotline - 09 974424114

Advertising inquiry

01 8604530, Hotline - 09 974424848

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Indians vote in Modi's constituency in last phase of crucial election

NEW DELHI — Indians headed to the polls on Wednesday in the final lap of a race for the country's most politically important state, the biggest mid-term verdict on Prime Minister Narendra Modi since he stormed to power three years ago.

The election has been staggered over seven phases in Uttar Pradesh, a poor and agrarian state home to 220 million people, and the final phase includes the ancient Hindu city of Varanasi, Modi's home constituency.

Results of the election, as well as those in four other Indian states, will be announced on Saturday, and help to shape the next two years of Modi's government as he heads towards a 2019 general election.

The outcome will also show whether support for Modi's party has held up after his shock decision last November to ban big banknotes to crack down on tax evasion and bribery.

Police on Wednesday stepped up security for final voting in Uttar Pradesh after they said they had shot dead an alleged Islamic State-inspired militant in Lucknow, the state capital.

The election, the world's largest democratic exercise this year, has been largely peaceful, but police arrested five men suspected of involvement in a small explosion on a train this week.

Modi has campaigned hard to win Uttar Pradesh, holding more than 25 rallies after a lacklustre start to his Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign following a tie-up of two opponents that upset voting calculations. "The election is much closer than we thought it would be," pollster Praveen Patil told Reuters.

He put the BJP marginally ahead of the alliance between the ruling Samajwadi Party and the Congress party, but within the margin of error and far from ensuring the BJP a majority in the 403-seat assembly.

"The BJP is a one-man party. After realising that they were trailing, they were left with no option but to press Modi onto the campaign trail," Patil said.

A third party, popular among lower-caste Indians in a region where most people vote along social and religious lines, appears to be recovering some



People queue up to vote at a polling booth during the last phase of Uttar Pradesh state assembly election, in Varanasi on 8 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

lost ground, analysts said, strengthening the chances for a hung state assembly.

Clinching a vote share of more than 30 per cent in the three-way contest could deliver a landslide result, under India's first-past-the-post system.

Modi swept the battleground state in 2014 on the way to the biggest parliamentary majority in three decades.

Exit polls are due late on Thursday. They have often been wrong in the past, but any clear trend showing Modi in front could trigger further buying by investors who have pushed the benchmark NSE share index towards a record high.

"If Modi wins it's going to be a huge boost," said Shumita Deveshwar, a policy analyst at macro advisory firm TS Lombard. "Even if they fall short but are still first, markets will take it in their stride."

Modi's campaign in Varanasi, where the prime minister spent three days and fielded 20 ministers and BJP leaders, was a desperate attempt to regain lost ground, said a spokesman for the Samajwadi party of state Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav.

"This was their last attempt to defeat us, but it seems like they will stand defeated," Ghanshyam Tiwari said.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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Inadequacy, Redundancy and Red Tape System are major hindrances to success

Khin Maung Oo

AT this time when our country is marching towards a federal democratic Union, the Union government is tying its best to develop the country's economic sectors, knowing full well that it will never reach the destination without peace, stability and economic strength. In developing the country's economy, we need foreign direct investments and technical know-how. The government has been inviting foreign investors to invest in the country. Our country has considerable amounts of resources — rich farmlands, human resources, minerals and agricultural and forestry products. Our country's local entrepreneurs as well want to take part in nation building and they are eager to get techniques and monetary assistance from the Union government. Unde-

nably, our local businessmen have lagged much behind those from foreign nations, in capital, techniques and management experiences. Accordingly, the Union government is making arrangements for our local entrepreneurs, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises to successfully and smoothly operate their businesses, in the interest of the people and the country.

Now, some foreign investors are trying to enter the country in the form of big enterprises or joint venture companies, with our local entrepreneurs starting to launch their businesses. It is obvious that these foreign enterprises and local private businesses will work hard to gain success, in every way, including manufacturing products in accord with export quality, targeted amounts of quantity and in limited time schedule, management of work force and

their affairs, creating expansion of markets, and so on. Here, I would like to emphasize the role of physical and mental workers in government sectors—departments, corporations, factories, offices and many other work places. In fact, all these government employees play an important role in the administrative and operational functions of the government. Though governments change, they will continue their regular routines. At this time when we are building up a new nation, we need more and more technicians and intellectuals. Due to current budget constraints, important government employees, for example, teachers, medical doctors and health staff cannot be employed especially in rural areas, knowing very well that these posts are urgently needed. So, inadequacy can be said to be a hindrance to success. Once in the

past, there had been a redundancy of government employees in departments and corporations. Have we ever heard that the BSPP government (BSPP – Burma Socialist Programme Party) sacked those personnel, by giving them compensation or gratuity. By doing so, we would have been able to employ more teachers and medical staff. I am writing this just from the point of view of a layman, absolutely not for making ad hominem attack. An action is required to be done if it will benefit the many though it may harm a few. Launching YBS and clearing undisciplined vendors away from crowded places may have harmed a few, but we can say that most people, apart from those who do not go straight to their destinations, found it convenient to travel. In short, failure to solve the redundancy problem is also a hindrance to success.

What we mostly complain concerns the "red tape system." "Red tape," means official rules that seem more complicated than necessary and prevent things from being done quickly. The term is said to have come from the custom of tying up official documents with red or pink tape. Some bureaucrats in the past used the red tape system for their personal interest, with an intention of delaying cases. That bureaucratic red tape system can still be found in many places, even to this day. Today, delays in certain public works may be attributed to lack of proficiency in their jobs or intentional abuse of authority. Provided that every individual works by taking responsibility and accountability with team spirits, our work will surely succeed. So, let us deal with the problems of inadequacy, redundancy and red tape system!

The Cost of Pollution: 1.7 million children dead each year

NEW Reports from the World Health Organization claims that one in every four deaths of children under age five are related to polluted environments.

Every year, environmental risks – such as indoor and outdoor air pollution, secondhand smoke, unsafe water, lack of sanitation and inadequate hygiene – take the lives of 1.7 million children under age 5, say two new reports from the World Health Organization (WHO).

The first report, "Inheriting a Sustainable World: Atlas on Children's Health and the Environment," reveals that a large portion of the most common causes of death among children ages 1 month to 5 years – diarrhea, malaria and pneumonia – are preventable by interventions known to reduce environmental risks, such as access to safe water and clean cooking fuels.

"A polluted environment is a deadly one – particularly for young children," says WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan. "Their developing organs and immune systems, and smaller bodies and airways, make them especially vulnerable to dirty air and water."

Harmful exposures can start in the mother's womb and increase the risk of premature birth. Additionally, when infants and pre-schoolers are exposed to indoor and outdoor air pollution and secondhand smoke, they

have an increased risk of pneumonia in childhood, and a life-long increased risk of chronic respiratory diseases, such as asthma. Exposure to air pollution may also increase their lifelong risk of heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Top 5 Causes of Early Childhood Death Linked to the Environment

A companion report, "Don't Pollute my Future! The Impact of the Environment on Children's Health," provides a comprehensive overview of the environment's impact on children's health, illustrating the scale of the challenge. Every year:

- 570,000 children under 5 years die from respiratory infections such as pneumonia that are attributable to indoor and outdoor air pollution, and secondhand smoke.

- 361,000 children under age 5 die due to diarrhea as a result of poor access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene.

- 270,000 children die during their first month of life from conditions including prematurity, that could be prevented through access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene in health facilities as well as by reducing air pollution.

- 200,000 deaths of children under age 5 from malaria could be prevented through environmental actions such as reducing breeding sites of mosquitoes or covering drinking-water storage.

- 200,000 children under age 5 die from unintentional injuries attributable to the environment, such as poisoning, falls and drowning.

Ongoing and Emerging Environmental Threats to Children's Health

"A polluted environment results in a heavy toll on the health of our children," says Dr. Maria Neira, director of the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health for WHO. "Investing in the removal of environmental risks to health, such as improving water quality or using cleaner fuels, will result in massive health benefits."

For example, emerging environmental hazards, such as electronic and electrical waste (such as old mobile phones) that is improperly recycled, expose children to toxins that can lead to reduced intelligence, attention deficits, lung damage and cancer. The generation of electronic and electrical waste is forecasted to increase by 19 percent between 2014 and 2018, to 50 million metric tons by 2018.

With climate change, temperatures and levels of carbon dioxide are rising, favoring pollen growth, which is associated with increased rates of asthma in children. Worldwide, 11–14 percent of children ages 5 years and older currently report asthma symptoms and an estimated 44 percent of these are related to

environmental exposures. Air pollution, second-hand tobacco smoke and indoor mold and dampness make asthma more severe in children.

In households without access to basic services, such as safe water and sanitation, or that are smoky due to the use of unclean fuels such as coal or dung for cooking and heating, children are at an increased risk of diarrhea and pneumonia.

Children also are exposed to harmful chemicals through food, water, air and products around them. Chemicals, such as fluoride, lead and mercury pesticides, persistent organic pollutants and others in manufactured goods eventually find their way into the food chain. And, while leaded gasoline has been phased out almost entirely in all countries, lead still is widespread in paints, affecting brain development.

Making All Places Safe for Children

Reducing air pollution inside and outside households, improving safe water and sanitation and improving hygiene (including in health facilities where women give birth), protecting pregnant women from second-hand tobacco smoke and building safer environments, can prevent children's deaths and diseases.

For example, multiple government sectors can work together to improve the following:

- **Housing:** Ensure clean

fuel for heating and cooking, no mold or pests and remove unsafe building materials and lead paint.

- **Schools:** Provide safe sanitation and hygiene, free of noise, pollution and promote good nutrition.

- **Health facilities:** Ensure safe water, sanitation and hygiene and reliable electricity.

- **Urban planning:** Create more green spaces, safe walking and cycling paths.

- **Transport:** Reduce emissions and increase public transport.

- **Agriculture:** Reduce the use of hazardous pesticides and no child labor.

- **Industry:** Manage hazardous waste and reduce the use of harmful chemicals.

- **Health sector:** Monitor health outcomes and educate about environmental health effects and prevention.

Under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), countries are working on a set of targets to guide interventions for children's environmental health, as well as to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five by 2030. In addition to SDG 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, other SDGs work to improve water, sanitation and hygiene, transition to clean energy to reduce air pollution and reverse climate change – all of which will have an impact on children's health.

Performances at People's Service under way of the Information and Public Relations Department

Performance in one-year period of 2016-2017 financial year

IN the reign of the new government elected by the people, it reached nearly one-year that IPRD had served its duties. During that period, the IPRD took part in implementing the government's policies and making the government's performances smooth and successful.

During one-year period after the incumbent government took office, the IPRD carried out the tasks of opening community centers of great use for the people, upgrading services of libraries, holding workshops for the development of news media, holding children lit-

erature festivals, opening children libraries, conducting training courses for upgrading the skills of its staff, sending trainees to overseas courses conducted by foreign institutions, opening civil service training courses, filming educative videos for sharing knowledge with

people, releasing news and information on the performance of the government, giving services for publishing and publication, scrutiny and allowance of censor policies, holding international film festivals and improving the status of movie-houses in the country.

- *Opening Community Centers*
- *Arranging for holding children literature festivals*
- *Opening reading centers for children*
- *Delivering leaflets and giving information by wall-charts*
- *Development of Digital System Movie-Houses*



U Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information sprinkles scented-water on the board of Natmauk Community Center.

Opening Community Centers

Being the department of public service formed to fulfill the needs and interests of the people, IPRD managed to perform the tasks of changing libraries in Regions and States into Community Centers by linking with Daw Khin Kyi Foundation. It opened socially based community center in the Insein District Office on 20 August 2016, in Myaungmya district office on 15 December 2016 and in Magwe district, Natmauk township office on 15 January 2016.



Teacher and students read in the reading room for children.

Opening reading rooms for children

For the development of reading rooms for children, upgrading of reading among children is being carried by supplying 133 District and Township Offices with necessary furniture used in children's reading rooms. And, story-telling contests, poem-recitation competition and essay writing contests are being held for children.



Students read books in the reading room for children.



PHOTOS: IPRD

Children draw the pictures at the Children Literature Festival.

Holding Children Literature Festivals

Children are human resources for the future, so all the governments across the world are supporting in every way for the development of children's lives. For the all-round development, acquisition of literary knowledge, improvement of intellects and capacity building of children in Myanmar, children literature festival was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 of Nay Pyi Taw on 5th November 2016, whereas children literature festival in Mandalay was held from 27th January 2017 to 29th January 2017, together with merry-makings and entertainment programmes, contests, book exhibition, book fair and workshops on the development of children literature. Similarly, such festivals are being held in other towns with greater momentum.



Staffs of the IPRD deliver leaflets to the commuters.

Delivering leaflets and giving information by wall-charts

IPRD is a department that directly connects with the people in Regions and States, so it has been publishing and distributing 120000 sheets of leaflets per year (six times at 20000 pieces every one time) describing about extraordinary holidays and special performances of the government. Besides, for the people to know priority tasks of the government, current activities of the government, special events of the State and political dialogues with the changing time, IPRD is making arrangements for exhibiting documentary photos amounting to 576, at the wall-charts in the offices of Regions, States, District and Township Offices, 24 times per one year.

Development of Digital System Movie-Houses

IPRD is driving force to change remaining movie-houses into digital system cinemas. This year, 29 cinemas were changed into digital system movie-houses, reaching 67 altogether across the nation.



Photo shows the cinema fixed digital system.

UK's May defeated as lawmakers demand power to reject final Brexit terms



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street before Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond delivers his budget to the House of Commons in London, Britain on 8 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Britain's upper house of parliament voted on Tuesday to give lawmakers more power to reject the final terms of the country's exit from the European Union, ignoring pleas from Prime Minister Theresa May's government not to hamstring their negotiations.

The vote, which passed by 366 to 268, attaches an extra condition to the "European Union (Notification of Withdrawal) Bill" — legislation which will give May the power to trigger divorce talks. She plans to use that power later this month.

The amended bill now demands that Britain's parliament has to approve any exit deal before it is debated by the European Parliament, or, if talks fail, that lawmakers must vote to approve a decision to walk away without a deal.

Brexit minister David Davis said the government would seek to overturn the changes when the bill is presented for approval to the lower chamber, where May has a slim majority.

"It is clear that some in the Lords would seek to frustrate that process, and it is the govern-

ment's intention to ensure that does not happen," he said in a statement.

The defeat, however, could present a major headache for May if members of her own party follow through on their threats to rebel by supporting the amendment.

"I will vote to keep in this amendment," Anna Soubry, a Conservative lawmaker in the lower chamber, told Sky News. She said parliament needed a proper say on the issue, warning of the dangers of a 'Hard Brexit' scenario where Britain left the EU without a deal.

A split within May's Conservative party would undermine her authority at a time when she is facing down demands for a second independence referendum from Scottish nationalists, managing fears that Brexit could destabilise Northern Ireland, and trying to persuade major EU powers they must cut her a good exit deal.

The government has already promised parliament a vote on the final deal, but believes restricting May's ability to leave the negotiating table could encourage the EU to offer a bad

deal in the hope that lawmakers would then reject it and potentially halt Brexit.

"This amendment simply makes the negotiations much harder from day one for the prime minister as it increases the incentive for the European Union to offer nothing but a bad deal," said George Bridges, the government's Brexit minister for the Lords, in his final plea before the vote.

May has insisted that she would be prepared to leave the EU without any deal if the terms on offer weren't good enough, stating in January that "No deal for Britain is better than a bad deal for Britain."

But, if the changes made on Tuesday become law, she would not be able to do that without parliamentary approval. Bridges said it was unclear what would happen if parliament rejected such a move.

Some of May's opponents in the lords have signalled they will not seek to prolong or thwart the legislative process, meaning they could back down and accept an unamended bill if their changes are overturned in the lower chamber.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

South Korea court says to rule on President Park's impeachment on Friday

SEOUL — South Korea's Constitutional Court will rule on President Park Geun-hye's impeachment on Friday at 11 am (0200 GMT), a court spokesman said on Wednesday.

The ruling will be televised live, the spokesman said.

Park was impeached by parliament in December and stripped of her powers pending the court's ruling. If the court upholds the impeachment, a presidential election will be held two months later.—Reuters

Ex-Panama dictator Noriega in critical condition after brain operation

PANAMA CITY — Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, 83, is in a critical condition after an operation on Tuesday to remove a benign tumor from his brain, his family said.

"He has a major brain hemorrhage and is in a serious condition," his daughter Lorena Noriega told reporters outside the Santo Tomas hospital where he was operated on. She also noted that his condition was "critical".

Noriega ruled Panama from 1983 to 1989, and his lawyer said earlier on Tuesday the operation had been a success.—Reuters

Vucic, Taci in confrontation over Kosovo army

BELGRADE/PRISTINA — Serbian PM Aleksandar Vucic had a fierce verbal confrontation with Kosovo President Hasim Taci on Tuesday over establishment of a Kosovo army, the RTS has learned.

During a phone conversation, Vucic and Taci took completely opposite positions on the matter, the broadcaster said.—Tanjug

Turkish minister accuses Germany of political pressure on Turks

HAMBURG — Turkey's foreign minister accused Berlin on Tuesday of exerting systematic pressure on Turkish citizens in Germany and hampering campaigns in support of President Tayyip Erdogan's bid for new powers at a referendum next month.

Mevlut Cavusoglu was speaking at a rally of Turkish citizens in the residence of the Turkish consulate-general in Hamburg after the building originally scheduled for the meeting was closed by authorities. Turkey accuses Germany of hindering a string of other scheduled meetings by shutting down premises.

"This is systematic obstruction, and Germany is applying systematic pressure on our citizens. This is unacceptable. We always want to see Germany as a friend but Germany's systematic anti-Turkey approach does not suit our friendship," Cavusoglu said.—Reuters

One Dutch tourist dead and two missing after avalanche at French resort

LYON, France — An avalanche in the French skiing resort of Valfrejus has resulted in the death of one Dutch national, with two other Dutch citizens missing, local police said on Wednesday.

The police added they were continuing to search for the two missing skiers, after having found the victim's body overnight.

The avalanche occurred after a similar incident at the resort of Tignes earlier this week, where emergency staff managed to rescue skiers caught up by the sudden downrush of snow.—Reuters

Malaysia-N Korea diplomatic ties will not be severed: Najib

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said Wednesday his country will not cut diplomatic relations with North Korea, in a bid to ensuring the safety of citizens.

"The Malaysia-North Korea diplomatic ties will not be severed because we need a channel to communicate with them to find a solution," Najib said in a statement.

His remarks came as the once-amicable relations between the two nations have been severely deteriorating in the wake of the 13 February murder of Kim Jong Nam, the half-brother of North Korea's leader, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport.—Kyodo News

Gunmen disguised as doctors attack military hospital in Afghan capital

KABUL — Islamic State claimed responsibility for an attack on a military hospital in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Wednesday in which gunmen dressed as doctors slipped into the facility and battled security forces inside the building for several hours.

The attack began when a suicide bomber blew himself up at the rear of the 400-bed Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan hospital and three attackers with automatic weapons and hand grenades entered the complex, security officials said.

The gunmen, dressed as medical personnel, had taken position on upper floors of the hospital and engaged special forces sent to the scene, officials said.

Security forces blocked off the area around the hospital, near a busy traffic intersection and special forces soldiers descended on to the roof of the main building from helicopters. As fighting went on, a second explosion was heard from inside.

“Our forces are there and there is heavy fighting,” said defence ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri.

He said one attacker had been killed and another two

were holding out, while one soldier had been killed and three wounded.

A spokesman for the public health ministry said at least three dead and more than 60 wounded had been taken to other hospitals.

A Taliban spokesman denied responsibility, saying the movement had “no connection” with the attack.

A statement from Islamic State’s Amaq News Agency said its fighters had attacked the hospital. The group has mounted several high-profile attacks on civilian targets in Kabul over the past year, including several on prominent Shi’ite targets.

The raid on the hospital, across the road from the heavily fortified US embassy, underlines warnings by government officials that high-profile attacks in Kabul are likely to escalate this year.

President Ashraf Ghani said the attack “trampled on all human values”.

“In all religions, a hospital is regarded as an immune site and attacking it is attacking the whole of Afghanistan,” he said in impromptu remarks during a speech for International Women’s Day in Kabul.



Smoke rises from a military hospital area at the site of blast and gunfire in Kabul, Afghanistan on 8 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

en’s Day in Kabul.

The NATO-led Resolute Support mission said it was ready to assist Afghan security services.

Abdul Qadir, a worker at the hospital, told Reuters he saw one gunman dressed in a white doctor’s coat take out a concealed AK-47 assault rifle and open fire, killing at least one patient and one hospital worker.

As the fighting went on,

some patients climbed out of the building and could be seen sheltering on window ledges visible from outside the hospital, which treats military casualties from around Afghanistan.

The attack comes just a week after dozens of people were killed and wounded in coordinated attacks on a police station and an office of the intelligence service in Kabul.

That attack was claimed by

the Taliban, who are seeking to expel foreign troops, defeat the US-backed government and reimpose Islamic law after their 2001 ouster.

Away from Kabul, dozens of people have been killed over the past few days in fighting across Afghanistan, from Kunduz and Baghlan in the north to Farah in the southwest and Helmand and Kandahar on the Pakistan border in the south. —Reuters

Saudi police kill suspected Islamic State militant — ministry

DUBAI — Saudi security forces killed a suspected Islamic State militant when he pulled a gun on a patrol in the capital Riyadh, the Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

The patrol was trying to check a complaint on Tuesday evening that a resident of a flat in the capital’s al-Rayyan district had joined Islamic State.

“When security men tried to arrest him, he initiated resistance and pulled a gun and it became necessary to deal with him and neutralise him, which led to his death,” the ministry said in a statement carried by state news agency SPA.

A companion of the dead man was arrested and found to be in possession of a weapon, it said.

The hardline Sunni militant group has carried out a series of bombings and shootings in Saudi Arabia since mid-2014 that have killed scores of

people, mostly members of the Shi’ite Muslim minority and security forces.

The militant group, bitterly opposed to Gulf Arab rulers, is trying to stir sectarian confrontation on the Arabian peninsula to bring about the overthrow of the states’ ruling dynasties.

In a separate incident, a policeman was shot and killed by unidentified assailants in Tarout Island in eastern Saudi Arabia, an area where many of the Sunni Muslim country’s Shi’ite minority live, according to another interior ministry statement.

Shi’ites in eastern Saudi Arabia complain of discrimination, which they say prevents them from gaining good government jobs and deprives them from state investment in their neighbourhoods.

The Saudi government denies such charges. —Reuters

Iraqi forces see off IS counter-attack in Mosul — military official

MOSUL, Iraq — Iraqi forces saw off a nighttime Islamic State counter-attack near Mosul’s main government building hours after recapturing it, a military official said on Wednesday, as troops sought to push the militants further back.

The Islamic State fighters had used several car bombs in the assault, Major General Ali Kadhem al-Lami of the Federal Police’s Fifth Division told a Reuters correspondent near the site.

“Today we’re clearing the area, which was liberated,” he said.

Military officials had said that troops from the Rapid Response, an elite interior ministry division, on Tuesday recaptured the provincial government headquarters, the central bank branch and the museum where three years ago the militants filmed themselves destroying priceless statues.

“The museum is completely empty of all artifacts. They were stolen possibly smuggled,” Lami said.

Reuters was not yet able to access the museum to verify.

Lami said most of the fighters that had fought around the governorate building were local but there



A displaced Iraqi woman reacts as she waits in a street for a truck to carry her to a safe place, as Iraqi forces battle with Islamic State militants, in western Mosul, Iraq on 8 March, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

were some foreigners.

“An order was issued for foreign fighters with families to withdraw with them. Those who do not have a family should stay and fight whether foreign or local,” he said.

Iraqi forces, backed by US-led air power and military advisers, have fought since October in an intensive campaign to drive the ultra-hardline militants out of Mosul, Islamic State’s last major strong-

hold in the country.

They recaptured the eastern half of the city in January and launched assaults on the western side, across the Tigris river, on 19 February. Islamic State fighters are retreating further into the west of the city, military officials say, but are putting up stiff resistance, hiding among the civilian population and deploying car bombs and snipers. —Reuters

WikiLeaks says it has trove of secret CIA hacking tools

WASHINGTON — Anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks on Tuesday said it had obtained a top-secret trove of hacking tools used by the CIA to break into phones, communication apps and other electronic devices, and published confidential documents on those programs.

Among the most noteworthy WikiLeaks claims are that the Central Intelligence Agency, in partnership with other US and foreign agencies, has been able to bypass the encryption on popular messaging apps such as WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal, by hacking phones that use Google's Android platform to collect audio and message traffic before encryption is applied.

Google declined to comment but said it was investigating the matter.

If verified, the information in the documents would amount to yet another breach of classified material stolen in recent years from US intelligence agencies. US officials said they were unaware of where WikiLeaks might have obtained the material.

Reuters could not immediately verify the contents of the published documents.

WikiLeaks, led by Julian Assange, said its publication of the documents on the hacking tools was the first in a series of releases drawing from a data set that includes several hundred million lines of code and



People are silhouetted as they pose with laptops in front of a screen projected with binary code and a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) emblem, in this picture illustration taken in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 29 October, 2014.

PHOTO: REUTERS

includes the CIA's "entire hacking capacity."

WikiLeaks said it published the CIA documents "while avoiding the distribution of 'armed' cyber-weapons until a consensus emerges on the technical and political nature of the CIA's program and how such 'weapons' should be analyzed, disarmed and published."

US intelligence agencies have said that Wikileaks has ties to Russia's security services. During the 2016 US presidential campaign, Wikileaks pub-

lished internal emails of top Democratic Party officials, which the US agencies said were hacked by Moscow as part of a coordinated influence campaign to help Donald Trump win the presidency.

WikiLeaks has denied ties to Russian spy agencies.

It was not immediately clear how much damage publication of the documents — should they be legitimate — might do to the spy agency's cyber programs.

But some of the docu-

ments are dated as recently as February 2016, suggesting they describe recent cyber tools and programs.

"We do not comment on the authenticity or content of purported intelligence documents," CIA spokesman Jonathan Liu said in a statement.

Several cyber security consultants and contractors said the documents obtained by Wikileaks, dated between 2013 and 2016, appear legitimate.

A longtime intelligence contractor with expertise in US hacking tools

told Reuters the documents included correct "cover" terms describing active cyber programs.

"People on both sides of the river are furious," he said, referring to the CIA and the eavesdropping National Security Agency based in Fort Meade, Maryland. "This is not a Snowden-type situation. This was taken over a long term and handed over to WikiLeaks."

Beginning in 2013, former NSA contractor Edward Snowden revealed highly classified details of

that agency's surveillance programs.

"While we are still assessing the contents of the leak ... the source appears legitimate," said Brian Hein, Director of Strategic Initiatives at Flashpoint, a cyber intelligence firm.

"The files within the leak contain a number of documents that appear to be from the CIA and NSA, with information on programs to bypass encryption," Hein said in an email.

WikiLeaks also said the documents showed CIA operatives had researched how to hack and take control of devices other than computers and smart phones connected to the Internet.

In one case, it said, US and British personnel, under a program known as Weeping Angel, had developed ways to take over a Samsung smart television, making it appear it was off when in fact it was recording conversations in the room.

This could be the latest of several breaches. In 2010, US military intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning provided more than 700,000 documents, videos, diplomatic cables and battlefield accounts to Wikileaks. President Barack Obama shortened her prison sentence in January. Last month, former NSA contractor Harold Thomas Martin was indicted on charges of taking highly sensitive government material over a course of 20 years, storing the trove of secrets in his home.—Reuters

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MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(6 / 2017)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L044(16-17)	Assorted Sizes of Batteries (6) Items	Ks
(2)	IFB-123(16-17)	Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Services for Installation of Sittaung River Crossing of 20" Myainggalay-Yangon Natural Gas Pipe Line Project	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time- Sr No.(1) 5-4-2017, 16:30 Hr
Tender Closing Date & Time- Sr No.(2) 25-4-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 8th March, 2017 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
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German Social Democrats closing gap with Merkel's conservatives — Forsa poll

BERLIN — Support for Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) nudged up to 32 per cent, one percentage point behind Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, over the past week, according to a poll published on Wednesday.

The centre-left SPD, currently the junior partner in Merkel's ruling coalition, has seen its poll ratings soar since nominating former European Parliament president Martin Schulz as its candidate for chancellor in the 24 September federal election.

The weekly poll, conducted by the Forsa institute for Stern magazine, showed support for Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party (CSU) stable at 33 per

cent. The support for the SPD was up one percentage point on the week.

The institute put the poll's margin of error at 2.5 percentage points, meaning the CDU/CSU bloc and the SPD are in a neck-and-neck race.

Both Merkel, who will seek a fourth term as chancellor, and Schulz are hoping to end their parties' 'grand coalition' and to form a new government with smaller allies.

The Forsa poll, which canvassed the views of some 2,500 voters, showed the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party down one percentage point at 8 per cent, while support for the Greens party and the Left party were unchanged at 8 per cent and 7

per cent, respectively.

The business-friendly Free Democratic Party lost one percentage point to 6 per cent, just above the 5 per cent threshold needed to take seats in parliament.

Forsa head Manfred Guellner said that based on the results, the SPD could form a coalition government with the Greens and the Left, adding that their combined score of 47 per cent would translate into a slim parliamentary majority.

Schulz has promised to fight job insecurity and old-age poverty by reducing temporary work contracts and rolling back some of the 'Agenda 2010' labour reforms enacted by the last SPD-led government.—Reuters

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Russia's Antey nuclear submarines to be rearmed with Kalibr missile systems

BOLSHOI KAMEN — Project 949A Antey nuclear-powered submarines will be rearmed with Kalibr missile systems after a profound upgrade at the Zvezda shipyard in the Russian Far East, Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov said on Tuesday.

“The Zvezda shipyard is carrying out profound modernization of Project 949A nuclear submarines, including the replacement of armament with the Kalibr missile complex and also the replacement of navigation, life support and other systems,” Borisov said.

Overall, Russia has built 11 Project 949A Antey submarines. Eight of them have remained operational with the Russian Navy. Each submarine has a dis-



Project 949A Antey submarine. Project 949A Antey nuclear-powered submarines will be rearmed with Kalibr missile systems after a profound upgrade. PHOTO: TASS

placement of 24,000 tonnes and is armed with 24 Granit cruise missile launchers and six torpedo tubes.

CEO of Russia's Rubin Central Design Bureau for Marine Engineering Igor Vilnit told TASS that all

the submarines of this type operational with the Navy would undergo upgrade.—TASS

New bomb threats made against Jewish centres across US, Canada

NEW YORK — A new round of bomb threats against Jewish community centres across the United States and in Canada forced lockdowns and evacuations on Tuesday, and all 100 US senators asked the federal government to help them enhance security.

Threats were phoned in or emailed to JCCs in states including New York, Wisconsin, Illinois and Florida overnight and early on Tuesday. Centres in Toronto and elsewhere in Ontario also said they were threatened.

US federal authorities have been investigating a surge of threats against Jewish organizations, including more than 100 hoax bomb threats in five separate waves in January and Febru-

ary against JCCs in dozens of states.

The Trump Administration denounced the newest round of threats “in the strongest terms,” White House spokesman Sean Spicer told a news briefing.

“As long as they do continue, we’ll continue to condemn them and look at ways in which we can stop them,” Spicer said.

Tuesday’s incidents appeared unconnected to the majority of previous threats, according to the Secure Community Network, which provides security expertise to Jewish groups.

A letter signed by all 100 US senators was sent on Tuesday to top US law enforcement officials asking

that they help Jewish groups enhance security.

“We are concerned that the number of incidents is accelerating and failure to address and deter these threats will place innocent people at risk and threaten the financial viability of JCCs,” the letter said.

One arrest was made last week, when a former journalist was charged in St Louis with using fake email accounts to threaten to bomb Jewish sites while posing as his ex-girlfriend. But he is not believed to be responsible for the majority of threats.

Threats came in to Jewish centres and day schools on Tuesday in cities including Chicago, Milwaukee and the greater Rochester

area in upstate New York.

The Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish civil rights organisation, also said it received bomb threats at four of its locations.

In addition to violent threats, some Jewish organizations received harassing phone calls. At the East Midwood Jewish Center in Brooklyn, police said, an anonymous caller threatened to spray the centre’s synagogue with pig’s blood.

“We’ve never seen such a period of concentrated threats against the Jewish community,” New York Mayor Bill de Blasio told a news conference. “The last few weeks are more troubling than anything I’ve seen in many, many years.”—Reuters

China to formulate national intelligence law this year

BEIJING — China will formulate a national intelligence law this year, the head of its largely rubber-stamp parliament said on Wednesday, its latest piece of legislation aimed at safeguarding security.

Zhang Dejiang, who is also the third-ranked leader of the ruling Communist Party, gave no details about the proposed law in his address to parliament’s annual meeting, and it is not clear when it may be passed.

The government said in December it would propose such a law to “increase and guarantee national intelli-

gence and protect national security and interests”, but also gave no details.

China already has broad laws governing state secrets and security.

Last year, it adopted a controversial cyber security law to counter what the government says are growing threats such as hacking and terrorism. Overseas critics of the law say it threatens to shut foreign technology companies out of various sectors deemed “critical”, and includes contentious requirements for security reviews and for data to be stored on servers in China.

In 2015, Beijing adopted a sweeping national security law that aimed to make all key network infrastructure and information systems “secure and controllable”. China also passed a counter-espionage law in 2014 aimed at tightening state security and helping build a “comprehensive” national security system.

The new laws come amid a broad crackdown by President Xi Jinping on civil society, including rights lawyers and the media, which critics say is meant to quash dissent.

Xi is also head of a

national security commission created three years ago meant to increase coordination among the various wings of China’s security bureaucracy, split now among the police, military, intelligence and diplomatic services. Possible international flashpoints for China include Japan, North Korea and the South China Sea.

China says it also faces considerable threats at home, pointing to unrest in two regions heavily populated by ethnic minorities which chafe at Chinese rule — Tibet and Xinjiang.—Reuters

Berlin says Turkey has stepped up spying in Germany

BERLIN — The German government said on Wednesday there had been a significant increase in Turkish spying in Germany, where tensions within the large Turkish community have escalated ahead of next month’s referendum on Turkey’s presidency.

The BfV domestic intelligence agency said divisions in Turkey leading up to the 16 April referendum on boosting the powers of President Tayyip Erdogan were mirrored in Germany.

At the same time, strained relations between Germany and Turkey, which soured after a failed army bid last July to overthrow Erdogan, reached a new low this month in a row over Turkish political rallies to drum up support in the referendum.

“The BfV is observing a significant increase in intelligence efforts by Turkey in Germany,” it said in a statement. No further details were provided.

Germany’s chief federal prosecutor launched

an investigation in January into possible spying by clerics sent to Germany by Ankara.

BfV President Hans-Georg Maassen underscored his concern over tensions between right-wing Turks in Germany and supporters of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

“There is the danger that these proxy fights between PKK supporters and nationalist, right-wing extremist Turks will escalate because there is a high, hard-hitting potential for danger in both groups,” he said.

Maassen did not specifically address the issue of Turkish spying. He told reporters in January that Germany would not tolerate Turkish intelligence operations within its borders.

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel on Wednesday met his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Berlin and said Turkey’s internal fights should not be imported into Germany.—Reuters

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Dated 9th March 2017

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.3.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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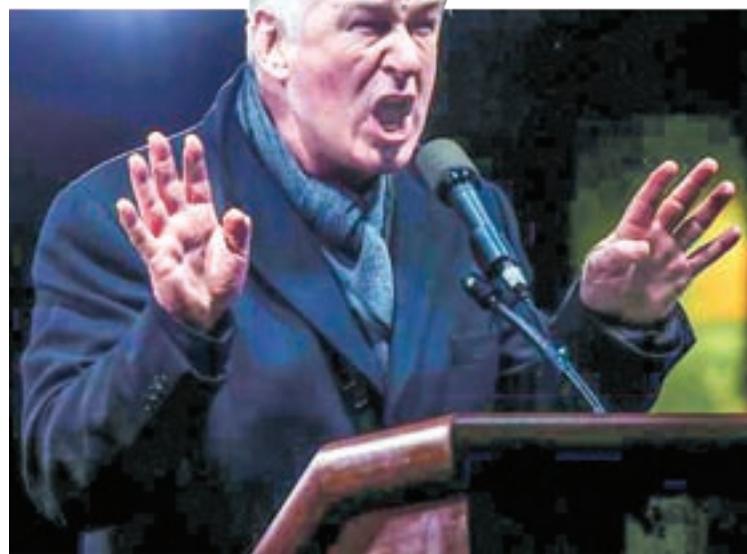
Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks to make first film together: report

NEW YORK — Two of the most celebrated actors of their generation, Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks, will star together for the first time in new Steven Spielberg political drama “The Post”, according to Hollywood trade magazine Variety.

The film will focus on the Washington Post’s publication of the 1971 Pentagon Papers, which made headlines around the world when the newspaper’s editor and publisher challenged the US federal government over their right to publish them.

Twice Oscar

winner Hanks will play the editor, Ben Bradlee, while triple Oscar winner Streep will take on the role of the publisher, Kay Graham, according to Variety. No dates for filming were revealed in the report, with award-laden director Spielberg currently in post-production on sci-fi action movie, “Ready Player One,” which is due to hit theaters in March 2018. Streep was branded an “overrated actress” by US President Donald Trump after she criticized him for belittling a disabled journalist at the Golden Globes in January.—Reuters



FILE PHOTO; Actor Alec Baldwin speaks at a protest against US President-elect Donald Trump outside the Trump International Hotel in New York City, US, on 19 January, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Alec Baldwin says Trump impersonation revived his comedy career

LOS ANGELES — Actor Alec Baldwin said that his impersonation of U.S. President Donald Trump on NBC’s sketch show “Saturday Night Live” has revived his “dead” comedy career after he wrapped up sitcom “30 Rock” in 2012.

“I didn’t realize in the comedy terms that I was dead,” Baldwin told Reuters on Monday when asked if he felt he was entering a new era with his comedy.

“Maybe I was in a coma ... now I’m waking up from a coma and now I’m ready to do some comedy.”

The actor was promoting his latest film, DreamWorks’ animated comedy “The Boss Baby,” out in theaters on 31 March, in which he voices a suit-wearing baby manager of a corporation for babies who is adopted by a family to undertake a covert mission.

It has been nearly five years since Baldwin, 58, concluded his six-year tenure as the charming corporate boss Jack Donaghy in NBC’s quirky comedy series

“30 Rock.” Since then, he has appeared in a handful of movies in supporting roles, but the actor saw a new surge in popularity when he took over as Trump on “Saturday Night Live” (SNL) last October, ahead of November’s US presidential elections. Baldwin quipped that his comedy career “did die” but that “I’m being reincarnated. As Trump! Oh God!”

Viewer ratings have soared for “Saturday Night Live” since Baldwin started portraying Trump in a series of skits mocking the billionaire reality TV star-turned-politician as a dim-witted commander-in-chief with a short attention span, an oversized-ego and a Twitter addiction. Trump criticized the NBC show in December, calling it “totally unwatchable” and a “hit-job.” Asked whether he felt playing the president took a toll on him, Baldwin said the challenge of the role was that it would “delight some people and offend other people.”—Reuters



Actress Meryl Streep reacts at the 89th Academy Awards — Oscars Awards Show at Hollywood in California, US, on 26 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japanese rock band X Japan dazzles fans at London show

LONDON — Legendary Japanese rock band X Japan dazzled fans at London’s SSE Arena on Saturday with a live show, hot on the heels of the UK premiere of “We Are X”, an award-winning documentary about the band.

X Japan, the most successful rock band in Japanese history, stunned the fans with their pioneering spectacle-driven style of visual rock.

“I feel some kind of electrical current up and down my spine. I cry almost every time I listen to their music,” Spanish fan Lazaro told Reuters outside the SSE Arena.

The band, which reunited in 2007 after a 10-year split, has sold over 30 million singles and albums combined and won admirers such as Sir George Martin, KISS, Stan Lee, and even former Japanese prime minister Junichiro Koizumi.

The documentary “We are X” premiered in Los Angeles last October. It was officially selected for the Sundance Film Festival, SXSW and the BFI London Film Festival, winning a number of awards.

The film, which premiered

in London last month, gives an up-close and personal history of the band and portrait of the group’s founder and drummer-pianist Yoshiki.

“I was very suicidal and may be still, I try to almost kill myself on stage. When you think there’s no tomorrow, so it is the last day you can live, you just put all the energy into it,” Yoshiki told Reuters. The creative force behind the group, Yoshiki said

he is currently working on new songs with American shock rocker Marilyn Manson as X Japan gears up to release its first album in around 20 years.

The film “We are X” will be released for home entertainment in June. It was directed by filmmaker Stephen Kijak of Stones in Exile fame, and produced by the Oscar-winning team behind the documentary “Searching for Sugar Man”.—Reuters



Japanese musician Yoshiki from rock band X Japan poses inside HBO after party following the 69th annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 15 January 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

Singer George Michael died of natural causes — coroner

OXFORDSHIRE — Singer George Michael died of natural causes, a British coroner said on Tuesday, finding that heart failure and liver disease caused the pop star’s death on Christmas Day last year.

The coroner said that there was no need for further inquiries into the death of Michael, 53, who rose to stardom in the 1980s with Wham! before a successful

solo career.

“As there is a confirmed natural cause of death, being Dilated Cardiomyopathy with Myocarditis and Fatty Liver, the investigation is being discontinued,” Darren Salter, the Senior Coroner for Oxfordshire, said in a statement.

Dilated cardiomyopathy is a heart condition that impairs the pumping of blood around the body.

The initial autopsy into the singer’s death had been inconclusive, though his manager had said previously that he had died of heart failure.

Wham! were one of the most successful pop duos of the mid 1980s, with singles such as “Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go”, “Last Christmas”, “Careless Whisper”, and “Young Guns (Go For It!)”.—Reuters

Three Brooklyn women at same nursing home celebrate 100 years of life

NEW YORK — Three women at the same nursing home on Monday celebrated living more than 100 years with cake, songs and flowers while sharing their secrets of long life with friends, family and neighbors.

The three centenarians — Lucille Price, 100, Sophia Smith, 101, and Grace-Marie Baker, 102 — cut into a white cake while more than 50 people gathered at the Crown Heights Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in the borough of Brooklyn.

After the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the crowd serenaded Baker, Smith and Price, all in wheelchairs, with “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

“We’re going to be celebrating life and the continuation of a celebration in our lives,” Claudia Titus, director of activities at the center, said of the party for the three.

Amid prayers, readings from the Bible and bouquets of flowers, the centenarians gave differing recipes for



Three over 100-year-old women, 101-year-old Sophia Smith (L) 101-year-old Lucille Price (C) and 102-year-old Marie Baker (R) cut a cake at a birthday celebration for the three residents of the Crown Heights Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation in the Brooklyn Borough of New York City, 6 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

their long lives.

“It’s the soup, chicken soup,” said Smith, who was born in Guyana and enjoys going to church and visits from her five grandchildren. She arrived at the nursing home when she was 100.

Baker, who was born in Brooklyn, said God was the reason for her long life. “He’s been taking care of me. I’ve had a lot of sick

days but he wasn’t ready for me,” said Baker, whose hobbies include cooking, painting and visiting museums. Price, a former housewife and hairdresser also originally from Guyana, said no special diet had kept her going.

“I got no secret because I do whatever everybody else do. I eat whatever I have to eat and I eat any food,

any food I eat,” said Price, who has 20 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren and has lived at the nursing home since 2005. The party was not held to celebrate birthdays, but was to mark the centenarians’ long lives, nursing home officials said. The center specializes in short-term, post-acute rehabilitation and long-term residential care.—Reuters

Chanel collection takes off at Paris Fashion week

PARIS — With a giant sized aviators and knee-high sparkly, metallic boots.

PARIS — With a giant sized aviators and knee-high sparkly, metallic boots. Chanel’s Karl Lagerfeld took his A-list audience on an intergalactic journey with a space-inspired collection on the closing day of Paris Fashion Week.

The German designer opted for a mix of a galactic and 1960s-inspired style for the French luxury powerhouse’s ready-to-wear show on Tuesday, full of star-studded glitz and glamour.

Models, with beehive-styled long hair or short bobs, headbands and heavy make-up, walked around the rocket in glittery tweed jackets, over-

size aviators and knee-high sparkly, metallic boots.

Actress-models Lily-Rose Depp and Cara Delevingne were in attendance along with singer-songwriters Pharell Williams and Lily Allen.

Lagerfeld, 83, has been creative director for Chanel since 1983, and speculation had grown that Tuesday’s show would be one of his last.

He ended it by emerging with his godson Hudson Kroenig to launch the white Chanel rocket to the roof of the building in a shower of fake smoke and lights as Elton John’s hit song “Rocket Man” played out.—Reuters



Actress and model Marie-Ange Casta. PHOTO: REUTERS

Klimt painting sells for \$59 million at record-breaking London auction

LONDON — A painting of flowers by Gustav Klimt sold in London for 48 million pounds (\$59 million), a record for a work by the Austrian artist and the third-highest price for any work sold at auction in Europe, Sotheby’s said on Thursday.

Described in the auction catalog as a masterpiece of Viennese fin-de-siecle art, “Bauerngarten”, completed in 1907, depicts poppies, daisies, zinnia and

roses in full bloom in a garden.

It was the star attraction at Sotheby’s sale of impressionist, modern and surrealist art, which took place on Wednesday evening.

The auction as a whole netted \$241 million, which Sotheby’s said was the highest total for any auction staged in London, propelled particularly by Asian buyers.

“Tonight’s outstanding result is a new benchmark

for London sales as much as it is a statement on the momentum of the global art market in 2017,” said Helena Newman, chairman of Sotheby’s Europe, in a statement.

The two artworks that previously sold for higher prices at European auctions were Swiss sculptor Alberto Giacometti’s “Walking Man I”, which sold for 65 million pounds in 2010, and Flemish master Peter Paul Rubens’ “The Massacre of

the Innocents”, which went for 49.5 million pounds in 2002. Sotheby’s said another highlight of its Wednesday sale was Pablo Picasso’s 1944 work “Plant de tomates”, which sold for 17 million pounds.

The auction also set a record for a work by Alfred Sisley, a British impressionist who worked mostly in France. His 1874 painting “Effet de neige a Louveciennes” sold for 7.4 million pounds.—Reuters

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

<p>(9-3-2017 07:00am ~ 10-3-2017 07:00am) MST</p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:26 Am Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-II)</p> <p>08:46 Am Tea</p> <p>08:53 Am Inspiration</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am Products of Myanmar — Stone of The Heavens</p> <p>09:50 Am Kayah Style</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)</p>	<p>10:51 Am Myanmar Masterclass: ARTIST SOE HNIN AUNG</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p><u>Prime Time</u></p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:27 Pm A Trip To The City Of Rakkhita, Rakhine</p> <p>07:47 Pm ABU Radio Song Festival</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture Of Pennant Pillar</p> <p>08:40 Pm Bollywood Actress “Laila Khan” Born & Raised in Myanmar (Part-2)</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>	<p>6:00 Am</p> <p>◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw</p> <p>7:00 Am</p> <p>◆ Breakfast News</p> <p>7:35 Am</p> <p>◆ NRC Programme</p> <p>8:35 Am</p> <p>◆ Documentary</p> <p>9:05 Am</p> <p>◆ Documentary (Part-2)</p> <p>9:35 Am</p> <p>◆ Beautiful ASEAN</p> <p>9:45 Am</p> <p>◆ Colour of ASEAN (5) (Singapore & Laos)</p> <p>10:30 Am</p> <p>◆ MRTV Worker’s Programme</p> <p>11:00 Am</p> <p>◆ Documentary</p> <p>11:40 Am</p> <p>◆ Documentary</p> <p>12:30 Pm</p> <p>◆ TV Drama Series</p> <p>1:00 Pm</p> <p>◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-1)</p> <p>2:15 Pm</p> <p>◆ Teleplay</p> <p>4:15 Pm</p> <p>◆ MRTV Travelogue</p>
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Bayern run riot again to crush dispirited Arsenal 10-2 on aggregate

LONDON — Bayern Munich ran riot with a second successive 5-1 hammering of Arsenal to reach the Champions League quarter-finals 10-2 on aggregate at a stunned Emirates Stadium on Tuesday.

Trailing 5-1 from the first leg and striving to become the first team in Champions League history to overturn such a deficit, Arsenal led at halftime through Theo Walcott's goal.

But once Robert Lewandowski equalised from the penalty spot and Arsenal skipper Laurent Koscielny was sent off, the Bundesliga leaders ran amok against their dispirited hosts.

Robben capitalised on a defensive mistake in the 68th minute before substitute Douglas Costa curled in a third to send Arsenal's fans streaming towards the exits.

Bayern were not finished though and Arturo Vidal struck twice as Arsenal slumped to a seventh successive elimination at the last-16 stage in humiliating fashion.—*Reuters*



Arsenal's Olivier Giroud in action with Bayern Munich's Javi Martinez during the UEFA Champions League Round of 16 Second Leg between Arsenal and Bayern Munich at Emirates Stadium in London, England on 7 March 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pacquiao and Khan bout shelved as talks break down — Arum

LONDON — Eight-division world champion Manny Pacquiao's proposed fight against Britain's former world light-welterweight champion Amir Khan has been postponed, according to the Filipino's promoter, Bob Arum.

The 38-year-old Pacquiao and Khan, who won a silver medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics, tentatively agreed to an April fight in the United Arab Emirates before negotiating a change of date to May 20. Arum, however, told the Los Angeles Times that

the \$38 million offer for the bout had failed to materialise and that the duo could not face each other until the second half of 2017, under revised terms.

"Manny wanted to roll the dice. He rolled the dice and it came up snake eyes (double one)," Arum said of the WBO world welterweight champion. "That deal is done for now."

Arum said Pacquiao's advisor Michael Koncz would deliver a revised proposal for a fight against an alternative opponent that could be staged in July.

"Koncz will meet with Manny, and if he accepts it, we'll go ahead. If he doesn't, there's nothing we can do," Arum added.

Pacquiao (59-6-2) claimed the WBO title with a unanimous points victory over American Jessie Vargas in Las Vegas last November, while the 30-year-old Khan (31-4) has not fought since May 2016. Khan made an audacious set up to middleweight to take on Canelo Alvarez but the Briton was knocked out by his hard-hitting Mexican opponent in the sixth round.—*Reuters*

Camara elected to FIFA council after opponents unexpectedly withdraw

LOS ANGELES — Alamy Kabele Camara of Guinea has been elected unopposed to the council of FIFA, a week before African elections for the post were to be held, after both his rivals pulled out hours before FIFA announced the results of background investigations on prospective candidates.

Camara was one of three candidates for two places in the open category of the African elections, which also have other categories for the continent's various language groups.

But both Danny Jordaan, president of the South African

Football Association, and Chabur Goc Alei of South Sudan withdrew without explanation. That leaves a vacancy that will be filled by a supplementary election, officials said on Tuesday.

If either Jordaan or Alei had stayed in the race, he would also have been elected unopposed to the council of world football's governing body. Attempts to contact both on Tuesday were unsuccessful.

The Confederation of African Football and FIFA were notified of their withdrawals on Monday, just hours before FIFA announced that

the 10 candidates in the race had all passed integrity checks.

Camara will now fill one of the seven seats reserved for Africa on the FIFA council. Lydia Nsekera of Burundi is guaranteed another as the continent's female representative. The other five will be determined by elections at the CFA's congress in Addis Ababa on 16 March.

Former African Footballer of the Year Kalusha Bwalya of Zambia had already pulled out at the weekend as campaigning continued in the most animated CAF election for decades.—*Reuters*

Suarez convinced Barca can topple PSG despite harrowing first leg

BARCELONA — Barcelona's pride was wounded by a 4-0 thrashing handed to them by Paris St Germain in the Champions League last 16 first leg but the team believe they are capable of turning the tie around in the second leg, striker Luis Suarez said on Tuesday.

Barca scraped a 2-1 win over struggling Leganes in their first game after their harrowing defeat in Paris, but they head into Wednesday's return leg on a high after hammering Sporting Gijon 6-1 and Celta Vigo 5-0 in their last two outings.

"A lot of time has passed since then, but the hardest thing was the first few days," Suarez told a news conference on Tuesday, recalling the loss that has left Barca on their earliest exit from the Champions League competition in a decade.

"That defeat hurt us a lot, but a few days later we were able to lift ourselves up with a change in attitude and by scoring goals."

Barca overcame a 2-0 defeat to AC Milan in a last 16 first leg in 2013 to win 4-0 and knocked Gothenburg out of the 1986 European Cup after losing a semi-final first leg 3-0, although no side has ever clawed back a four-goal deficit in the Champions League.

"Nothing is impossible in

football and if any team is capable of scoring four goals it's Barca, but we'll do it our way. We need to remember the game lasts 94-95 minutes and we need to be patient and not get desperate," added Suarez.

"We can't go crazy, we want to turn the situation around and go down in history more than anyone else, but we need to play with a sense of calm."

Suarez produced one of his best displays in a Barcelona shirt against PSG, scoring twice in a 3-1 win at the Parc des Princes in a 2015 quarter-final first leg, sliding the ball through the legs of a hapless David Luiz for each goal.

After the shock of the defeat three weeks ago, the Uruguayan said the team is prepared to produce a history defining performance.

"The great thing about football is you can lift yourself up immediately, and we're feeling confident and lively, and with the support of our fans we believe we can rise to this great challenge," he added.

"If we pull it off it will be the greatest game of my career. It's one of the most important games I'll play and we have to convince ourselves we can do it. We're going to fight until the end." —*Reuters*