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Commander-in-Chief addresses 71st Armed Forces Day parade



Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects parade columns at 71st Armed Forces Day commemoration in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

A MILITARY parade was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to commemorate the 71st Armed Forces Day.

Five military parade columns under the command of parade commander Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Hoe marched from the assembly point to the parade ground. Along the way to the parade ground, families of military personnel and local residents gave an enthusiastic welcome to the parade columns with strings of flowers. Among them were wives of the commander-in-chief of defence services, the deputy commander-in-chief of defence services and commander-in-chief

(army), as well as senior military officers.

Addressing the parade, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said: "On this auspicious occasion of the Union and the Tatmadaw, I would like to emphasise that the historical coexistence of the Union and the Tatmadaw can be observed from the fact that our army was born along with the independence struggle. On account of disunity among our citizens and a lack of a capable, modern Tatmadaw, our country was gradually been colonised beginning in 1824. The colonisers easily intruded the palace,

and the whole country was colonised on 1 January 1886, along with the loss of the royal throne."

"Our indigenous citizens suffered immense pain under colonial rule. Although the people revolted against the colonists, they were defeated for lack of unified leadership and modern arms. Since the lost independence could not be regained solely with the patriotic spirit, a group of patriotic youth led by Thak-hin Aung San underwent and endured military training in Hainan Island to expel the colonialist intruders," the commander-in-chief continued.

"General Aung San and

members of the Thirty Comrades made a blood-vow to sacrifice their lives for independence and formed the Burma Independence Army (BIA) on 27 December 1941. The colonialists were driven back with the active support and cooperation of people from all walks of life," he said.

"On 27 July 1942, the [Japanese] fascists abolished the 50,000-strong Burma Independence Army and formed the Burma Defence Army (BDA) with 3,000 troops. On 15 September 1943, the Tatmadaw renamed itself the Burma Army since it was not formed merely to defend but had the intention to boldly con-

duct offensive action against the enemy."

"The revolution was launched on 27 March 1945 through the collaborated efforts of the people and the Tatmadaw to deny the fascist intruders, who offered fake independence and had been suppressing the people. The day was named Revolution Day, but the name was later changed to Armed Forces Day on 27 March 1955. This renaming not only signalled perpetual collaboration between the Tatmadaw and the people but was also codified by the then-public trusted newspapers."

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IMAGES OF 71ST ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE 2016 IN NAY PYI TAW



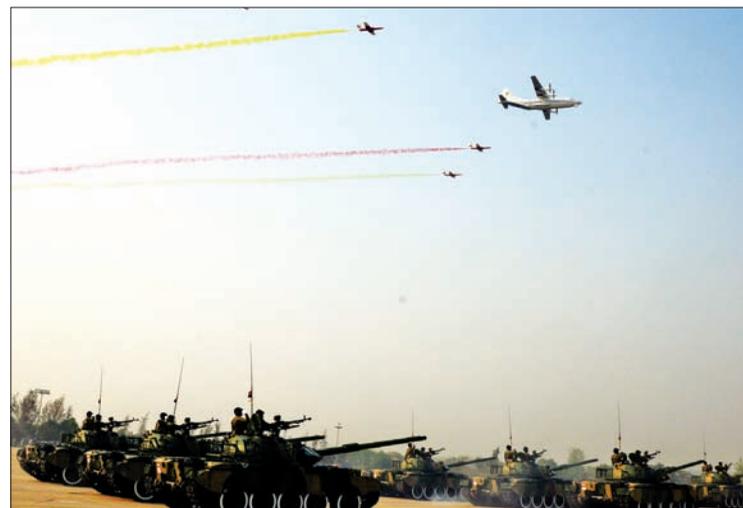
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing takes salute of the columns at the 71st Anniversary Armed Forces Day parade in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Missile carriers are seen at the 71st Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

“The two main hindrances in democratisation are the lack of abiding by the rule of law, regulations and the presence of armed insurgencies. These could lead to chaotic democracy.”

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing



Armoured vehicles rolling into the parade ground where 71st Anniversary Armed Forces Day is being held while planes of the Tatmadaw are flying over the parade. PHOTO: MNA



Columns participate in the parade of 71st Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

President U Thein Sein attends 71st Armed Forces Day commemorative dinner

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein attended a dinner hosted by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior-General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla to mark the 71st Anniversary Armed Forces Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the dinner, President U Thein Sein and wife, together with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife, greeted those present at the dinner including Vice-President Dr Sai Maunk Kham and wife Daw Nann Shwe Hmone, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Union Election Commission Chairman U

Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior-General Soe Win and wife, Union ministers, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and wife, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Tin Aung San and wife, retired top brasses and wives, Speakers of the two parliaments and wives, deputy ministers, military representatives to the parliament, commanding officers of the military parades, winners of the honorary titles from 2011 to 2015 for bravery, representatives from the armed groups which have signed the



President U Thein Sein and Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greet military attaches' of embassies. PHOTO: MNA

Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, military attachés' of embassies, representatives from the Myanmar Police Force and Myanmar Fire Brigade, War Veterans Organization and militia and border guards, students and win-

ners of the competitions held to mark the 71st Armed Forces Day.

During the dinner, artistes entertained those present at the dinner with songs accompanied to Myawady Music Band of the Directorate of Public Relations

and Psychological Warfare.

After the dinner, Myawady traditional entertainment troupe and members of the mobile public relations companies performed the traditional dances. — *Myanmar News Agency*



General Khin Aung Myint presents award to the company representing Commander-in-Chief (Air) Office. PHOTO: MNA

Best awards presented to military parade columns

Commander-in-Chief (Air) Gen Khin Aung Myint presented awards to military columns that participated in the parade held in the Thittat parade ground in commemoration of the 71st anniversary Armed Forces Day yesterday.

The commander-in-chief (air) took the salute from the parade columns under the command of Parade Commander Brig-Gen Aung Kyaw Hoe.

High-ranking military officers presented awards to parade columns for best military parade, best military songs, best flag-hoisting, best military band and best military disciplines.— *Myawaddy*

Military families pay respect to former senior military officers



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing talks to veteran military officers. PHOTO: MNA

FAMILIES of the army, the navy and the air forces paid respects to retired senior military officers who attended the 71st anniversary Armed Forces Day yesterday.

The ceremony was held at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw. At the event, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

described former senior military officers as mentors and expressed his gratitude to their leadership roles. Former Maj-Gen Thura Saw Phyu, former Brig-Gen Tint Swe, former Brig-Gen Hla Tun and former Lt-Gen Tun Kyi spoke words of advice and guidance. The event attracted 39 senior officers and 14 wives.— *Myawaddy*

Commander-in-chief addresses 71st Armed Forces Day parade

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“The two main hindrances in democratisation are the lack of abiding by the rule of law, regulations and the presence of armed insurgencies. These could lead to chaotic democracy.”

“Only when these two hindrances are properly tackled and overcome will there be advancement on the path to democracy. I would vow that the Tatmadaw will cooperate to bring about the prosperity of the Union and its citizens.”

“The Tatmadaw will continue to serve the public interests by adopting our Three Main National Causes in building a multiparty

democratic nation by joining hands with the government in order to establish a flourishing democratic society through the political transition. We will have to work with our maximum capacity of intellect and physique accompanying the unity, disciplinary codes, and abiding the law if we love our motherland and have a will to implement firm multiparty democratic system and to develop the country. We must be loyal to the state.”

“The Tatmadaw must provide the full security of the state. It has to look after the people. It has to contribute to stability and development tasks of the government. The Tatmadaw, therefore, has been

endeavouring for the adoption of peace, stability, unity and development policies.”

“We, the military personnel, are the volunteers who join the Tatmadaw in spiritual delight. We already presupposed that we would face hardships and have to sacrifice our lives and sweat. As we are also the ones who ensure the stability of the country at this democratic transition and bring the country to the present situation with firm conformation aspired by the people, the Tatmadaw will never allow any attempt to encroach on our territory and destabilise the harmonious coexistence in the Union. We have the responsibility to take the lead

in the national politics in the same way that the Tatmadaw has stood ready in the face of critical situations throughout the history of the country,” the commander-in-chief said.

“When we observe the tasks assigned by the constitution to the Tatmadaw, it can be seen that it is to uphold and uplift the national interests.”

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing concluded his speech, urging military personnel at all levels to maintain the noble historic traditions of the Tatmadaw at the risk of their lives and to go on working for the country in accordance with the four objectives of the 71st anniversary of the Armed Forces Day.

The four objectives are: to

safeguard the Three Main National Causes as national responsibilities according to the constitution; to cooperate hand-in-hand between the Tatmadaw and all nationalities to achieve real peace; to cooperate between the government, the parliament, the military and all nationalities in satisfying the country's fundamental needs of stability, solidarity and development; and to build up the army to effectively protect the national sovereignty and the motherland.

After the speech, the commander-in-chief gave a salute as the military parade columns marched past, followed by a show of military skills performed by army, the navy and air force personnel.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar Police Force opens DNA Branch in Nay Pyi Taw



Police Major General Zaw Win and officials cut ribbons at the opening of the new DNA Branch. PHOTO: YE ZARNI

THE opening ceremony of a DNA Branch under the Chemical Examination Department of the Myanmar Police Force was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the cere-

mony, Union Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration and Population Lt Gen Ko Ko attended and officially opened the branch. Police Major General Zaw Win,

along with the commander of the Criminal Investigation Department and the director of the Chemical Examination Department cut the ribbons.—Ye Zarni

Sea View Condominium project in Myeik to begin next month

THE country's first sea view condominium project will be implemented by Hong Kong Future Group Co in Myeik, Thaninthayi Region, this April with the investment of Pyaw Phyo Tun International Co Ltd.

The 30-storey condo will be built near the Myeik Shopping Centre located on Strand Road in the township.

A project manager said: "The high-rise condo will be

able to withstand an 8.5 magnitude earthquake."

Observations of the geographical conditions of the project area will soon be made by the construction company.

The two companies signed the agreement to develop the Sea View Condo project in the presence of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, at a ground-breaking ceremony on 25 March.—200



A small scale model of Sea View Condominium. PHOTO: MIRROR

Crime NEWS

Fire engulfs eight houses in Mandalay



Damaged houses seen at the scene. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG

A HOME fire in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region, has left over 80 people homeless. The victims have moved into temporary shelters.

The fire broke out at a house owned by U Tun Hlaing between 34th and 35th streets and 73rd and 74th streets in the townships Maydawi Ward early Saturday morning.

The fire started in a kitchen

and spread quickly, as home in the area are positioned closely together. The flame was put under control by over 150 firefighters about an hour after it began.

Eight houses, which housed 83 people, including 59 women and 24 men, were destroyed by the fire.

The local police have filed charges against the homeowner for negligence.—Tin Maung

Young man drowned in Shweli River

A 22-year-old man was drowned when he fell into the Shweli River in Muse, northern Shan State, on Friday, police reported.

According to his elder brother, Chan Nyein Oo was drowned while bathing in the

Shweli River with his friends at around 5pm that day; he was reportedly not able to swim. His body was found about 40 minutes later.

Police are still investigating the case.—200

Woman wanted in theft of social security premiums

MANAGING director Daw Tin Tin Win of Tropical Woods Co filed a lawsuit against her staff for the theft of social security premiums valued at over K40 million. The premiums were stolen in mid-March.

The money was kept in a safe located at the managing director's office in Industrial Zone-

2 on Makhaya Minthagyi Road in Dagon Seikkan Township.

"With respect to the case, I have inspected all factory employees. Apart from the 30-year-old factory manager Aye Thanda Soe, all staff participated in the inspection," said the plaintiff.

"After having several phone calls with her, she

promised me to solve the problem.

However, she did not return the stolen money to me," she added. "I filed the suit against the suspect at the township police station on Saturday."

Police are still investigating the case and are trying to arrest the suspect.—Kyin Maung

Yaba pills seized in Nawnghkio and Taunggyi

A COMBINED team comprising members of an Anti-Drugs Squad operating in Lashio seized a total of 5,800 yaba pills from two female suspects at 80/4 milepost near Nawnghkio on Thursday.

The combined team stopped a passenger bus in order to conduct a routine search.

Upon discovery the team confiscated 1,900 yaba pills from one Ma Taint Zay and 3,900 yaba pills from one Ma Tain Nam, both of whom were passengers on the bus. Similarly, on Wednesday,



Ma Taint Zay and Ma Tain Nam seen together with seized yabba pills. PHOTO: MPF

authorities searched a betel shop belonging to one Soe Nyunt alias Musakin in front of the Motel Duwun in Taunggyi and seized 402 ybba pills from the owner.

Charges have been filed against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

LOCAL Business

Rakhine fisheries by-law drafters seeking public input



Workers catch fish at a fishfarm in Rakhine State. PHOTO: STRINGER/KYEMON

PUBLIC consultations are due to take place during the end of April for the drawing up of community centred by-laws by the Rakhine Fisheries Partnership and Rakhine State Fisheries Department.

The draft legislation is being drawn up with the aim of ensuring the sustainable development and systematic use of natural resources within the Rakhine State fishing sector, while discussions on the drafting of the by-laws are now in their third phase.

“The drawing up of details of these by-laws will permit the formation of community-level fishermen associations. Cooperation with co-management organisations will also create more trans-

parency. The important thing is for them to be permitted to manage their own waters. They’ll be able to issue their own rules and regulations, said U AungNaing, coalition facilitator of the Rakhine Fisheries Partnership.

On 27 October 2014, Rakhine State Chief Minister U MaungMaungOhn confirmed the enactment of Section 6 of the Rakhine State Freshwater Fisheries Law, which requires the recognition of community-centred management.

“We requested the suggestions of international experts in the drafting of legislation. We’ve now held three discussion workshops, but the outcomes haven’t

yet been shared with the public. That’s the difficulty with this period of a transitional government; we’re not yet able to move forward. For the moment, we’re stuck waiting,” continued U AungNaing.

The Rakhine Fisheries Partnership was founded on 7 June 2015 and includes the Rakhine State Department of Fisheries, the Myanmar Fisheries Entrepreneurs Association of Rakhine State, parliamentarians, fishermen, fishing enterprise owners, NGOs, members of the HtetLan group, the RakhineThaharya group, the Network Activities Group and Sittwe University.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Watermelon yields rise in Monywa

WATERMELON growers in Chaung Oo Township, Monywa District, are sending 200 truckloads of watermelons to Muse per day this month, which is the peak season for watermelon sales, according to U Soe Lwin, the chairman of the organisation of watermelon growers in Chaung Oo Township.

“Over 200 truckloads of watermelons are sent to China because there’s a festival on 4 April there. Prices are high, and water-

melon growers are gaining profit this year, whereas they suffered losses last year,” he added.

“The township’s watermelon yield this year reached 15 tonnes, which is up from eight tonnes last year, possibly as a result of farmers using a new growing method by covering farms with black plastic bags. This year can be called the high season of watermelon growers because businessmen, farmers and farm labourers are gaining profits,”

said U Soe Lwin.

“Trucks carrying watermelons from Chaung Oo pass through Mandalay and Lashio to the Muse market on the China border. Traffic jams usually happened near Hsipaw. Trucks with watermelons arrive together at the border gate. The price can decline in this regards. Commodity depots need to negotiate prices at that time. The businessmen also need to ask for it,” the chairman said.—*Myo Win Htun*

Chaungtha Beach to get 24-hour electric power

CHAUNGTHA and Ngwe Saung beaches will have 24-hour electricity access at the end of this year, offering visitors more comfort during their stays.

Currently, there are electric lights between Thaletkhwat Village and Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, said U Kyaw Khaing, the chairman of the Chaungtha Hotel zone.

“We can save on generator charges since a unit of electricity costs only K75. Currently, hotels and guesthouses at the beaches supply electricity from 6pm to 6am,” he said.

“If we offer electricity during more times, the charges will

increase. We can’t take more charges on accommodation to cover the charges used in providing electricity. We also offer electricity from noon to 3 or 4pm in the evening to enable visitors to get air-conditioning in their rooms. We arrange this because of the scorching sun. Since the cost of electricity per unit will decline from K300 to K75, we will end up cutting costs, allowing us to offer the excellent hotel service,” he added. Visitors and tourists come to Chaungtha throughout the year. Peak tourist season is around the Thingyan Festival, followed by school holidays in December and March.—200

Six million tourists expected to enter Myanmar

AROUND six million tourists are expected to come to Myanmar via three international airports and four border check points this year, said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung.

“A total of 4.68 million tourists entered Myanmar in 2015, 1.3 million of whom entered via international airports, while the rest entered through border check points. If the border

gates relax their strict rules and regulations, more tourists are expected to come. Some overland visitors spend just a day or two in Myanmar,” he said.

“The infrastructure needs to be developed. International airlines and the travel agencies should hire more qualified human resources to be able to fulfil the needs of the increasing number of tourists,” said one tour agency proprietor.—200

Foreign experts, businesses to enter Myanmar

THE Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security will draft a bill related to the employment of foreign manpower so that foreign experts and experienced foreign businesses will enter Myanmar, said U Myo Aung, the permanent secretary of the ministry.

“Legislation will be submitted to next government. Professional qualifications will also be added to the legislation,” he said.

“This bill will be in effect to select foreign experts in busi-

ness with an aim of bringing fast service [to the country],” said.

The legislation aims to attract foreign experts and experienced businesses to enter Myanmar’s economy because, at the moment, there are primarily unskilled labourers in the country. Some Myanmar labourers are working abroad due to the lower salary and wages at home. The country is making efforts to cultivate job opportunities so that people do not need to work abroad.—200

New opposition party launched with merger of DPJ, smaller party

TOKYO— A new opposition party was launched yesterday through the merger of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan and the smaller Japan Innovation Party, amid questions about the new party's ability to win public trust and mount an effective challenge to the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

At the inaugural convention, Katsuya Okada, former DPJ leader, was elected as the head of the new party, "Minshintō." The party's official English name is the Democratic Party, the name usually reserved for "Minshutō" which the DPJ had called itself in Japanese.

The new party consists of 156 lawmakers, making it the largest opposition party since the start of the Abe government in December 2012 following a lower house election that pushed the DPJ out of government and brought Abe's Liberal Democratic Party back to power once again.

"Today is a historic day. The future of Japan depends on us," Okada said in his speech at the party's inauguration. "Freedom, coexistence and responsibility for the future — those three ideas are the inaugural philosophy with which we start Minshintō."

The merger of the largest and third-largest opposition parties — effectively the absorption of the latter by the former — comes before a House of Councillors election this summer.

Okada said he deeply regrets "falling short of expectations" while the DPJ was in power as the ruling party from 2009 to 2012.

The new party will be "the last chance" to realise a change of administration in Japan. He said that he will take full responsibility as party head for the upcoming upper house election and pledged to "produce results."

Okada said Saturday he does not intend to run in a leadership race in September if the new party fails to achieve good results in the election.

Leadership posts in the Democratic Party are mostly filled by former DPJ members. Former Japan Innovation Party leader Kenji Eda was picked as an acting party leader, becoming the sole member from the smaller opposition party in the leadership.

The post of party policy chief, one of the key posts in the new party, goes to Shiori Yamao, a former DPJ member serving her second term in the House of Representatives who sharply crit-

icised the Abe government for failing to make child care available in sufficient numbers to mothers desperate to work.

Former DPJ Secretary General Yukio Edano has assumed the same post in the Democratic Party.

The new party's 156 mem-

bers consist of 96 lawmakers in the lower house and 60 lawmakers in the less powerful upper house. They include five lawmakers not affiliated with either the DPJ or Japan Innovation Party.

The party, however, is far smaller than the coalition of

Abe's LDP and the Komeito party, which controls a majority of the 242-member upper house and more than two-thirds of the lower house.

The merger will officially be reported to the Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry on Monday.—*Kyodo News*



Lawmakers of the newly formed Democratic Party, created through the merger of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) and the smaller Japan Innovation Party, raise their hands in celebration during the party's inaugural convention at a hotel in Tokyo on 27 March 2016. Katsuya Okada, former DPJ leader, was elected as the head of the new party. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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Myanmar to survey on local rice consumption

YANGON — Myanmar plans to make survey on local rice consumption this year, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) on Saturday.

Myanmar never had the actual data on local rice consumption for 20 years.

This is the big challenge for policy makers, stakeholders, in-

vestors and exporters to develop the rice sector.

The survey will be jointly carried out by MRF, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association and University of Agriculture.

The survey targets over 4,000 households living in 14 regions and states of the country.

The survey will include rice consumption amount, daily earning of each household and kind of rice they consume.

Rice is not only the main staple food of the country but also one of the main export item of the nation.

Myanmar's rice export reached 433.82 million US dol-

lars for the previous 2014-2015 fiscal year.

National paddy production of Myanmar was down 2 per cent annually over the past three years due to flood triggered by Cyclone Komen in late July and early August, according to the UN report.—*Xinhua*

Construction of Indonesian coal-fired power plant to start — media

TOKYO — The construction of a \$4 billion, 2,000-megawatt coal-fired power station in Indonesia will begin on 1 April after years of delay as land acquisitions are finally complete, Japan's Nikkei business daily said yesterday.

PT Bhimasena Power Indonesia, a joint venture set up by Indonesian coal miner PT Adaro

Energy Tbk and Japan's Itochu Corporation and Electric Power Development Co. Ltd. (J-Power), will build and operate the Batang plant in Central Java.

Neither Itochu nor J-Power could be immediately reached for comment.

Indonesia's Supreme Court has thrown out a landholders' lawsuit on technical grounds,

paving the way for the government to take over the remaining land for the project.

The prospect of raising funds for the project were also good, the newspaper said in a report from Jakarta. It did not elaborate or give its sources.

Indonesia's president Joko Widodo hosted the groundbreaking ceremony of the project last

August with great fanfare but no ground was actually broken, with dozens of landowners refusing to give up their paddy fields.

The Batang plant was among a handful of new infrastructure projects that Indonesia hoped to finally get off the ground to ease power shortages in the Southeast Asian nation.—*Reuters*

Nepal's international airport temporarily closed after bomb scare

KATHMANDU — Nepal's Tribhuvan International Airport has been temporarily closed following a bomb scare in a Jet Airways aircraft that arrived from New Delhi yesterday, local media reports said quoting govern-

ment officials. Deputy inspector general of Nepal police, Pratap Singh Thapa, told local media that all incoming and outgoing flights have been halted following the bomb threat at Nepal's only in-

ternational airport. All the passengers in the aircraft were evacuated from the plane and their baggage are currently being screened, Thapa added.

The threat was communicated to Jet Airways office in Kath-

mandu from the Indian capital New Delhi, according to reports. The plane has been isolated and a bomb disposal squad of the Nepalese Army has been deployed for further investigation, according to officials.—*Xinhua*

Missing Chinese columnist released from custody

BEIJING — A prominent Chinese columnist has been released after being detained earlier this month, possibly in connection with an online letter critical of China's President Xi Jinping, his lawyer said yesterday.

Jia Jia, who writes a regular column for Tencent Online, went missing late on 15 March, around the time he was scheduled to board a flight from Beijing to Hong Kong.

His lawyer, Yan Xin, told Reuters earlier police had detained Jia at a Beijing airport.

Jia had warned former colleagues of the danger of re-publishing an open letter calling for Xi to resign.

Yan said yesterday it was "not convenient" to elaborate on the precise reasons for Jia's detention. He declined to confirm if it was related to the letter.

"He has been released and has already returned home," Yan said. Yan said Jia was not available for comment.

Yan told Reuters earlier that Jia said he had not written the letter critical of Xi, but expressed concern that something could happen to him because of his warnings to colleagues about it.

Calls seeking comment from Beijing police yesterday went unanswered.

Xi has embarked on an unprecedented effort to clamp down on the Internet and censor opinions that do not reflect those of Communist Party leaders, including by imposing tougher penalties for what the government calls spreading rumours via social media.

The online letter, circulated widely at the beginning of China's parliamentary session this month and signed by "a loyal Communist Party Member", blamed Xi for "unprecedented problems".

Jia's disappearance had attracted international concern from rights groups such as Amnesty International.

A New York-based Chinese Internet activist told Reuters on Friday that China's authorities had detained three members of his family in connection with the same open letter.

Reuters could not independently confirm this and police in Guangdong Province, where the activist's family lives, and foreign ministry spokesmen, were not available for comment.—Reuters

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Revellers take part in the annual Holi Rangotsav Festival organised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad Association at a university in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australian actor Hugh Jackman helps swimmers to safety from dangerous surf

SYDNEY — Australian actor Hugh Jackman turned real-life action hero at Sydney's Bondi Beach on Saturday, when he helped his son and another man to safety from strong currents in the surf.

Jackman is shown linking hands with a man and pulling him from a fast-flowing channel on to a sandbar, where the water is shallow, in television footage

broadcast by the Nine Network. The network said Jackman later helped his own son, Oscar, 15, from the same current.

Peter Adam, who told Nine he was the man Jackman helped, said he wasn't rescued by the film star.

"He wasn't rescuing me, I was assisting him to get his daughter up to the sandbar. He then grabbed my hand to get us

up," Adam said.

The actor is also shown beckoning other swimmers to shore, away from a rip current flowing out to sea.

Jackman was at the beach with his family, Sydney's *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper reported. Witness Lynzey Murphy told the paper that surf conditions changed quickly, but that Jackman stayed calm.

"When we got in the water 20 minutes earlier it was fine. Then the water just came up suddenly," she said.

"Hugh just pulled them calmly on to the sandbar. He then said: 'All right, we are going to walk towards the flags.'"

A lifeguard told the paper that the beach was later closed because of dangerous surf.—Reuters

Japan, Russia agree on salmon, trout quota for Japan

TOKYO — Japan and Russia have agreed that Tokyo's fishing quota of Russian salmon and trout in Japan's exclusive economic zone will total 2,050 tons in 2016, the same amount agreed for 2015, according to the Fisheries Agency.

Under the agreement reached in Tokyo, the Japanese govern-

ment will pay Moscow anywhere between 264 million yen (\$2.3 million) and 300 million yen in cooperation fees, depending on the actual catches, the agency said Saturday.

The two countries also discussed the quota for Japanese fishermen of the fish in the Rus-

sian EEZ in 2016 as well as alternative fishing methods to drift-net fishing which Russia has banned since January in its economic waters, the agency said.

But they have yet to reach an agreement and will discuss the matter in Moscow in April or thereafter.

Salmon and trout belong to the country with the river in which the eggs were laid. Japan and Russia have accordingly set annual quotas of Russian salmon and trout for Japanese fishermen within Japan's exclusive zone as well as the Russian zone.—Kyodo News

Four killed after vehicle falls into gorge in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (Indian-controlled Kashmir) — Four people were killed after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge in Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said yesterday.

The accident took place in mountainous Ramban district, 178 km south of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir.

The deceased included driver of the vehicle belonging to a

road construction company.

According to officials, the bodies of the deceased were shifted to the mortuary room of a nearby hospital.

The cause of accident was being ascertained, the police of-

ficial said.

Deadly road accidents are common in this mountainous region often caused by overloading, bad condition of roads and reckless driving.—Xinhua

OPINION

From tears to cheers

Kyaw Thura

THE incumbent government is ready to hand over the duties of governing to the president-elect, with the ceremony of swearing-in of the new president expected to take place at the Presidential Palace on 30 March, Deputy Director General U Zaw Htay of the President's Office said in a recent interview with VOA Myanmar.

President U Thein Sein will pass the baton of executive power to his successor, presi-

dent-elect U Htin Kyaw, at the end of his five-year tenure. U Htin Kyaw will become the second president after the military held a general election on 7 November 2010, in which the Union Solidarity and Development Party emerged victorious and named former general U Thein Sein as president.

Twenty years earlier, the country saw the NLD win a resounding victory in the election. However, the party was denied the right to convene a parliament on the pretext of the need for a new constitution. No matter how hideous the past we have gone through was, we should be magnanimous either in defeat or victory and let bygones be bygones.

Now that the incumbent president has promised a peaceful handover of state responsibility to his successor, the move should be hailed as historically significant and as a decisive step forward as

well. The onus is on all political actors to make every effort to work in tandem with civil society in our march to a resurgent Myanmar characterised by peace, stability, equality and prosperity. After all, the only course of action left to us is to shift from tears of pain to cheers of joy.

Write for us

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

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

Rule of Law and Human Rights

Dr. Khine Khine Win

IN recent years, there has been an increased interest in rule of law as an assurance of stability, human rights and economic development. Rule of law takes on several meanings and it does not have a precise definition. Its meaning can vary between different nations and legal traditions. For instance, in the definition proposed by United Nations: "the rule of law refers to a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities public and private including the State itself are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards". (UN Security Council 2004). In addition according to Collins Student's dictionary, the rule of law is "the principle that everyone is subject to law". Everyone means every human being without distinction.

There is also no precise meaning for human rights. Nevertheless, 1993 World Conference on Human Rights affirmed the crucial connection between the international

peace and security and the rule of law and human rights placing them all within the larger context of democratization and development. It shows that universally agreed the rule of law and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing as well as the rule of law and the maintenance of human rights are connected. Indeed, the rule of law is woven into the structure of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UDHR from the very beginning. UDHR states in his preamble that 'whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law'. It reminds if human beings are not to be compelled or to resort to violence against oppression, human rights should be protected by rule of law.

Nowadays, the international human rights regime has become the subject of more critical scrutiny as it has become more powerful. As a result, there is now greater awareness of a number of legislative, conceptual, normative, political and practical weaknesses on

human rights framework. In this connection, NAVI PILLAY, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said the rule of law was the backbone for the legal protection for human rights. Likewise, it must be grounded in human rights. Where as respect for the rule of law demanded compliance with the principles of equal legal protection and prohibition of discrimination on any grounds, such as race, sex, disability, language, religion, national or social origin, and property.

The rule of law should be a living reality properly understood by ordinary people. It is constitutionally more important than is generally realized. In other words, the rule of law is as supreme as the constitution itself. United Nations Secretary-General BAN KI-MOON said the rule of law was like the law of gravity: it ensured the world remained grounded, so that order prevailed over chaos. It united societies around common values, anchoring us in the common good. But unlike gravity, rule of law must be nourished by continued efforts by genuine leaders. Strengthening rule of law meant

consolidating the United Nations' three pillars: peace, development and human rights. So strengthening rule of law is crucial for human rights and also strengthening the rule of law fosters an environment that facilitates sustainable human development and the protection and empowerment of women, children and vulnerable groups.

When countries fail to establish justice and rule of law, peace and stability are suffered first. So strengthening security, strengthening peace, strengthening justice, strengthening stability must be done through the rule of law.

Indeed, the rule of law is the vehicle for the promotion and protection of all human rights. At the national level, the rule of law is at the heart of the social contract between the State and individuals under its jurisdiction and it ensures that justice permeates society at every level. It guarantees the protection of the full range of human rights and drives protection of human rights.

As you all know well, State has the prime obligation to respect, protect and fulfill of human rights for their citizens. The obligation to

respect means that States must refrain from interfering with or curtailing the enjoyment of human rights. The obligation to protect requires States to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses. The obligation to fulfill means that States must take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights. Responsibility to protect human rights resides first and foremost with the states themselves.

I cling to my belief in rule of law because it is important. It may be the single greatest achievement of our society. It is the vessel that keeps all our other values safe and establishing the justice, stability and growth required for sustainable development and poverty eradication. As I mentioned before rule of law is the vehicle for the promotion and protection of human rights. So if we have excellent vehicle we don't need to worry about the enjoyment of human rights. Rule of law vehicle drives us to full enjoyment of our rights and fundamental freedom.

Without establishment of rule of law, respect of human rights can never ever happen.

Rakhine State dig wells amid water shortage

RESIDENTS of the Rakhine State townships of Minbya, Pauktaw, Taungup and Ponnagyun, have taken to digging their own artesian wells in an effort to access fresh water as local reservoirs dry up, according to local residents.

Restrictions have been put in place on the number of times water can be collected from drying reservoirs in the area, resulting in more and more residents taking the initiative to dig artesian wells in order to access drinking water.

"Water sellers in some townships have been forbidden from sourcing water from local reservoirs, with limitations put on the number of times water can be

gathered, which has really driven up drinking water expenses. We're digging an artesian well to help alleviate these expenses. It's also being dug in preparation for more serious water shortages in the future," said Daw Than May Kyi, a resident of Ponnagyun Township.

A barrel of water in the townships was priced at K500 in February, while the current price has risen to K1,500. Most families now incur daily water costs of K3,000 to K5,000.

Time restrictions on the fetching of water from reservoirs between 6am and 10am and between 4pm and 6pm have been put

in place by neighbourhood leaders in a bid to mitigate the complete drying up of water sources, while restrictions have been set on the sourcing of water by cart, three wheeled vehicle, tractor and motorcar.

"Many people are now digging their own community artesian wells. But there are few areas where fresh water is available underground. It's mostly only salty water or water with a reddish tinge. But they are still being dug as that water can at least be used to wash cups and dishes," said Ko Kyaw Pu Kyel, a resident of Minbya Township involved with the digging of a well.—Myitmakha News Agency



An artesian well is being dug. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

New bus stops along first BRT route expanded

PUBLIC Bus Co has opened new bus stops along Pyay Road with the aim of providing better transportation services to Yangon commuters.

The new bus stops are located at Htaukkyant Junction, Htaukkyant Lanthit, Kyiakkale, 7 Mile and Sanpya.

On 7 February, the company launched its services with a fleet of 18 buses imported from China along the first Bus Rapid Transfer (BRT) route, which has 23 stops running from Htaukkyant to Pyay Road and from Bogyoke Aung San Road to 8 Mile Junction via Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. The second route has 26 stops running from Pyay Road, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Botahtaung Pagoda Road and Strand Road. Each bus can carry over 80 passengers, and bus fare is set at K300 per ticket. The buses are air-conditioned.

The BRT buses operate between the hours of 6am and 9pm daily.—200

Annual Meeting and new executive election of Pyay Township Writers' Association held

ANNUAL Meeting and new executive election was held at

the assembly hall of Yanaung-mingalarkin pagoda in Pyay yes-

terday with the opening speech made by U Mya Win (Mya Win

-Philosophy), who is a National Literary Award Winner.



Committee members of Pyay Township Writers' Association pose for documentary Photo. PHOTO: MAUNG SHWE WIN

At the meeting, U Mya Win (Mya Win-Philosophy) presided over the ceremony, with U Aung Myint (Aung-Chemistry), a member of Central Committee of the Myanmar Journalists' Association acting as the master of ceremonies. Maung Shwe Win (Pyay), the treasurer of Pyay Township Writers' Association and vice chairman Yi Zaw Maung (Pyay) read out the financial statement and annual report, and old executives resigned from their posts to elect the new ones.

The selection Committee chose a five member executive committee by secret vote.

The new Executives are Dr. Yin Wai Lwin (Yin Wai Lwin-Pyay) as the chairman, Yi Zaw Maung (Pyay) as the secretary, Maung Shwe Win (Pyay) as the treasurer, Nan Hmon Wai (Pyay), Min Yun (Ksetra), as members.—Maung Shwe Win (Pyay)

English specialisation alumnae of Dagon University to hold 10th Respect Paying Ceremony for faculty members

THE English Specialisation Alumnae Association at Dagon University will hold its 10th Respect Paying Ceremony for retired and current faculty members of the Dagon University English Department at the university's stadium from 8am to 12pm on 1 May 2016.

Organisers cordially invited all students in the English Department to attend the ceremony.

Those who want to donate cash and gifts may con-

tact the following persons using their phone numbers: Ko Maung Maung Oo (09 5404756), Ko Zaw Min Oo (09 798481858), Ma Tin Tin Soe (09 5416048), Ma Htar Eai Win (09 5102668), Ma Aye Thida Naing (09 43033198), Ma Win Thida Kyaw (09 43110489), Ma Kyi Kyi Swei (09 73092392), Ko Htet Arka Kyaw (09 42012261), Ko Wai Yan Htut (09 420701329), Ma Nila Htet Hlaing (09 261080510).—GNLM

Rural health branches established in remote areas

NEARLY 80 rural health branches have been established in rural areas by the Health Ministry with the assistance of the Third Millennium Development Goals Fund (3MDG), an international non-governmental organisation.

The rural health branches were designed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). The Ministry of Health, 3MDG and UNOPS infrastructure unit selected the villages, which are located in areas and have no existing health branches.

3MDG has delivered sustainable, efficient and responsive health-care services across Myanmar to improve maternal, newborn and child health and combat HIV and



AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

3MDG to spend US\$275 million on the improvement of health services in Myanmar.

Myanmar suffers from high maternal and child mortality. At

least 2,400 pregnant women and 70,000 children die each year, largely from preventable causes. The leading causes of death by disease in Myanmar are tuberculosis, malaria and HIV/AIDS.—200



Miss Universe Myanmar 2017 preliminary contests to come in October

PRELIMINARY contests for the Miss Universe Myanmar 2017 are scheduled to take place in October this year, one of organisers said at a recent press conference in Yangon.

The contests will be held in 24 townships around the country, including Aunglan, Bago, Dawei, Hpa-an, Phakant, Kengtung, Lashio, Loikaw, Magwe, Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Mogok, Monywa, Myawady, Myeik, Myitkyina, Nay Pyi Taw, Patheingyi, Pyay, Pyin Oo Lwin, Sittwe, Tachilek, Taungtha and Taung-

gyi. The Miss Universe Myanmar Organisation will select between six and eight candidates during preliminary contests.

The selection of candidates will be broadcast on the 'Hello! Miss Universe' TV programme on Channel 9 from 7pm to 8pm every weekend between 4 June and 25 September.

The Miss Universe Myanmar Organisation has held the national contest since 2013. Htet Htet Tun is the current title holder; she was crowned at Miss Universe Myanmar 2016 contest.—163

Mexicans burn Donald Trump effigies in Easter ritual

MEXICO CITY — Mexicans celebrating an Easter ritual late on Saturday burnt effigies of US Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump, whose anti-immigrant views have sparked outrage south of the American border.

In Mexico City's poor La Merced neighbourhood, hundreds of cheering residents yelled "death" and various insults as they watched the explosion of the grinning papier-mâché mock-up of the real estate tycoon, replete with blue blazer, red tie and his trademark tuft of blond hair.

Media reported that Trump effigies burned across Mexico, from Puebla to Mexico's industrial hub Monterrey.

The burning is part of a widespread Mexican Holy Week tradition where neighbourhoods burn effigies to represent Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus Christ according to the Bible. The effigies are often modeled on unpopular political figures.

"Since he started his campaign and began talking about immigrants, Mexico, and Mexicans, I said 'I've got to get this guy,'" said Felipe Linares, the artisan who crafted Trump and whose family has been making Judases for more than 50 years.

Trump, the front-runner to win the Republican nomination for the 8 November election, has drawn fire in Mexico with his campaign vow to build a wall along the southern US border to keep out illegal immigrants and



Mexicans burn an effigy of U.S. Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump as they celebrate an Easter ritual late on Saturday in Mexico City's poor La Merced neighbourhood on 26 March 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

drugs, and to make Mexico pay for it.

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto has said his country will not pay for the wall and likened Trump's "strident tone" to the ascent of dictators like Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini.

Trump, who has also aroused concern among many in his own party with his proposals, has accused Mexico of sending rapists and drug runners across the border and vowed to increase fees on some Mexican visas and all border crossing cards to help make Mexico pay for the wall.

Judas effigies are burnt in villages and towns in several Latin American countries such as Venezuela and in parts of Greece. Anthropologists say the practice serves a symbolic function to overcome divisions and unite communities around a common enemy.

Linares has also done mock-ups of corrupt former union leader Elba Esther Gordillo and President Enrique Peña Nieto, whose popularity has been hit by conflict-of-interest scandals and the disappearance of 43 students at the hands of corrupt police.—Reuters

Vucic: Facts, not names, matter when it comes to crime



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic. PHOTO: TANJUG

BELGRADE — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said Saturday that he was heading a government to which crimes and criminals did "not differ in name and surname," but only in

whether someone had committed a crime or not.

"Only we do not make a distinction according to whether a crime was committed by members of the Serbian nation or a

crime was committed against Serbs. This shows the greatness of our nation and the seriousness and responsibility of the government," Vucic told reporters.

The prime minister said following the judgment against Radovan Karadzic in The Hague that it was now more important to talk about human victims, suffering and reconciliation than about legal and political implications that the ruling might have.

Vucic said that everyone kept forgetting that Serbia had been the first to arrest those who had committed the crime in Srebrenica, and it was the only country in the region that had arrested those who had committed crimes purporting it to be in the name of Serbia.

I have not seen any other country do that, Vucic said.

"In this way, we are showing the greatness our people and the seriousness of the government," he said.—Tanjug

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy arrests Algerian suspected of forging papers for Brussels attackers

ROME — Italian police have arrested an Algerian suspected of having produced false documents for Islamist militants connected to the recent deadly attacks in Brussels and Paris, Italian media reported on Saturday.

Djamal Eddine Ouali, 40, was arrested by DIGOS anti-terrorism police in Bellizzi, a small town near Salerno in southern Italy, according to Sky TG 24 television and other media.

DIGOS could not be reached for more details.

The reports said he was the subject of an arrest warrant issued by Belgian authorities for producing and procuring false documents to be used in illegal immigration.—Reuters

Trump open to Tokyo and Seoul having nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON — US presidential candidate Donald Trump has said he is open to the idea of both Japan and South Korea developing their own nuclear weapons and would be willing to withdraw US troops from their soil, *the New York Times* reported in its online edition on Saturday.

In an interview with the major US newspaper, the front runner for the Republican presidential nomination said that allowing the two countries to have their own nuclear arsenal would reduce pressure in the United States to come to their defence against North Korea and China. The United States "cannot be the policeman of the world," Trump said and suggested that Tokyo and Seoul would move in that direction anyway if Washington "keeps on its path, its current paths of weakness."—Kyodo News

Missing Saitama girl taken into custody in Tokyo after 2 years

TOKYO — A 15-year-old girl who had gone missing from her home in Asaka, Saitama Prefecture, just outside Tokyo, two years ago, was taken into custody in Tokyo yesterday, police said.

The junior high school student had last been seen speaking with a young man in front of her home on 10 March, 2014. At that time, a note was found in a letterbox at her home with her handwriting saying, "Don't look for me."

Police were looking into her disappearance as a possible criminal case. Then yesterday, police took her into custody in Nakano Ward. In a phone call to police the girl pleaded for help, saying the man she was with left her alone, so she took the opportunity to call police for assistance, according to an investigative source.—Kyodo News

Canadian man arrested under anti-terrorism law

TORONTO — A Canadian man has been arrested under the country's anti-terrorism law, police said on Saturday.

Kevin Omar Mohamed, 23, was taken into custody with a "preventive arrest" under the Fear of Terrorism Offence section of the law, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said in a statement.

Police said the arrest is not linked to the recent attacks in Brussels and there was no indication of a domestic attack.

Mohamed's lawyer, Anser Farooq, said Mohamed was arrested on Friday and appeared in court in Brampton, west of Toronto, on Saturday. Farooq says the arrest involved "a number of" terrorism offences but that his client was not charged with any.

According to the police statement, Mohamed was charged with carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a weapon dangerous to public peace.—Reuters

Suspected US drone strikes in Yemen kill 8 militants — residents

ADEN — Drone attacks killed eight men suspected of belonging to al Qaeda in southern Yemen on Saturday night, local residents said, as a US campaign against the militant group goes on amid a wider civil war in the country.

Two missiles hit the fighters who had gathered in courtyards in the villages of al-Hudhn and Naqeel al-Hayala, residents from the southern coastal province of Abyan told Reuters by phone.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has taken advantage of a war pitting the Iran-allied Houthis against forces loyal to exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to grab territory and operate more openly.—Reuters

Islamic State driven out of Syria's ancient Palmyra city

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces recaptured Palmyra yesterday, state media and a monitoring group said, inflicting a significant defeat on the Islamic State group which seized the city last year and dynamited its ancient temples.

Syrian television quoted a military source saying the army and its militia allies took complete control of the city and were clearing mines and bombs laid by the militants.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said there was still gunfire in the eastern part of the city yesterday morning but the bulk of the Islamic State force had pulled out and retreated east, leaving Palmyra under President Bashar al-Assad's control.

For government forces, the recapture of Palmyra opens up much of Syria's eastern desert stretching to the Iraqi border to the south and Islamic State heartland of Deir al-Zor and Raqqa to the east. It follows a three-week cam-

paign by the army and its allies on the ground, backed by intensive Russian air strikes, aimed at driving Islamic State back.

Russia's intervention in September turned the tide of Syria's five-year-old conflict in Assad's favour. Despite its announcement that it was pulling out most military forces two weeks ago, Russian jets and helicopters carried out dozens of strikes daily over Palmyra at the height of the clashes.

Observatory director Rami Abdulrahman said 400 Islamic State fighters died in the battle for Palmyra, which he described as the biggest single defeat for the group since it declared a caliphate in areas of Syria and Iraq under its control in 2014.

The loss of Palmyra comes three months after Islamic State fighters were driven out of the city of Ramadi in neighbouring Iraq, the first major victory for Iraq's army since it collapsed in the face



A general view shows the old citadel of Palmyra in Homs Governorate overlooking the city's ancient ruins, after forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad recaptured it on Friday, in this handout picture provided by SANA on 26 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

of an assault by the militants in June 2014.

Islamic State has lost ground elsewhere, including the Iraqi city of Tikrit last year and the Syrian town of al-Shadadi in February. The United States said the fall of Shadadi was part of efforts to cut

Islamic State's links between its two main power centres: the cities of Mosul in Iraq and Raqqa in Syria. The Observatory said around 180 government soldiers and allied fighters were also killed in the campaign to retake Palmyra, which is home to some of the

most extensive ruins of the Roman empire.

Islamic State militants dynamited several monuments last year, but Syria's antiquities chief told Reuters on Saturday that other ancient landmarks were still standing.—Reuters

Nigeria sends Chibok parents to see if suicide bomber is missing schoolgirl

ABUJA — The Nigerian government is sending parents from the Chibok community of northeast Nigeria to neighbouring Cameroon to verify whether a suspected female suicide bomber is one of the schoolgirls abducted by Boko Haram nearly two years ago.

Garba Shehu, spokesperson for Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, said the Nigerian High Commissioner in Cameroon, Hadiza Mustapha, has been in contact with Cameroonian authorities who have shown a willingness to assist the Nigerian government.

The abduction of about 270 school girls by Islamic militants from a school in Chibok on 14 April, 2014, sparked international outrage and a campaign #bringbackourgirls. While about 50 of the girls managed to escape, 219 of the girls remain missing.

Military and local government sources on Friday reported that one of two girls arrested in northern Cameroon carrying explosives claimed to be one of the missing Chibok schoolgirls.

The girls were arrested after being stopped by local self-defence forces in Limani near the border with Nigeria that has been the target of frequent suicide bombings in recent months.

"We hope that the Chibok parents will be able to identify the girl and determine whether she is indeed one of their missing students," Shehu told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a telephone interview in Abuja on Saturday.

Shehu said the government was keen to ascertain the girl's identity so she can be brought back to Nigeria and possibly assist the government in investigations regarding the fate and whereabouts of the other missing Chibok girls.

He said the two parents from Chibok selected to embark on the trip to Cameroon are Yakubu Nkeki, chairman of the Chibok Abducted Girls Movement, and Yana Galang, the group's women leader, whose 16-year-old daughter Rifkatu is among the missing.

The trip is being arranged by the government in partnership with the Murtala Muhammed Foundation in Nigeria, a non-government organisation which has been supporting the parents association and has offered to partly sponsor the trip to avoid any delays. "If it is true, we are very happy about it. If we see her with our eyes, we will know where our girls are," Galang told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.—Reuters

Belgium charges airport suspect, calls off Brussels 'march against fear'

BRUSSELS — Belgian prosecutors charged three men on Saturday with terrorist offences over the Brussels bomb attacks and authorities called off a planned 'march against fear' in the jittery capital to relieve pressure on an over-taxed police force.

The suicide bomb attacks targeting Brussels airport and a rush-hour metro train on Tuesday killed 31 people, including three of the attackers, and injured hundreds more. Islamic State has claimed responsibility.

Amid increasing signs that the attacks were carried out by the same militant network that was behind bombings and shootings in Paris last November that killed 130 people, German lawmakers said Europe urgently needed to improve the way its security agencies share information.

Of the three men charged on Saturday, Belgian prosecutors named one as Faycal C. Belgian media identified him as Faycal Cheffou and said he was the man wearing a hat and a light-coloured jacket in last Tuesday's airport CCTV footage that showed three men pushing baggage trolleys bearing luggage.

The two others in the picture are believed to have blown



This CCTV image from the Brussels Airport surveillance cameras made available by Belgian Police, shows what officials believe may be suspects in the Brussels airport attack on 22 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

themselves up.

Cheffou was charged with taking part in the activities of a terrorist group, and actual and attempted terrorist murder.

The other two charged on Saturday, Aboubakar A. and Rabah N., were accused of terrorist activities and membership of a terrorist group.

Rabah N. was wanted in connection with a related raid in France this week that authorities say foiled an apparent attack plot.

Brussels mayor Yvan Mayeur told *Le Soir* newspaper that Cheffou, who said he was a freelance journalist, was "dangerous" and that he had been detained a

number of times at a park where he sought to encourage asylum seekers camped there to turn to radical extremism.

The authorities also said that a man arrested on Friday after being shot in the leg at a tram stop in the Brussels district of Schaerbeek was being held for a further 24 hours.

He was identified as Abderramane A. and was one of three people arrested on Friday.

That operation was linked to the arrest in Paris on Thursday of an Islamist convicted in Belgium last year and suspected of plotting a new attack, Belgian prosecutors said.—Reuters

VMA, Ohio military and medical cooperation

BELGRADE — A three-day conference on joint activities of medical teams of the Serbian Ministry of Defence, Serbian Armed Forces and Ohio National Guard within the framework of a Serbia-Ohio state partnership program was completed at the training centre of Serbia's Military Medical Academy (VMA) medical department in Belgrade on Friday.

The conference, which was attended by members of an Ohio National Guard working group and members of the armed forces of Angola as observers, defined the next steps for joint activities of medical teams, a result of long-term bilateral cooperation in military medicine, the VMA said in a release.



The closing analysis of the conference was attended by the acting chief of the Military Health Department, Col. Ugljesa Jovicic, the VMA deputy chief, Col. Dragan Dincic,

and Secretary of State at the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government Ivan Bosnjak.

Also attending were Chairman of the Serbian

government's Coordination Body for the Municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja Zoran Stankovic and US and Angolan defence envoys in Serbia.—*Tanjug*

US Democrat Bernie Sanders wins Alaska, Washington caucuses

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders easily won nominating contests in Alaska and Washington on Saturday, chipping away at front-runner Hillary Clinton's commanding lead in the race to pick the party's candidate for the White House.

Sanders still faces a steep uphill climb to overtake Clinton but the big victories in the West generated more momentum for his upstart campaign and could stave off calls from Democratic leaders that he should wrap up his bid in the name of party unity.

Sanders appeared headed to victory margins of more than 50 percentage points in both Alaska and Washington. He aimed for a third victory later on Saturday in Hawaii.

"We are making significant inroads in Secretary Clinton's lead and ... we have a path to victory," Sanders told cheering, chanting supporters in Madison, Wisconsin. "It is hard for anybody to deny that our campaign has the momentum."

Clinton, the former secretary of state, has increasingly turned her attention toward a potential 8 November

general election showdown against Republican front-runner Donald Trump, claiming she is on the path to wrapping up the nomination.

Heading into Saturday, she led Sanders by about 300 pledged delegates in the race for the 2,382 delegates needed to be nominated at the party's July convention in Philadelphia. Adding in the support of super-delegates — party leaders who are free to back any candidate — she has 1,690 delegates to 946 for Sanders.

Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, needs to win up to two-thirds of the remaining delegates to catch Clinton, who will keep piling up delegates even when she loses under a Democratic Party system that awards them proportionally in all states.

"These wins will help him raise more funds for the next few weeks but I don't think it changes the overall equation," said Democratic strategist Jim Manley, a Clinton supporter. "Hillary Clinton has too big a lead."

But Sanders has repeatedly said he is staying in the race until the convention, pointing to big crowds at his rallies and high turnout

among young and first-time voters as proof of his viability. After raising \$140 million, he has the money to fight on as long as he wants.

He has energized the party's liberal base and young voters with his calls to rein in Wall Street and fight income inequality, a message that resonated in liberal Washington and other Western states. Sanders won in Utah and Idaho earlier this week.

"Don't let anybody tell you we can't win the nomination or the general election," Sanders told supporters in Wisconsin, which holds the next key contest on 5 April. "We are going to do both."

All three contests on Saturday were caucuses, a format that has favoured Sanders because it requires more commitment from voters. They also were in states with fewer of the black and Hispanic voters who have helped fuel Clinton's lead.

"He was just more aligned with my values. I am young and I never knew there could be someone like him in politics," said Samantha Burton of Seattle, who said Sanders was the first candidate who had

inspired her to make a donation.

Jocelyn Alt, a birthing assistant at a Seattle hospital, said she backed Clinton because she believed the times called for someone who could get things done.

"She knows how to make things happen," she said. "I think Hillary is more likely to win against a Republican."

After Wisconsin, the Democratic race moves to contests in New York on 19 April and a bloc of five states in the Northeast, led by Pennsylvania, on 26 April.

There were no contests on Saturday in the Republican race featuring Trump and rivals US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and Ohio Governor John Kasich.

On Saturday, the *New York Times* published a lengthy foreign policy-focused interview with Trump. The New York billionaire told the newspaper he might stop oil purchases from Saudi Arabia unless they provide troops to fight the Islamic State.

Trump also told the Times he was willing to rethink traditional US alliances should he become president.—*Reuters*

British EU exit campaign backed by 250 business leaders

LONDON — The campaign for Britain to leave the EU has been backed by 250 business leaders including the former chief executive of HSBC, the Vote Leave group said on Saturday, hoping to counter the view that UK businesses back staying in the bloc.

The camps arguing for and against Britain staying in the European Union ahead of a referendum on British membership on 23 June have both made the economic impact of a 'Brexit' a cornerstone of their campaigns.

Last month, the bosses at more than a third of Britain's biggest companies including major oil companies Shell and BP and its largest telecoms group BT said leaving the EU would put jobs and investment at risk.

On Saturday, Vote Leave, one of the groups supporting a British exit, unveiled its own list of backers including Michael Geoghegan, former Chief Executive of HSBC Group and Tim Martin, the boss of pubs group JD Wetherspoon.

"With our growing list of business supporters, Vote Leave will make that case that whilst the EU might be good for big multinationals, for smaller businesses it acts as a job destruction regulatory machine," Matthew Elliott, Chief Executive of Vote Leave, said.

However, the *Sunday Times* newspaper reported that two of the well-known names on the list, John Caudwell, founder of Phones4U, and David Ross, the co-founder of Carphone Warehouse, had not signed up.

4-day defence expo to begin in W India Monday

NEW DELHI — India will host a defence expo in the western state of Goa this week, where over 1,000 companies from 47 countries will be taking part.

Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar is to inaugurate the four-day Defexpo Monday, which will be held at a place called Naqueri-Betul in southern Goa, close to the coast. The state-owned Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will display state-of-the-art military systems

"You have to question how this list has been compiled," the paper quoted a spokesman for Caudwell as saying.

Vote Leave also said it was forming a Business Council to argue that EU membership was holding back business.

That group will be headed by John Longworth, who quit as director general of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) lobbying group after he spoke out in favour of leaving the EU, accusing Prime Minister David Cameron of trying to scare voters into backing his case to stay in the bloc.

Meanwhile, the *Times* newspaper reported that hedge funds were planning to use exit polls to make big profits on the day of the referendum.

Under electoral law, it is illegal to publish the results of such polls while people are still voting but a private poll could allow traders to exploit moves in the currency market, with sterling expected to rise sharply against the dollar on the back of an "In" vote but decline if Britons vote for an exit.

Sterling fell to multi-year lows this week on a perceived rise in the chances of an EU exit, and on companies and fund investors hedging against it, though the currency later steadied.

"There is a lot of interest around Brexit, particularly from the big US funds," one unnamed broker told the *Times*.

The odds of a Brexit narrowed on Tuesday as the Brussels bombings were seen boosting the 'Out' campaign.—*Reuters*

and technologies at the expo. Airborne early warning and control system, light combat aircraft Tejas, wheeled armoured platform, Akash air defence system and Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launchers will be on display, sources said.

"Defexpo India is clearly steering the path of steady growth and has been receiving overwhelming and unprecedented international response with each edition," the Indian Defence Ministry has said.—*Xinhua*

Beirut landmark bathed in Belgian colours in solidarity over attack



The Pigeon Rock in Beirut, Lebanon, is illuminated in the colours of the Belgian flag in a gesture of solidarity over the suicide attacks in Brussels, on 26 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIRUT — The Lebanese capital Beirut lit up one of its landmarks in the colours of the Belgian flag on Saturday in a gesture of solidarity over the suicide attacks in Brussels which killed 31 people.

The Mediterranean city endured a devastating 1975-1990 civil war and was hit by bombings last November which killed 44 people, attacks which were overshadowed by killings in Paris the next day which drew worldwide grief and condemna-

tion. On Saturday evening one of the Pigeon Rocks, striking natural rock arches by Beirut's sea shore, was bathed alternately in the colors of the Belgian and Lebanese flags.

"Today we send a mes-

sage of solidarity and affection...and we say to everyone, quite simply, that life must triumph over death," Beirut governor Ziyad Chebib said at a ceremony with Belgium's ambassador to Lebanon.—Reuters

Obama: US ramps up intelligence cooperation, to review ISIS fight at summit

WASHINGTON — The United States has ramped up intelligence cooperation and will review international efforts to combat Islamic State militants after the Brussels attacks during a nuclear summit with world leaders next week, President Barack Obama said.

In his weekly address broadcast on Saturday, Obama expressed condolences to the families of the Americans and others killed or hurt in the suicide bombings in Brussels on Tuesday.

"Yesterday, we learned that at least two Americans were killed. We pray for their families and loved ones," he said. "At least 14 Americans were injured. And we pray for their full recovery, along with everyone else affected by these attacks."

Obama returned on Friday from a trip to Latin America, where he took criticism for attending a baseball game in Cuba and for dancing the tango in Argentina in the aftermath of the attacks.

The president did not address that criticism in his address, but he emphasized that fighting Islamic State, also known as ISIL, was a top priority that had included greater US intelligence cooperation.

"We're also working to disrupt plots against the United States and against our friends and allies. A team of FBI agents is on the ground in Belgium supporting the investigation," he said.

"We've ramped up our intelligence cooperation so that we can root out ISIL's operations. And we constantly review our homeland security posture to remain vigilant against any efforts to target the United States."

Obama will meet with foreign leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping for a nuclear summit in Washington on Thursday and Friday. He said he would use that opportunity to review joint counter-terrorism efforts and ensure the world remained united on the topic.—Reuters

ပို့ဆောင်ရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ရေအရင်းအမြစ်နှင့်မြစ်ချောင်းများဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးဦးစီးဌာန
အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ခေါ် (Open Tender) များ ခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ ရေအရင်းအမြစ်နှင့် မြစ်ချောင်းများ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေး ဦးစီးဌာနမှ ၂၀၁၆-၂၀၁၇ ဘဏ္ဍာရေးနှစ်အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဝတ္တရားများကို မြန်မာ့ ကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုပါ၍ အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ခေါ်များပေးသွင်းရန် ဖိတ်ခေါ်အပ်ပါ သည်။

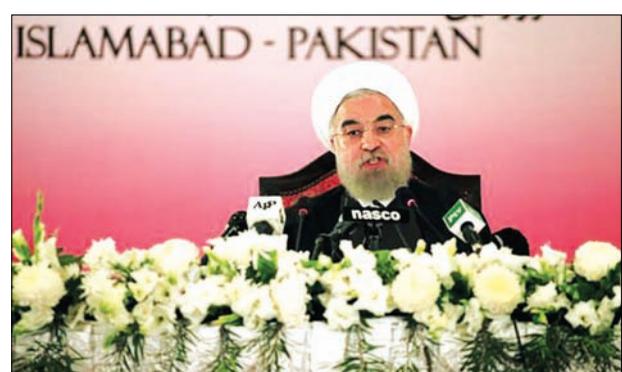
စဉ်	တင်ခေါ်အမှတ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား	အရေအတွက်
1.	1Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Discharge Hose (ø 500mm x L-2m)	5 Nos
		(ø 450mm x L-2m)	5 Nos
		(ø 350mm x L-2m)	5 Nos
2.	2Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Mild Steel Plate (8' x 4' x 4.5mm, 6mm)	1 Lot
3.	3Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Paint (UPG Brand)	1 Lot
4.	4Q/DWIR (2016-17)	(GPS) Map Sounder	1 Sets
5.	5Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Total Station (China)	2 Sets
6.	6Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Level	2 Sets
7.	7Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Desktop Computer Processor-Intel Core i7,	2 Sets
8.	8Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Fax (Fax & Tel)	2 Nos
9.	9Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Color Printer (A4)	2 Nos
10.	10Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Copier Mono Printer	2 Nos
11.	11Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Officer Tables (4'x6'x3")	15 Nos
12.	12Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Armed Chair (Steel) with Sofa	20 Nos
13.	13Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Steel Cabinet (6'x3")	5 Nos
14.	14Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Safe Box	4 Nos
15.	15Q/DWIR (2016-17)	Tyre	1 Lot
16.	16 Q/DWIR(2016-17)	Battery	1 Lot
17.	17 Q/DWIR(2016-17)	Computer, Copier Accessories	1 Lot
18.	18 Q/DWIR(2016-17)	Stationary	1 Lot

၂။ တင်ခေါ်ပိတ်ရက်နှင့်အချိန် (၂၀၁၆ ခုနှစ်) မတ် (ကြာသပတေးနေ့) မွန်းတည့် (၁၂:၀၀) နာရီ

၃။ တင်ခေါ်ပိတ်ရက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ဌာနတွင် (၂၉.၃.၂၀၁၆) ရက်မှစ၍ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ကြောင်းနှင့် အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက်များကို သိရှိ လိုပါက ၎င်းဌာနသို့ ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်း စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

စုံစမ်းရန်အတွက် (ပစ္စည်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဦးစီးဌာန) ရေအရင်းအမြစ်နှင့်မြစ်ချောင်းများဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးဦးစီးဌာန အောက်ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တော်လမ်း(သီတာဆိပ်အနီး)၊ ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်တော်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း ၀၁-၂၉၁၇၃၃

Iran's Rouhani says can provide Pakistan gas through pipeline within months



Iran's President Hassan Rouhani speaks during a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 26 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ISLAMABAD — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that Iran had completed work on its side of a much-delayed pipeline pumping natural gas to Pakistan and would be in a position to provide gas to its energy-starved neighbour in a few months.

Rouhani spoke at a news conference while in Pakistan for two days of talks focused on increasing Pakistan's electricity imports from Iran, boosting trade relations and reviving plans for a pipeline be-

tween the two countries. "Iran has constructed this gas pipeline up to the border of Pakistan and we are ready to deliver the gas to Pakistan at our borders. We have almost completed our share," Rouhani said. "It is now up to Pakistan to initiate work on its side."

Dubbed the "peace pipeline", the \$7 billion gas project has faced repeated delays since it was conceived in the 1990s to connect Iran's giant South Pars gas field to India via Paki-

India quit the project in 2009, citing costs and security issues, a year after it signed a nuclear deal with Washington.

The United States had opposed Pakistani and Indian involvement, saying the project could violate sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear activities.

Most of the sanctions were lifted in January in return for Iran complying with a deal to curb its nuclear ambitions.

At Saturday's news conference, the Iranian president said Iran was also interested in connectivity between Pakistan's southern port of Gawadar and the Chabahar port in south-east Iran through roads and shipping lines.

He said Iran was already selling 1,000 MW of electricity to Pakistan and would increase this up to 3,000 MW. Speaking at a business conference with Rouhani earlier in the day, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan and Iran had signed an

agreement to increase annual trade volumes between the two countries to \$5 billion by 2021.

On Friday, the Pakistani premier said Pakistan would open two new crossing points on its border with Iran, helping to encourage trade hampered by years of Western sanctions against Tehran.

Trade between Pakistan and Iran fell to \$432 million in 2010-11 from \$1.32 billion in 2008-09, according to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.

Energy-starved Pakistan suffers about 12 hours of power cuts per day and is keen to import Iranian oil, gas, iron and steel.

Iran is interested in Pakistani textiles, surgical goods, sports goods and agricultural products.

Pakistan also plans to set up industrial sites in the impoverished border area, especially for petrochemicals storage, and link the infrastructure to a \$46 billion.—Reuters

David Beckham stitches dress for daughter's doll

LOS ANGELES — David Beckham's wife Victoria has posted an adorable picture of the retired football star sitting on the floor while hand sewing a mini dress for his four-year-old daughter Harper's doll.

The designer shared the picture on Instagram, writing, "Harper has daddy stitching her dollies dresses!!! We love you @davidbeckham."

The Spice Girls alum wrote, added, "#lovingdaddy #proudmummy #familyfun."

David is wearing grey sweatpants and a t-shirt, is seen doing needle work with a tutorial paper on his lap.

Harper is David and Victoria's youngest child. The longtime couple also has three teenage sons, Brooklyn, Romeo and Cruz.—PTI



David Beckham. PHOTO: REUTERS

Adele plans five-year break?

LONDON — Oscar-winning singer Adele is reportedly planning another hiatus once her tour wraps up in November as she wants to spend time with her three-year-old son Angelo.

The "Hello" hitmaker has only just return from a three-year hiatus but is keen to step away from the limelight yet again, reported Femalefirst.

"She has told her closest pals she will step away from the limelight for five years before she next brings out an album. She's still very new to motherhood and doesn't want to miss out on Angelo growing up. It will be a hard thing for fans to hear," a source said. However, the 27-year-old singer had recently teased fans about the possibility of a new release by the end of the year.

Speaking to her fans during her first gig at Belfast's SSE Arena in Northern Ireland earlier this month, she said: "There may be a new song towards the end of the shows."—PTI

Adele steals UK number one from James

LONDON — Singer Adele has robbed veteran pop act James of their first number one UK album



Singer Adele. PHOTO: REUTERS

in 18 years.

The 27-year-old "Hello" singer's album 25 has edged out the band's new release Girl At The End Of The World to score a 12th non-consecutive week at number one, reported Contact-music.

Tim Booth's band was leading sales at the beginning of the week, but Adele pipped the group to the post.

James' album debuts at two and Justin Bieber's Purpose dropped to three in the new chart.

Jess Glynne's I Cry When I Laugh and Iggy Pop's 17th studio album Post Pop Depression rounded out the top five.

Meanwhile, Mike Posner's "I Took A Pill In Ibiza" has landed a second week at the top of the UK singles countdown.

Posner beat Sigala's collaboration with Imani and DJ Fresh, "Say You Do", to the top spot by just hundreds of copies, while Lukas Graham's former number one, "7 Years", rounded out the new top three.—PTI

Japan's AKB48 all-girl pop group to have Thai, Filipino sisters

TOKYO — The ever-expanding Japanese all-girl pop group AKB48 will branch out to two more Southeast Asian countries — Thailand and the Philippines, its management agency said Saturday.

BNK48, to be based in Bangkok, and MNL48, in Manila, will join the AKB48 family as the newest "sister groups," while Taiwan's TPE48 will finally take shape after its formation was announced in 2011, Tokyo's AKS

Co. said. AKB48, which marked its 10th anniversary last December, already has active sister units in Jakarta, Indonesia, and in Shanghai, China, in addition to those in four Japanese cities outside of Tokyo.—Kyodo News

Nick Jonas hints new album about Olivia Caulpo breakup

LONDON — Singer Nick Jonas has his upcoming album, "Last Year Was Complicated", will feature a number of tracks about his split from Olivia Caulpo.

The 23-year-old "Levels" hitmaker has confirmed he will be releasing his latest work in June, reported Female First.

"I've been making this record for a year and a half ... Pouring everything I have into it. When I first started making I thought I knew what it would be

about... Then I had a breakup. It then became very clear what this thing would be about and that I would need to dig really deep," he wrote on Twitter. "Reliving some of these real life experiences through this music is hard. But I know it's important that I do it. I want to be an open book in my art. The first song you're gonna hear tomorrow night is about how I literally can't open up and be vulnerable with someone. (sic)," he added.—PTI



PHOTO: PTI

James Colby joins Mark Wahlberg's 'Patriots Day'

LOS ANGELES — Actor James Colby has joined Mark Wahlberg in "Patriots Day", an upcoming drama on the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

Peter Berg will direct the pic-

ture that also stars JK Simmons and John Goodman, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

In the film, Colby, 54, will play Billy Evans, who was a superintendent in the Boston Police

Department during the investigation and subsequent manhunt surrounding the homegrown terrorist attack. Colby's credits include "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" and the comedy "Tower Heist".—PTI

Portuguese filmmaker re-creating Lisbon in 3D images

LISBON — Amid the cobbled hills of Alfama in the Portuguese capital, visitors can now see the city in 3D, through the oneiric vision of Portuguese filmmaker Edgar Pera.

Pera's "Lisbon Revisited" series, consisting of around 40 images, at first is seen in 2D but is soon transformed in 3D when using anaglyph glasses, offered by the Casa de Liberdade — Mario Cesariny where the exhibition is taking place.

The spectator is forced through a sensory journey to question his or her relationship with the city, from the viewpoint of a transhuman or alien.

"It (the film) started through a magic conjunction of a metaphysical reflection, with voices which occupy a garden," Pera tells Xinhua.

"My objective is always to create a form of art that is organic, a way of life, in the format of film or photography," Pera said. "Sometimes that is done by partitioning part of reality and demonstrating that even though we pass by gardens, or statues every day we are not aware of them, we don't give them enough importance."

Each photograph is accompanied by phrases like "To think is to be sick in the eyes" from poet Fernando Pessoa. The title, Lisbon Revisited, is also taken

from a poem of one of Pessoa's alter egos, published in 1923.

The exhibition arose from a feature film Edgar Pera made with the same title, which was launched at the Locarno International Film Festival in Switzerland in 2014.

"I'm from Lisbon and grew up in Moscavide and Olivais, so have a very close relationship with the city. I don't like to drive, I walk everywhere and I like to stop in Lisbon's gardens," Pera explains.

Pera started shooting his daily life in 3D in 2011, but has been filming his everyday life since 1985, when he purchased his first HDV video camera.

"I had the compulsion to film and register everything," Pera, who is known as Portugal's Man with a Movie Camera, (inspired by Dziga Vertov) admits.

Pera's first feature film was Manual of Evasion LX94, which features interviews with Terence Mckenna, Robert Anton Wilson and Rudy Rucker.

Pera won the Pasolini Award, together with Alejandro Jodorowsky and Fernando Arrabal, in Paris in 2006.

His film Virados do Avesso made its debut in 2014 and was his first movie to have more than 100,000 spectators.—Xinhua

Over 4 million Chinese students study abroad since 1978

BEIJING — A report published on Friday said as of the end of 2015, 4.04 million Chinese students had studied or were studying overseas since the country opened to the world in 1978.

Published by the Ministry of Education (MoE), the report, which is about employment of students who have returned home, said a total of 2.22 million students had come back.

In 2015, over 520,000 Chinese students went abroad for study, and 409,100 came back.

Most of the returnees, about 75 per cent of interviewees, were willing to work in eastern coastal cities, and 49 per cent were willing to stay in China's biggest cities: Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai

and Shenzhen.

Only 3.32 per cent of interviewees hope to start their own businesses, and career development space is the most important factor for them in choosing jobs, followed by location and salary.

Students majoring in management, science and economics are in greatest demand after they come back to China, followed by those who majored in engineering, arts and laws.

Qi Mo, an MoE official said 97 per cent of students were studying abroad at their own expenses.

The report will help students and their parents to make better plans and choose the right majors.—Xinhua

Contemporary Art Expo kicks off in Hong Kong



HONG KONG — Visitors watch a creation displayed at the Contemporary Art Expo in Hong Kong, south China, on 26 March 2016. More than 100 galleries from 21 countries and regions attended the Expo. PHOTO: XINHUA

China's central and eastern regions to enjoy sunny weather

BEIJING — China's central and eastern regions will enjoy sunny weather over the coming three days, the country's meteorological authority said on Saturday.

Smog is expected in north and northeastern parts, the National Meteorological Centre

(NMC) said in a statement on its website, but will not last long as a cold front is expected to arrive on Monday night.

The NMC also forecast dusty weather for northwest China from Saturday through Monday with sandstorms in Southern

Xinjiang. Average temperatures will be slightly higher than usual over the next 10 days.

Beijing, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning should be alert for forest fires as the weather turns warm.—Xinhua

NW China cargo train connects with Kazakhstan

XI'AN — A cargo train arrived at northwest China's Xi'an city on Saturday, carrying 2,000 tonnes of organic cooking oil imported from Kazakhstan.

The Chang'an Train, loaded with 1,000 tonnes of sunflower seed oil and 1,000 tonnes of rapeseed oil, set off from Al-

maty of Kazakhstan on Monday. The journey is the first regular cargo service between Kazakhstan and China.

The train started to run between Xi'an and Almaty at the end of 2013, carrying cargo from China to central Asia, but previously was empty or carried

few goods on its return. It usually takes six days to complete the 3,860-km journey.

So far, the train has transported a total of more than 280,000 tonnes of goods to central Asia with a gross export value of about 290 million US dollars.—Xinhua



28-3-2016 (Monday)

<p>6:00 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw <p>7:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People's Talks <p>8:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society) <p>9:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary (ASEAN) <p>10:35 am</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Entertainment News <p>12:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Drama Series <p>1:20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tasty Trip <p>2:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gitadagale Phwintbaohn <p>3:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV Job Oppourtunity Programme 	<p>4:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Distance Education (TV Lecutures) - Second Year (Philosophy) <p>5:15 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary <p>5:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio Economic Scenes <p>6:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes or No Talk Show <p>7:15 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Drama Series <p>8:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News/ Weather Report <p>8:35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary <p>9:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News • TV Drama Series • "6th ASEAN Quiz" (Part-1)
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Note / Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)



(28-3-2016 07:00am ~ 29-3-2016 7:00am) MST

<p>Today Fresh</p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:27 Am Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations - The Making Procedure of Goldsmith</p> <p>07:43 Am Welcome to the Southern most part of Myanmar</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township</p> <p>08:51 Am A Traditional Doctor</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am A Tour In South Korea (Part- IV)</p> <p>09:38 Am A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1)</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p>	<p>10:26 Am Home Grown Treasure (Part-1)</p> <p>10:47 Am Home Grown Treasure (Part-2)</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday 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>Prime Time</p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:27 Pm Food Trip (Ep-5) (Part-1)</p> <p>07:48 Pm Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Taste Of Myanmar (Papaya Salad)</p> <p>08:44 Pm Now in Yangon</p> <p>08:50 Pm Director: Kyi Phyu Shin</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday 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 style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>
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(28-3-2016, Monday)

<p>6:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • Music Programme <p>6:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>6:50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>7:10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>7:50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series 	<p>8:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartoon Programme "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE" (Part-20) <p>9:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>9:20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Movie Songs <p>9:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video <p>Midnight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Down.
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From 28-3-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm
To 29-3-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm
This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

Dizzy Nadal retires in Florida heat, Murray moves on

MIAMI — Spaniard Rafa Nadal retired from his second-round match at the Miami Open on Saturday due to a bout of dizziness, while Andy Murray advanced despite blowing hit top at an umpire after finding a women's ball among those he was using.

Sporadic boos broke out when 14-times grand slam champion Nadal decided he could not continue in the third set after feeling ill in typically humid conditions in south Florida.

Nadal trailed 94th-ranked Damir Dzumhur 2-6, 6-4, 3-0, with the Bosnian 30-15 up on serve, when he called it a day. It was the first time Nadal had quit during a match since a quarter-final against Murray at the 2010 Australian Open.

"Everything was fine until the end of the first set," Nadal said. "Then I started to feel dizzy, not very good. It was getting worse and worse."

"I wanted to finish the match, but I seriously could not. It was tough, because I felt I was playing well. I stopped because I was concerned for my health."

Nadal twice called for a trainer, and had his blood pres-

sure checked on the second occasion, but resumed play both times after a short break.

Dzumhur was also affected by the heat early in the match and was the first to call a trainer, but he battled on and after a poor first set eventually gained control to post his first career victory against a world top-10 player.

In the night session, Briton Murray had a heated exchange with the chair umpire en route to a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Uzbek Denis Istomin.

Murray faced break point at 2-2 in the second set when he noticed that a women's ball had somehow got into the mix. Women use different balls at the Miami Open, and they have a red stamping to differentiate them.

"That's unbelievable. That's one of the women's balls. I could have just hit a shot with it," Murray complained.

Though the rogue ball was removed from play, Murray was clearly flustered and netted a



Andy Murray. PHOTO: REUTERS

groundstroke in the next rally to lose the game. Murray then gave the umpire another earful.

"It's not right. Do you know how different the balls are?" he asked.

The umpire said he was fully aware but could do nothing about what had transpired.

"The point stands. It's the same for both," he said.

Murray then settled down, immediately broke back and closed out the match without further incident. Number four

Stan Wawrinka was the highest seed to lose on Saturday after the Swiss was sent packing 6-4, 6-3 by Russian Andrey Kuznetsov, who saved eight break points. Sixth seed Kei Nishikori of Japan moved on after beating Pierre-Hugues Herbert 6-2, 7-6(4).—Reuters

England come from two down to beat Germany in friendly



Eric Dier celebrates after scoring the third goal for England during International Friendly at Olympiastadion, Berlin, Germany on 26 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Substitute Jamie Vardy scored with a stunning flick, his first international goal, and Eric Dier headed a last-gasp winner as England hit back from two goals down to beat old rivals Germany 3-2 in a friendly on Saturday.

Germany appeared to be heading for a routine win when they led 2-0 through Toni Kroos and Mario Gomez, his first goal since Euro 2012, after an hour.

But Harry Kane changed the course of the game with an opportunist goal before Vardy produced a moment of brilliance just three minutes after coming on as a substitute.

Nathaniel Clyne crossed from the right and the Leicester City striker stuck his foot out behind his standing leg to flick the ball between Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and his near post.

Then Dier rose above the Germany defence to score with a thumping downward header from Jordan Henderson's corner in the 91st minute.

It was the first time England had come back from two goals

down to win since they beat Italy 3-2 in 1976 and the only time in history that Germany or the former West Germany had lost after blowing a two-goal lead at home.

Even though it was a friendly, it was still a memorable and deserved win for England's inexperienced lineup, who were the more inventive team throughout.

"England deserved to win, even when we were 2-0 we had allowed England a lot of chances," Germany coach Joachim Loew told ZDF television. "It has been a good lesson for our team."

"At halftime I thought it was very unjust that we came in at 1-0 down," England manager Roy Hodgson told ITV. "At 2-0 down I thought it was even more unfair..."

"We were creating the better chances and to come back and score three goals was fantastic. The players must take great credit."

England, refusing to be overawed, created several good openings in the first half without

seriously testing Neuer.

But Germany went ahead in the 43rd minute when England goalkeeper Jack Butland sent a clearance straight to Mesut Ozil on the halfway line and he worked the ball to Kroos who scored with a swerving 25-metre shot.

Butland, injured making the clearance, was replaced by Fraser Forster, who was left powerless when Gomez got in front of Clyne to head Germany's second in the 57th minute.

Kane began the fightback when he picked up a loose ball in the penalty area, turned past two defenders and scored with a shot into the far corner in the 61st minute.

Dele Alli had a shot blocked by Neuer's foot, Vardy equalised and England should have won it in the 85th minute but 19-year-old Alli fired over from 12 metres with the goal at his mercy.

But Dier's last-gasp goal made sure it did not matter to leave both team benches and the Olympiastadion crowd in a state of disbelief.—Reuters