

Prosecution will  
face revelers  
visiting southern  
Myanmar island

PAGE 3



Peacocks,  
flamingos on  
verge of extinction:  
Researchers

PAGE 2



Harm principle  
and law  
making

PAGE 8

## Govt plans to boost exports threefold in five years

THE government is planning to triple export volumes during its tenure, Commerce Union Minister Dr Than Myint said yesterday in a meeting with local exporters in Yangon, describing the export sector as critical to the country's economic growth.

"Our country must strive for a threefold increase in its exports in five years, while Viet Nam saw its export volumes increase fourfold in eight years," Dr Than Myint said.

Currently, the country is engaged in trade mainly with its neighbours, the union minister added, stressing the need to create new links with the Asian, European and American markets.

At the meeting, business people briefed the minister on challenges such as high land rents, high transportation costs and delays, calling for government measures to get rid of black markets.

Dr Than Myint pledged that his ministry would cooperate with relevant organisations in an effort to shut down illegal trade as a national concern.

The government will give capital and technology to private small and medium businesses in an effort to boost exports by three times the current rate, he said.

"There isn't much mutual co-operation among local businesses," said U Aye Lwin, joint general sec-



An ocean liner carrying containers is seen in the Yangon River. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

retary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

Myanmar earned US\$5 billion

from exports in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products and fish products through border trade and im-

port consumer goods, electronics and machinery.

Myanmar exported over 1.4 million tons of rice to neighboring

countries, mostly to China. The total of border trade value in the fiscal year 2015-2016 reached \$7.04 billion.—*Ko Moe*



Farmers in Inle Lake have been urged to reduce chemicals in growing crops on their floating island.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

## First chemical residue testing lab to be built in Myanmar

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and Ministry of Commerce are currently working together on the drawing up of a plan for construction of a laboratory which can detect chemical residue and pesticide diseases present in rice and fruits, according to the MRF.

Implementation of the aforementioned laboratory will be conducted on the grounds of the Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) donated Department of Post Harvest Technology Application in Hlegu township.

"A submission has been made to the Ministry of Commerce for the upgrading of an existing laboratory to one of an international standard. Not everything can be tested at our

current laboratories, having to be sent abroad for testing which costs time as well as money," said Dr Soe Htun, vice chair of the MRF.

Existing Myanmar laboratories are unable to inspect neither chemical residues nor pesticide diseases, with rice and fruits having to be sent to neighbouring Thailand for testing. "The laboratory will be constructed with a partner company to help alleviate incurred expenses," added Dr Soe Htun. The construction of an international standard laboratory will cost \$2 million, while required laboratory equipment will be purchased through a tender system. Construction expenses will be incurred by the MRF, it is known.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



## Preventive measures in full swing to battle El Niño-triggered water scarcity

The onset of El Niño in summer is likely to set off unusual intense heat across the country and water scarcity in rural areas, the Department of Rural Development quoted meteorologists as predicting.

The department has been engaged in preventive measures to battle rural water shortages since last December by conducting field surveys to collect data concerning vulnerability to water scarcity in rural areas. According to collected data, 1,761 villages in 176 townships all over the country are prone to face water shortages.

Local rural development departments, in collaboration with

civil society organizations and UN agencies, have distributed potable water to needy areas, in addition to the provision and construction of water storage facilities.

The government is reported to spend over K2.6 billion (over US\$2 million) on supplies of water and construction of water facilities in water scarcity-prone areas from May to July. The department has earmarked over K24 billion (over US\$20 million) for spending on rural water availability in more than 2,000 villages in 2016-2017 fiscal year.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Police refute Bangalis news report

THE Myanmar Police Force refuted yesterday the news report about Bangladesh's border guard deporting at least 340 Muslim Myanmar nationals.

The announcement of the MPF came one day after the news report spread online.

The news report said the Bangalis were returned to

Myanmar with no obstruction from the border guard force of Myanmar.

Meanwhile, social media responded to the news report, denouncing the news for being released without scrutinizing the possible consequences of disrupting the stability of the country during the early days of the new government.—*MNA*

## Coconut plantations sell for K400 million per acre in Rakhine State

COASTAL coconut plantation owners are enjoying a period of good business in the Rakhine State township of Gwa as sales of plantations are going for approximately K400 million per acre, according to local real estate agents.

Sales of coconut plantations stagnated in 2015, but the start of the New Year saw business pick up, local real estate agents reported.

"Business is better this year. We experienced a bit of a decline in the market last year. These days, though, people are frequently turning up to purchase

plantation land. So far, there have only been sale transactions on these plots of land – we're not exactly sure how the buyers will utilise their new property," said Ko Kyaw Myo, a local real estate agent.

Most of the buyers come from companies involved in the hotel sector, though no construction has yet begun on any former plantation land.

"Those that came to purchase our coconut plantations said they intended to build hotels on the land. But no construction has taken place yet. There are

also buyers who will resell [the land], should it become profitable," said U Luu Maung, a Gwa Township resident.

Coconut plantations located within Kanthaya and Kwel Gyine villages, approximately 15-25 miles outside the centre of Gwa, sell for approximately K400 million per acre because of their proximity to scenic coastlines, whereas coconut plantations in other, less scenic locations are valued at just K200 million per acre, according to local residents.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



A scenic beauty of coconut plantations. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY



A rare peacock species seen. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

## Peacocks, flamingos on verge of extinction: researchers

RESEARCHERS have called for protection of peacocks and flamingos in the country, raising their concerns that these species were on the verge of extinction resulting from being poached, researcher U Zay Maung Thein said yesterday at a seminar on competitive study of

bird species found in India and Myanmar.

"Peacocks and flamingos are poached for meat or sale. People buy and free them as meritorious deeds on special occasions. A peacock fetches around K700,000 (US\$600)," he said.

In Myanmar, a few peacocks

are kept in the Botanical Gardens Of Pyin Oo Lwin and the Hlawga Wildlife Park on the outskirts of Yangon.

Flamingos are found mostly in Yelwe village of Maubin, the Inlay Lake, the Indawgyi Lake and the Paleik Lake.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

## Mol and DKK Foundation agree to open more community libraries

The Ministry of Information has entered into an agreement with Daw Khin Kyi Foundation to continue to build more community libraries in remaining regions and states across the country. The ministry and the philanthropic organisation signed a memorandum of understanding at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with the aim of enhancing cooperation in opening more libraries.

Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, in cooperation with the Ministry of Information, upgraded the In-

formation and Public Relations Department's library to a community library in Kawhmu township, Yangon Region, in July 2013. The library now provides mobile library services in nearby villages. The organisation is also setting up community libraries in Nay Pyi Taw, Kalaw, Natmuk and Myaungmya townships, as part of an effort to spread knowledge and information to the people. The two bodies will work together in three phases to establish more community libraries across the country.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Operation delay to cause 100 million baht losses to Millcon Steel Plc

SET-listed Millcon Steel Plc, a joint venture steel plant in Myanmar with Thai and Myanmar partners, expects to suffer 100 million baht in losses from a delay in commercial operations at its plant in Myanmar, the Bangkok Post reported on 22 April.

Sittichai Lessawadtrakul, president and chief executive, said the plant, which has a capacity production of steel 850,000 tonnes a year, is ready to go operation but still needs a licence from the Myanmar government.

In the report, he said the licence should have been granted in March. For unknown reasons, however, the Myanmar government has put off the date until

May, asking for more paperwork.

The delay raised concerns that the company may fail to start producing steel and deliver it to its clients on time.

Millcon first started investing in the plant last year and has poured 400 million into the factory.

The tell plant located on the Thilawa Industrial Zone.

Mr Sittichai said the company expects steel consumption demand in Myanmar to grow substantially every year in line with the economy.

Currently, the steel consumption in Myanmar averages two to three million tonnes a year.—*GNLM*



# Minister calls for healthy competition between government and private sector

The time has come for the government and the private sector to find markets for their products and remain competitive with each other, Industry Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho told departmental officials and rubber

growers in Kyaikhto, Mon State, on 22 April.

After a briefing on the production and distribution of rubber, the union minister urged the rubber farmers to husband their resources and make ef-

forts to meet production targets, stressing the importance of using technology to ensure high productivity.

Speaking of market competition, U Khin Maung Cho called for high quality prod-

ucts, saying that end-users will make product evaluation. He also urged farmers to grasp the technical and technological assistance being offered to them by the international community. —*Myanmar News Agency*

# Prosecution will face revelers visiting southern Myanmar island

TOURISM enterprises running transportation services to southern Myanmar's Bote island, located in Launglon township of Dawei district and well known for its beautiful coral reefs, will be prosecuted in accordance with the hotel and tourism law, according to the Dawei district Department of Hotels and Tourism.

A Ministry of Home Affairs (MOA) document dated 7 September 1999 reveals the famous Bote island of Launglon township was officially ceded to the Mawyawaddy Navy Base, effectively prohibiting travel to the island by non-naval personnel.

"People weren't allowed to travel to Bote island in the past. But, will the financial prosperity gained by the region from travel enterprises, some have been allowed. That's all been shut down now though," said U Naing Win, head of the Dawei district Department of Hotels and Tourism.

The Tanintharyi regional government reiterated on 22 March 2015 that travel to Bote island was forbidden, as it constituted military owned land, after the Dawei district Department of Hotels and Tourism made a submission the previous January as to whether private travel was permitted to the island or not. As such, the aforementioned department issued an official statement on 4 April 2016 announcing travel to the island was forbidden,



The invaders seen reveling. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

with legal action in accordance to the hotels and tourism law, which warrants a maximum prison sentence of three years and a fine of K50,000, to be taken against anyone found to be in infringement of the law. U Naing Win also denounced news, which spread on social media, of officials from the department accepting money to turn a blind eye on instances of some local residents using their own boats to break off coral from the island's water and sell during

the Thingyan festival.

"We heard news of some fishermen, not vested with a great deal of intellect, from breaking off coral and selling it. They don't realize the implications of their actions to the environment. Environmental awareness education initiatives need to be carried out on these kinds of people," said an individual from the Sky Light tourism enterprise.

This year has seen the Dawei tourism industry become more

developed as a result of Bote island, but those official involved in the industry say that legal action should be taken against unlicensed tourism operators which offer transportation to the island.

An offshore natural gas pipeline passes by Bote island approximately 25 miles away from the island, while an average of a thousand tourists visited the island everyday during the Thingyan holiday period. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Dala to receive water purification facility worth K100 million

PLANS are being laid for tenders to be called for the construction of a K100 million water purification facility in Yangon's underdeveloped southern township of Dala, according to the Water and Sanitation Department of the Yangon City Development Committee (Southern District).

"Only now, with the allocation of a budget, are tenders being called for the construction [of the water purification facility]. A budget has been given after being finalised. I'm privy to information that the regional government has permitted the project," said department head U Myint Thang. The annual drying up of local reservoirs, together with the prevalence of salt water in the township's wells, has forced the residents of Dala to confront drinking water shortages every year.

"Water trucks are immediately dispatched to those villages in Dala Township that require drinking water as soon as we are informed of their water needs. We're not allowed to utilise a budget prior to its allocation, in accordance with budget legislation, but implementation will begin as soon the budget has been issued," explained U Htway Tin, a representative for Dala Township in the Yangon Region Hluttaw.

A daily drinking water supply between 700,000 and 800,000 gallons is required to service Dala Township. The construction of a water purification facility in the township will be able to entirely fulfil these needs, according to the YCDC Department of Water and Sanitation. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

# Wild weather wreaks havoc in Shan state

GALE-force wind toppled around 1,700 ancient pagodas, destroyed several houses and cut power in an area in southern Shan State on Friday night.

Two-thirds of a cluster of 2478 ancient pagodas which were built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, were destroyed by gale-force winds hit the Shan State tourists attraction places at 8 pm and 10 pm. There was no loss of life in the incident.

Local authorities and the board of trustees of the ancient

cultural heritage site held a meeting yesterday and decided to close the area temporarily while they are clearing the area.

Meanwhile, another gale-force wind, accompanied by a squall and a hailstorm, blew roofs off homes and toppled lamp posts in Ywangan Township in southern Shan State on Friday night.

A 35-year old man died when a lamp post fell on him while two others sustained injuries.

A hailstorm, accompanied by

a gale-force wind caused havoc in villages in Sagain Township on Friday night, damaging several houses and killing several draught cattle and other farm animals.

In Yezagyo Township alone, roofs of 303 houses were damaged and 20 houses were completely destroyed by a hailstorm on Friday night while two monasteries and one school building were also destroyed.

A 30-year old woman died when her hut was crushed by a fall-

ing tree as a result of the gale-force winds in Monywa on Thursday.

A well-known meteorologist has warned that there is a risk of gale-force winds, accompanied by squalls and hailstorms occurring over next three days.

U Tun Lwin, the former director-general of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, said a huge cumulus rain system, caused by El-Nino, has formed over Myanmar.

Several areas in upper My-

anmar experienced strong winds, hailstorms, thunder storms and lightning strikes on Thursday evening.

The weather expert has warned that atmospheric instability can trigger rain clouds in the late afternoon in most parts of the country from 21 to 24 April, according to a weather expert.

Massive hailstones fell in Mandalay and Sagaing regions on Thursday, reaching a record high in 50 years. —*GNLM*



# Police to educate public on human trafficking



An education talk on human trafficking in progress. PHOTO: YE ZARNI

ANTI-TRAFFICKING in person Police Force under the Myanmar Police force are aiming to reduce human trafficking in Myanmar by taking preventative measures in the form of a public awareness campaign.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force organised an educational talk on the prevention of Human Trafficking at the St. Joseph's Church in

Dukahtaung Ward, Myintkyina Town, Kachin State on 19 April, and at the Shwe Eik Ward on 20 April. Issues raised in the talks ranged from how to recognise the signs that someone might be a victim of human trafficking and the ever changing and adaptive ways and means of human trafficking.

An official from the Anti-Human Trafficking Police

Force explained the differences between human trafficking and human smuggling, methods of recruitment by human traffickers, the history of human trafficking, the process of human trafficking, human trafficking laws and punishments for those involved.

The police force gave out the education pamphlets to the attendees. —Ye Zarni

# Head on collision injures nine



The damaged taxi being seen. PHOTO: MYO MIN THEIN (MYANGON)

A small truck collided head on with a taxi on Thamaing station road, Mayangon township, Yangon region on 22 April, injuring nine passengers.

The vehicle heading for Thamaing from Bayintnaung driven

by Ko Saw Tun, 41, crashed into the taxi causing seven passengers on board and one from the taxi to be thrown from their vehicles while the driver of the truck was pinned inside. The driver of the taxi fled the scene before police

arrived. All injured are undergoing medical treatment at Insein General Hospital.

Police are conducting investigations to determine the cause of accident. — Myo Min Thein (Mayangon)

## Crime NEWS

# Fire destroys a house in Thamanya village

A fire destroyed a house in Ngwe Taung ward, Thamanya village, Hpa-An township, Kayah state on 21 April. According to the investigation, the fire started around 11:45am when U Maung Kyaw, 56, left the house without putting out a cooking fire. Fifteen firemen with four fire engines and the help of local residents brought the fire under

control. No one was injured in the accident. A combined team comprising officers and staff from Relief and Resettlement Department provided a rice bag, five small bottles of oil, eight cans of fish, five bags of noodles, other items and K one lakh to the family who lost their home. — Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)

# Fridge safe-guard fails causing fire

AN overheated refrigerator caused a fire on 21 Street, Shwe Min Ywon ward, Sagaing Town on 22 April.

The accident happened in the early morning at the house of U Sein Wan when the

fridge's overheat safe guard short-circuited. The fire was put out by the firemen with the help of neighbors.

The police have taken action against the home owner. — Thura Aung

# Illegal logs and sawn timber seized in Sagaing

AUTHORITIES seized 1.764 tonnes of timber logs and 6.3390 tonnes of sawn timber in the forest, near Kyauk Oo village, Pinlebu township, Sagaing region on 18 April.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from the township Forestry Depart-

ment discovered 357 sawn timber planks and six logs believed to have been logged illegally, a six-wheel vehicle, a 32 HP engine and a round saw from timber business owners Pho Pwe, 35, Kyaw Lwin, 42, and Aung Myint Tun, 25. Police from Pinlebu have filed charges against them. — The mirror

# Tree falls on hut killing woman in Monywa

A woman was killed when strong winds caused a tree to fall on a hut in a construction compound on Kannar road, O Botaung ward, Monywa town, Sagaing region on 21 April. According to the investigation, the victim and her husband were in their hut

when strong winds caused a large tree to fall, crushing their home.

The police identified the victim was Ma Yin Yin Win, 30, while her husband sustained minor injuries. The police are still investigating the case. — Myanmar Police force

# Young man charged with stealing motorbike

POLICE have arrested a young man trying to sell a motorbike which had Ks 170,000 stowed inside it on 60th Street, Chanmyathasi township, Mandalay region on 20 April.

When interrogated, Htet Thu San alias Win Htay Kyaw, 18, failed to prove that the bike belonged to him. The police have filed a lawsuit against him. — The mirror





Rescue workers and Japan Ground Self-Defence Force soldiers conduct search and rescue operations at site where collapsed houses by a landslide caused by an earthquake in Minamiaso town, Kumamoto prefecture, Japan, on 20 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Japan may draw up disaster relief spending by 1 June

TOKYO — Japan is considering compiling a supplementary budget in the parliament session to 1 June to fund reconstruction in its quake-hit south, senior ruling party officials said on Saturday.

Typically, the government takes up a supplementary budget at an extraordinary session later in the year

but the earthquakes a week ago, which killed about 50 people, prompted quick action on a separate budget, they said.

The officials, from the Liberal Democratic Party and the Komeito Party, which form the ruling coalition, asked not to be identified because they are not authorised to speak to the

media. The disaster-related spending will be on top of a fiscal stimulus plan of up to 10 trillion yen (\$89.46 billion) in extra spending that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to announce around the time he hosts a Group of Seven summit in late May. The government has already set aside 2.3 billion yen from a 350 billion

yen reserve fund for the 2016/17 April-March fiscal year for the disaster-hit region. In addition, it will offer 42.1 billion yen in regional tax subsidies.

The earthquakes on the island of Kyushu damaged at least 5,000 houses, forcing about 80,000 people out of their homes as of Friday, NHK reported.—Reuters

## Australian police to investigate submarine tender leak : ABC

SYDNEY — Australian police are investigating how confidential information about the outcome of a tender process for Australia's next submarine fleet was leaked to the media, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported on Saturday.

It is the second leak from within the military acquisition project which has come down to a race between bids from French, German and Japanese companies for an A\$50 billion contract to build 12 submarines.

Australia's Federal Police confirmed in a statement to the ABC that they had been asked to investigate, the broadcaster said. Police spokesmen were not available for comment.

The investigation follows an ABC report earlier in the week that said the Japanese bid had been "all but eliminated" from the tender process.

No official announcement on the outcome of the

tender has been made.

A final decision had been expected at the end of the year but Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's recent gamble on a 2 July election has sped up the process and a winner is now expected to be announced by the end of the month. The contract is politically sensitive as it will likely have an impact on thousands of jobs in the shipbuilding industry in South Australia state. Retaining votes in key electorates in that state will be critical for the government.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries are offering to build a variant of Japan's Soryu submarine.

Germany's Thyssen-Krupp AG's is proposing to scale up its 2,000-tonne Type 214 class submarine.

France's state-controlled naval contractor DCNS has proposed a diesel-electric version of its 5,000-tonne Barracuda nuclear-powered submarine.—Reuters

### GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

**Chief Executive Officer** - Nakagawa Kiyoshi  
ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Chief Editor** - Khin Maung Aye  
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Deputy Chief Editor** - Aye Min Soe  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**Chief Reporter** - Ye Myint  
chiefreporter@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

#### Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg  
consultanteditor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Alec Wilmot  
consultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

#### Editors

Ye Htut Tin  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Kyaw Thura,  
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

#### International news

Tun Tun Naing  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

#### Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tun Aung Kyaw  
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

#### Translators

Hay Mar Tin Win  
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

#### Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

#### Computer Team

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe, Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

#### Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

#### Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

## A year after Nepal quake, some united in grief; others climb again

KATHMANDU — For survivors and relatives of victims of a landslide that struck with the force of half an atom bomb it is a time to grieve. For witnesses to a fatal avalanche at the Mount Everest base camp, it is time to climb again.

A year after the worst earthquake in Nepal's history struck at four minutes to midday on 25 April last year, the Himalayan nation is remembering the 9,000 victims of the 7.8 magnitude quake and a second tremor 17 days later.

Among those returning to Nepal are adventurers like Australian photographer Athena Zelandonii, who is trekking again to attend a ceremony of remembrance on Monday in Langtang village, obliterated by a huge rockfall that took the lives of 285 locals and foreigners.

They will be remembered at the memorial event where, starting at 11:56am, the name of each victim will be read out.

"There was no question of not coming back,"



A worker renovates the Boudhanath Stupa, damaged during the April 2015 earthquake, in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Zelandonii, 26, told Reuters in the capital Kathmandu.

Part of a group of people who searched for loved ones or themselves lived through the disaster, Zelandonii survived an avalanche on the mountain slopes above Langtang, but was stranded for days by the rockfall.

Still missing in the Langtang area is American Dawn Habash, a 57-year-old yoga instructor from Augusta, Maine, who was trekking in Nepal for the

fourth time.

Son Khaled and daughter Yasmine worked shifts to try and find out about their mother after the earthquake — all they could find out was that she was last seen walking downhill toward Langtang just before the earthquake.

Both of them and Dawn's brother Randy are in Nepal for the anniversary, and hope that at least her body can be found.

"Because we need that closure," said Khaled. "Sometimes I still get these

lightning-bolt thoughts — what if? And that's not healthy."

Of 181 foreigners who died in the earthquake or are still missing, 63 were in Langtang.

Villager Kartok Lama, 30, said locals had already marked the anniversary of the quake by the Tibetan calendar that they follow. They said prayers in a hut because Langtang's two gompas, or Buddhist temples, had been destroyed.

"Almost everyone from the village is back; people are rebuilding homes and hotels, and there is work going on in the fields," she told Reuters. "We want the tourists to come back."

Monday's Langtang memorial will be preceded by national commemorations on Sunday — the quake anniversary by the Nepali calendar — at the site of Kathmandu's historic Dharahara Tower that collapsed. There will be a candlelit vigil that night and three days of national mourning.—Reuters



# Service on key section of quake-hit Kyushu bullet-train line resumes

KUMAMOTO (Japan) — The Kyushu Shinkansen Line resumed service Saturday between Fukuoka and Kumamoto prefectures, restoring a key transport artery that had been blocked following powerful earthquakes on the southwestern island of Kyushu last week.

The service resumption coincided with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's first visit to quake-stricken areas in Kumamoto since the series of temblors caused mudslides, flattened buildings and forced tens of thousands of people to flee from their homes.

The restart of bullet-train service on the roughly 98-kilometre section between JR Hakata and Kumamoto stations leaves the about 74-km section linking Kumamoto Station and Shin-Minamata Station to the south the only section yet to be brought back to service.

The entire bullet-train line was halted when a 6.5 magnitude



**Bullet-train service on the Kyushu Shinkansen Line resumes at a key section linking Fukuoka and Kumamoto prefectures on 23 April 2016, reviving the transport artery blocked by powerful earthquakes that hit the southwestern island of Kyushu a week earlier.**

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

quake occurred in Kumamoto on 14 April, leaving an out-of-service train derailed on tracks south of Kumamoto Station and damaging railway facilities elsewhere.

Kyushu Railway Co., the bullet-train operator, is in the process of removing the cars from the tracks and could finish the work as early as Saturday, but it remains unclear when service on the section between Kumamoto and Shin-Minamata can be resumed.

Service on the remaining section of the line, linking Shin-Minamata and Kagoshima-chuo Stations, was brought back on Wednesday. Earlier Saturday, Abe flew to Kumamoto from Tokyo on an air defence force jet and surveyed quake damage from the air and on the ground before meeting with quake victims at a temporary shelter in Minamiaso, a village hard-hit by the temblors.

At a base for personnel en-

gaged in search efforts in the village, Abe said, "Although your work entails risks, I expect you to complete your mission while watching out for secondary disasters." Abe met with evacuees at a shelter in Minamiaso and pledged that his government will "provide a strong support" for the people afflicted by the quake.

While in Kumamoto, Abe also met with Gov. Ikuo Kabashima at the prefectural government building in Kumamoto City and was briefed on the support being provided to quake victims and rebuilding plans. Abe said the government will do its utmost to secure housing for those disaster-stricken people, while Kabashima asked for government support for the revival of Kumamoto as well as early restoration of Kumamoto Castle, whose stone walls had partly collapsed following the quakes.—*Kyodo News*

## Cambodia formally agrees to host SEA Games in 2023

PHNOM PENH — The Cambodian government announced on Friday that it has formally agreed to host the Southeast Asia Games in 2023, which will mark the first time for Cambodia to host such a large regional or international sports event since 1958.

It said the event will be organised on 1-15 December of that year in Phnom Penh and six provinces including Siem Reap, with 10,000 athletes and delegation members expected to participate.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen posted on his Facebook page that Cambodia is preparing a reserve budget of more than \$40 million for the events, while it expects Chinese assistances for building stadiums. He urged Cambodian athletes to train hard in order to win medals for the country.—*Kyodo News*

## Pakistan's apex court chief justice to probe Panama leaks

ISLAMABAD — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced on Friday he is requesting Chief Justice of Pakistan Anwar Zaheer Jamali to investigate the offshore companies set up by his children.

In a televised address to the nation, Sharif claimed opponents were leveling false allegations against him and his family, and described his accusers as "fascists" who do not want Pakistan to be stable and prosper.

Sharif reiterated he is accountable to the people of Paki-

stan who thrice elected him as prime minister.

"I have decided to write a letter to chief justice, Supreme Court to set up a commission to investigate allegations. I will accept its recommendation," he said.

Sharif had earlier announced the setting up of a commission headed by a retired judge to look into the Panama papers about his children, but the opposition demanded investigation by the Supreme Court's chief justice.—*Kyodo News*

## Tourist elephant dies near Angkor Wat after dropping off tourists

PHNOM PENH — An elephant died on Friday near Cambodia's Angkor temple complex after carrying foreign tourists around the World Heritage site in scorching heat, prompting accusations of animal cruelty.

Kea Buthan, a heritage police officer, said Sambo, a 50-year-old female Asian elephant, fell down and died around 11am at her shelter after having carried the tourists to and from Bayon Temple, about 2 kilometres from the most famous temple of Angkor Wat.

Sambo's death drew criticism from some Siem Reap residents, who accused the operator of the elephant-riding tours of paying inadequate care to her

health amid the nearly 40C heat.

Chao Sunkeriya, spokeswoman of the government agency that supervises the temples of Angkor in Siem Reap, said it is investigating the cause of her death.

About a dozen of elephants are put to work giving rides to sightseers in Siem Reap, typically charging \$20 per passenger. Elephant tourism has stirred some controversy, partly because of the way some elephants are forced to overwork and otherwise kept in chains, and partly because of the cruel methods used to break their spirit, deter them from misbehaving and force them perform repetitive tasks each day in hot weather.—*Kyodo News*

## Six missing after SW China landslide



**Rescuers work at the site of landslide in Guoli Village of Lanping County in Nuijiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 23 April. PHOTO: XINHUA**

KUNMING — Six people are missing after a landslide buried a work shed in southwest China's Yunnan Province Friday, local authorities said.

The accident happened at 6:40pm at Guoli Village, Nuijiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture, when the landslide hit a temporary shed for road workers, according to

the provincial civil affairs department late Friday.

The six workers were guarding construction materials. Rescue work is underway.—*Xinhua*

## China, US pledge to ratify Paris climate deal this year

UNITED NATIONS — China and the United States, the world's top producers of greenhouse gas emissions, pledged on Friday to formally adopt by the end of the year a Paris deal to slow global warming, raising the prospects of it being enforced much faster than anticipated. The United Nations said 175 states took the first step of signing the deal on Friday, the biggest day one endorsement of a global agreement. Of those, 15 states also formally notified the United Nations

that they had ratified the deal.

Many countries still need a parliamentary vote to formally approve the agreement, which was reached in December. The deal will enter into force only when ratified by at least 55 nations representing 55 per cent of man-made greenhouse gas emissions.

China and the United States together account for 38 per cent of global emissions.

"China will finalise domestic legal procedures on its accession

before the G20 Hangzhou summit in September this year," China's Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli told the UN signing ceremony, attended by some 55 heads of state and government. US Secretary of State John Kerry, who signed the deal with his 2-year-old granddaughter Isabelle on his lap, said the United States "looks forward to formally joining this agreement this year." President Barack Obama will formally adopt the agreement through executive authority.—*Reuters*



# US to buy heavy water from Iran's nuclear programme

WASHINGTON — The United States will buy heavy water from Iran's nuclear programme and expects it to be delivered within weeks, US officials said on Friday, a move that Republican lawmakers quickly criticised.

The US Department of Energy, or DOE, will buy 32 metric tonnes of heavy water from Iran worth \$8.6 million, a department spokeswoman said. Heavy water is a component of making nuclear weapons and nuclear energy, that is not radioactive.

Under last year's landmark nuclear deal between Iran, the United States and five other world powers, Tehran is responsible for reducing its stock of heavy water, which it can sell, dilute or dispose of, under conditions.

Iran is permitted to keep up to 130 tonnes of heavy water at

present and up to 90 tonnes once its redesigned and rebuilt Arak nuclear research reactor is commissioned.

"The United States will not be Iran's customer forever," the DOE spokeswoman said. US officials hope the purchase will pave the way for other countries to buy the heavy water, which can be used in the development of semiconductors and nuclear magnetic resonance imaging.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Abbas Araqchi, who discussed the sale with US officials in Vienna on Friday, told reporters that the 32 tonnes have been sold to an American company.

Araqchi estimated Iran has about 70 tonnes in excess of what it needs and said further sales are being negotiated with another company that is not based in the United States.

Iran, which is still under US sanctions, has long had to go through third-country financial institutions for authorised transactions for items including medicine and food.

A US Treasury Department official would not discuss details of the payment for the heavy water until after the purchase is complete, but said it would be completed under the same method.

"Regardless of whether or not this is in US dollars, this licensed transaction is limited in scope," the Treasury official said on condition of anonymity.

Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal means that the heavy water was already removed from Iran, ensuring that it would not be used to support the development of a nuclear weapon, State Department spokesman John Kirby said.

"Our purchase of the heavy water means that it will instead be used for critically important research and non-nuclear industrial requirements," Kirby added.

The purchase, first reported by the *Wall Street Journal*, was slammed by Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, a Republican. Ryan said in a statement it appeared to be part of the Democratic administration's efforts to sweeten the nuclear deal with Iran and would "directly subsidise Iran's nuclear programme."

The DOE expects to resell the purchased heavy water to domestic commercial and research buyers, including a national lab.—*Reuters*



A view of an underground depot where missiles are launched, in an undisclosed location, Iran, in this handout photo released by the official website of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on 8 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Merkel's Turkey visit aims to soothe tensions on EU migrant deal

ANKARA/BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel will try to soothe tensions over a deal meant to stem the flow of migrants to Europe when she visits Turkey this weekend.

The pact, which came into force three weeks ago, aims to help end the chaotic arrival of migrants and refugees on the Greek islands, many fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa. More than one million reached Europe last year.

The deal initially slowed the number of arrivals to Greece sharply, but boats have been coming again with about 150 people a day, the International Organisation for Migration said.

Merkel and European Council President Donald Tusk will go to Gaziantep near the Syrian border on Saturday, where they are due to visit a refugee camp and meet Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

There is much at stake for both sides. Merkel lobbied sceptical European partners to back the deal, under which Turkey agreed to take back migrants who cross the Aegean Sea illegally, and is under political pressure at home to show progress.

Davutoglu sold the deal to the Turkish public partly on the basis that Turks would win quicker visa-free travel to Europe in return, a pledge that now could go unfulfilled, at least by the June deadline he had wanted.

"Turkey wants support in easing the refugee burden — both financial support and in terms of numbers. And they want visa liberalisation. We have other interests," a Merkel aide said.

"Ultimately it will depend on both sides fulfilling the criteria they need to. If that doesn't happen the deal won't work."

Rights groups have questioned the legality of the deal,

which hinges on Turkey being a safe country of asylum. Amnesty International says Turkey has illegally returned Syrians to their war-torn homeland, a charge Ankara denies.

Under the deal, Ankara gets more EU funding for refugees living on its soil and the revival of long-stalled EU accession talks, as well as the quicker visa liberalisation, the main prize in the eyes of many Turks.

Brussels aims to propose waiving visas for Turks on 4 May but that is strongly opposed by some EU member states. Ankara now meets just under than half of the 72 conditions for visa-free access.

"This is clearly shaping up to become a problem. We are talking about some criteria, while they seem to think they in fact already got visa-free travel," said one Brussels diplomat.—*Reuters*

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Obama says no plans to deploy ground troops in Libya

LONDON — US President Barack Obama said on Friday there were no plans to deploy ground troops in Libya, but that the United States would not wait to see if Islamic State starts to gain a foothold there.

Speaking in London, Obama said it would be a challenge to support Libya's nascent government.—*Reuters*

#### US, allies report 29 strikes against Islamic State in Iraq, Syria

WASHINGTON — The US-led coalition fighting Islamic State staged 29 strikes against militants in Iraq and Syria on Thursday, the US military said on Friday.

Drones and bomber and fighter aircraft carried out 22 strikes in Iraq, including 13 near Falluja and Mosul, two of the cities held by Islamic State, it said in a statement. Seven strikes in Syria hit various militant targets, it added.—*Reuters*

#### G-7 farm ministers start talks on ensuring stable food supply

NIIGATA, (Japan) — Farm ministers from the Group of Seven countries started two-day talks on Saturday in Japan to discuss strategies for securing a stable food supply for the world's growing population.

The Japanese farm minister Hiroshi Moriyama will chair the meeting of ministers from Canada, Germany, Italy and the United States as well as representatives from Britain and France.

The outcome of the gathering in the Sea of Japan coastal city of Niigata, which has the largest rice paddy acreage in the country, will be reflected in discussions at the G-7 summit to be held on 26 and 27 May in Mie Prefecture, central Japan.—*Kyodo News*

#### Mayor of central Mexican town, two bodyguards killed by gunmen

MEXICO CITY — The mayor of a small town in central Mexico and two of his bodyguards were killed by gunmen in a shooting attack on a highway on Friday, according to the state Attorney General's Office (PGJEM).

The attack on Juan Antonio Mayen, mayor of the central Mexican town of Jilotzingo in the state of Mexico, occurred at 9:40am local time (1440 GMT) on a stretch of the Naucalpan-Ixtlahuaca Highway, roughly 40 kilometres from Mexico City, according to the office.

Two of his bodyguards, one of them a police officer, were also killed, while another two were injured.

Mayen had just completed his first 100 days in office last Friday after winning the post as the candidate of the conservative National Action Party (PAN). His term was to expire in 2018.—*Xinhua*

#### Suspected Islamist militants kill Bangladesh teacher

DHAKA — Suspected Islamist militants brutally murdered a university professor on Saturday in northwestern Bangladesh, a police official told reporters, the latest in a spate of attacks on liberal activists.

Two or three assailants rode up on a motorcycle and attacked Rezaul Karim Siddiquee, an English professor at Rajshahi University, slitting his throat and hacking him to death, said police official Golam Sackline. "We are investigating the killing," Sackline said. The pattern of the murder was similar to other recent attacks by Islamist militants, he said.—*Reuters*

#### Two thirds of unimmunised children live in conflict-affected countries: UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS — The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Friday said that almost two thirds of children, who have not been immunized with basic vaccines, live in countries that are either partially or entirely affected by conflict.

Of countries in conflict, South Sudan has the highest percentage of unimmunized children, with 61 per cent not receiving the most basic childhood vaccines, followed by Somalia (58 per cent) and Syria (57 per cent), UNICEF said in a press release ahead of World Immunization Week. World Immunisation Week is marked annually at the end of April to promote the use of life-saving vaccines for all children, particularly those who are consistently excluded. The event is observed by UNICEF, immunisation partners, governments and civil society organisations around the world. World Immunisation Week 2016 runs from 24 to 30 April.—*Xinhua*



## OPINION

## Harm principle and law making

Khin Maung Aye

**T**HE concept of freedom has been one of the most controversial topics concerning societies throughout history. There have been endless debates on the different aspects of freedom and the limits of legitimate state and social action. The basic definition of freedom is the ability to think or act as one wishes. In other words, freedom is a condition under which people have the opportunity to speak, act and pursue happiness without unnecessary external restrictions.

In this regard, Locke viewed that government should ensure the prevalence of individual right to life, liberty and property whilst Rousseau stated that people can be forced to be free. According to the Isaiah Berlin, there are two forms of freedom: the positive freedom and the

negative freedom. The negative freedom is defined as being free from external restraints or limits on what one person can do whereas the positive freedom is described as being empowered to be free. Thus, the government will provide certain services such as education, job opportunities, healthcare benefits, and poverty alleviation in order to ensure it achieves its goals. At the same time, laws and regulations should also be enacted to ensure the prevalence of peace, stability and order as well as liberty for establishing a peaceful, secure and prosperous community.

In contrast, concerning liberty, John Stuart Mill stated that the individual is sovereign who has complete power over his own body and soul. According to his harm principle, a person can do whatever he wants to do as long as his actions do not harm others.

In this regard, it is important to consider both physical harm and psychological harm to the people in a society. Physical harm is defined as the deliberate pain inflicted on someone by another through kicking, punching, slapping or any other type of aggressive physical contact.

The psychological harm is defined as emotional or cognitive disturbances resulting

from one's actions.

However, the harm principle does not specify what qualifies as harm. So, there still is a problem when a self-regarding action becomes another-regarding action. There is no clear line of demarcation to differentiate between actions. A case of euthanasia, mercy killing, coup de grace or assisted suicide can be taken as a good example. In such a case, one has a right to end one's own life as one is in persistent suffering from severe pain caused by a terminal illness. They have the right to die if they don't want to continue their own life. However, it is against the law for a physician to assist suicide.

This being so, although the harm principle could be applied to cases that do not harm other people, it is not applicable to the law making process to achieve a better society.

### Write for us

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

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

## Leopard, a majestic predator: some interesting facts

Saikat Kumar Basu  
Lethbridge AB Canada

**L**EOPARD (*Panthera pardus*) is a majestic big cat distributed across the continents of Africa and Asia and is severely impacted by deforestation, habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and unrestricted hunting as well as poaching. The dominant predator has been reduced to small sub populations across various habitats and ecosystems in Africa and Asia. There are nine sub species of leopard recognized currently, namely, the African, Sinai, Arabian, Persian, Amur, Indochinese, Indian, Sri Lankan and Javan sub species. Although the Asiatic branch of leopards are clearly distinguishable into seven sub species; but, the African sub species of leopard (*Panthera pardus pardus*) which is distributed over a very large geographical area is recognized as only one, uniform sub species. It is quite surprising that in spite of such a wide distribution and visible geographical isolations in different parts of its huge range in the continent of Africa, this could be designated as only one sub species.

Several other mammalian species belonging to different orders across several continents show a wide range of variation resulting them being classified into different sub species. Has there been any detailed molecular or genetic studies been ever conducted on comparable isolated, sub populations of African leopards with appreciable sample size? If not this grouping of African leopards into one sub species may be a superficial one. A list of species representing different orders with



African leopard *Panthera pardus pardus* near Lake Panic Kruger National Park South Africa.

a wide array of sub species has been included; and the numbers in the parenthesis suggest the current identified sub species for that individual species. If all these species with distinct geographical separation are demonstrating sub species level variations, why not the African leopards distributed over a large geographical area and even demonstrating geographical isolations. A comprehensive genetic studies involving advanced molecular tools and techniques need to be employed for finding if the African sub species of leopards could be further split into other sub species or groups.

**Order-Carnivora; Family-Felidae:** Leopard (1 African and 8 Asiatic sub species), Lion (1 Asiatic and 7 African sub species with one African sub species extinct

in the wild), Cheetah (1 Asiatic and 4 African sub species), Tiger (9 but 3 extinct), Puma (1 North American and 6 Latin American sub species), Jaguar (1 North and 2 South American sub species), Clouded leopard (3), Sunda clouded leopard (2), Snow leopard (2-3), Fishing cat (many), Leopard cat (many), Jungle cat (many), Wild cat (many), Sand cat (many), Serval (many), Pallas cat (3), Asian golden cat (3), Marbled cat (2), Ocelot (10), Canadian lynx (2), Eurasian lynx (many), Bobcat (many), Jaguarundi (many), Rusty spotted cat (2), Caracal (7), Pantanal cat (2), Colocolo (2), Pampas cat (5) & Oncilla (4)

**Order-Carnivora; Family-Hyaenidae:** Striped hyena (2 African and 3 Asiatic sub species) **Order-Carnivora; Family-**

**Canidae:** African wild dog (5), Asiatic wild dog (3), Wolf (several species and sub species), Fox (many species & subspecies), Side striped jackal (7), Golden jackal (2) & Black headed jackal (2) & Coyote (many)

**Order-Carnivora; Family-Ursidae:** Bears (many species & subspecies such as Sloth bear (2), Sun bear (2), Asiatic black bear (7), American black bear (16), Brown bear (16))

**Order-Perrisodactyla; Family-Equidae:** Plain's zebra (6), Mountain zebra (2), Asiatic wild ass (4-6) & African wild ass (2)

**Order-Artiodactyla; Family-Giraffidae:** Giraffe (9)

**Order-Proboscidae; Family-Elephantidae:** African elephants (2?) & Asiatic elephants (3)

**Order-Perrisodactyla; Family-**

**Rhinocerotidae:** White rhinoceros (2), Black rhinoceros (3), Javan rhinoceros (3 but 2 extinct) & Sumatran rhinoceros (3)

**Order-Primates:** Yellow baboon (3), Chacma baboon (3), Mountain gorilla (2?), Common chimpanzee (4-5), Gibbons (many species & subspecies) & Bornean orangutan (3)

The Arabian leopards once roamed across both the Sinai and the Arabian population suggesting historic range overlap in the past. However, unrestricted hunting has reduced their population so devastatingly, that less than 200 are probably surviving in the wild. Extremely small sub populations have been reported from the Negev desert in Israel. Similar is the state of the Sinai leopard and no leopard sightings are reported from the Sinai in the recent time; hence chances of detecting wild natural hybrids (Arabian leopard X Sinai leopard) now are almost zero. Current status of the Sinai leopard in the wild is quite doubtful and data deficient. The Far Eastern or the Amur leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) is currently known to be surviving in the form of small population of 25-40 in the Russian Far East. Extensive hunting pressure has almost wiped this predator from their natural habitats.

Another supportive example for the need to investigate if African leopards could be split into further sub species based on modern genetic analysis; is the case of the Sunda Clouded leopard (*Neofelis diardi*). The Sunda clouded leopard was believed for a long time as a sub species of Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) and used to

See page 9 >>



# New report looks at budget policies of U Thein Sein government

THE Ministry of Planning and Finance and the World Bank Group will hold a discussion on the key findings and recommendations of Myanmar's first ever Public Expenditure Review (PER) in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday, 27 April.

The Ministry of Planning and Finance and the World Bank Group looked at Union Budget policies between 2009 and 2013, a period which saw rapid economic liberalisation in Myanmar, and compiled a comprehensive report which is hoped will contribute to deepening policy di-

alogue on Union Budget issues and provide reform options to improve the efficiency and quality of public spending.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and World Bank Myanmar Country Manager Abdoulaye Seck, will discuss with members of the media, government departments, and development partners on the key findings and recommendations of the PER which, among others, covers: (i) rebalancing the composition of the Union Budget; (ii) improving cover-

age, quality and equity of education services; and (iii) moving from higher to better government spending on health.

The discussion will take place at the Tharaphi room of the Hilton Hotel, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am on Wednesday 27 April. Those who are interested must contact Kyaw Soe Lynn at [klynn@worldbank.org](mailto:klynn@worldbank.org) (tel: + 09 2031159) or Shin Thandar at [sthandar@worldbank.org](mailto:sthandar@worldbank.org) (tel: 09 780 239 827) to confirm attendance COB on Monday 25 April and must register by 8:30 am on 27th April. —GNLM

## Heavy rain, hailstones and power failure in Mandalay



A man seen collecting the hailstones. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MDV)

BECAUSE of the strong wind swirling from the southwest, the rising temperature of heat and the instability of wind occurred with heavy rain and hailstones falling, the strong wind blowing, thunder striking Mandalay District yesterday evening.

After formation of the rain clouds, hailstones fell and heavy rain registering 0.59 inches. Strong wind blowing with 20 miles per hour struck in Mandalay District and damaged some houses in Pyay-gyitagun township and those on

the bank of Ayeyawady river with branches from trees falling.

In the evening, temperature went down from 43 degree centigrade to 34 degree centigrade in Mandalay.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

POEM:

### Developing 'Rural Areas' of Yangon Region

For rural migrants from all over, Yangon is a prime destination. With seemingly weak management of their permanent migration, has increased the number of 'Kyu-kyaw' settlements particularly in the townships and villages bordering Yangon City Municipality, settling sans permission or consideration of legality of such action or for that matter availability of water and proper sanitation.

Many who in the past migrated, are now living permanently in the settlements and villages in the rural outskirts of the City. Many who cannot find jobs in the formal economy are commuting daily to the business areas of the City in the hope of earning a living, often contributing haphazardly to the informal economy and posing a constant challenge to the Yangon Municipality.

According to the newspapers, building of flyovers in the City which from past experience has been of doubtful utility will be cancelled and the budget instead used fruitfully for rural development of villages outside Yangon Municipality to provide the inhabitants, to improve their living condition, with sources of clean water, sanitation, electrification, and building roads and bridges for better communication. Perhaps also, helping the habitants to pursue agricultural occupation of growing more vegetables and fruits for Yangon's growing population will enhance their contribution in no small way to the City's economy and also create employment for themselves in their own community.

Lokethar

## What Education Means

Ko Myat

EDUCATION is the core part of our life. We have come into the world uneducated. We first started learning inside the womb. The unborn babies learnt new skills inside the tummy to be able to survive when they entered the new world outside. When born, babies have to struggle learning new skills outside. Remember, education and learning do go hand in hand.

Living things including plants have to learn for their survival and growth. Finding some ways or another to overcome obstacles begets some experiences. Some stages of education come into existence: learning, experience, mistakes and teaching. You know, learning never ends, from the cradle to the graveyard.

Education itself is a quality of life. It doesn't mean a degree or a certificate. It is more than just a sheet of paper or silverware. It means an ability to stand on one's own feet and to lead a better life without jeopardizing others' lives. It paves the way for all beings to happiness.

We must first educate ourselves and then impart our garnered knowledge to others. That is called teaching. Learning through teaching is one of the best forms of education, I think.

We must learn everytime and everywhere. We must try to find out what is yet unknown. Remember the saying : Only when there is a will there is a way. Learning and teaching mean helical growth for everyone. Will education never die when there is learning. We must never stop learning ,and teaching. For a better place to live in this world we need education for all indeed.

### Leopard, a majestic predator: some interesting facts

>> from page 8

be called Borneo clouded leopard; until latest molecular studies found it to be an altogether different species. Furthermore, two sub species of Sunda clouded leopard is now also recognized. It will be also interesting to investigate if there are range overlaps among different sub species of Asiatic leopards particularly those that are in closer geographical proximity such as the Indochinese leopard of China and SE Asia and the Indian leopard of the Indian subcontinent around southern fringes of China, western Myanmar and NE India along the remote Indo-China and Indo-Myanmar border regions. It will be also interesting to note if any wild natural leopard hybrids

(Indochinese leopard X Indian leopard) are available in these geographic region. Possible range overlaps with other Asiatic leopard sub species seem to be unlikely due to vast natural barriers and geographical separation in the form of large deserts, river valleys and high mountain ranges. The species is in dire need for conservation in all the habitats across Africa and Asia. Some of the sub species such as the Sinai, Arabian, Amur, Javan are showing sharp decline in populations or are rarely sighted in their wild habitats; and hence need active conservation for their long term survival. It is sad to mention that the majestic predator is showing a sharp decline in their global population.



## Syrian peace talks limp on to next week with opposition absent

BEIRUT/GENEVA — The UN special envoy for Syria has vowed to take fragile peace talks into next week despite a walkout by the main armed opposition, a breakdown in a truce and signs that both sides are gearing up to escalate the five-year-old civil war.

The opposition declared a “pause” in the talks this week because of a surge in fighting and too little movement from the government side on freeing detainees or allowing in aid. Nearly all of its delegation left Geneva.

But UN envoy Staffan de Mistura said he had no plans to call off the negotiations, the first in five years of conflict to include some rebel factions. He said a ministerial meeting of world powers was urgently needed to get the talks back on track. “Bottom line, I plan to continue the proximity talks, but at the formal level and at the technical level until next week, probably Wednesday as originally planned,” he said. A fragile ceasefire in place



A man carries an injured girl after an airstrike in the rebel held area of old Aleppo, Syria, on 22 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

since February was still in effect because none of the sides had renounced it, he said, but it was “in great trouble if we don’t act quickly.” The talks at UN headquarters in Geneva aim to halt a conflict that has allowed for the rise of the Islamic State group, sucked in regional and major powers and created the world’s worst refugee crisis.

De Mistura now says 400,000 people have been killed in the war, far higher than the previous UN toll, usually given as 250,000. He said he had no proof of the higher figure but the estimate of 250,000 was two years old and no longer valid. The war was tilted in President Bashar al-Assad’s favor late last year by Russia’s intervention.—Reuters

## Syrian warplane crashes near Damascus, Islamic State says pilot captured

BEIRUT / MOSCOW — Islamic State fighters have captured the pilot of a Syrian warplane which crashed southeast of Damascus on Friday, a news agency affiliated to the militant group said.

“The pilot, called Azzam Eid, from Hama was captured after he fell by parachute near the site where his plane crashed east of Damascus,” the news agency Amaq said.

Citing a Syrian military source, Russian news agency Interfax said the plane belonged to the Syrian Air Force and crashed because of a technical fault.

“The plane had recently undergone repairs... there was no attack from the ground. It crashed because of a technical fault. The pilot ejected,” Interfax quoted the source as saying.

Interfax said the plane was a Mig-23.

A video shared online by Amaq says the plane was shot down by the jihadist group on Friday.

The footage showed Islamic State fighters around burning plane wreckage, part of which had a Syrian flag painted on it. Reuters could not independently verify the video.

Earlier on Friday Islamic State said a Syrian warplane had been shot down, but did not specifically claim responsibility.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said the plane crashed in the southeast Damascus countryside after flying over territory controlled by Islamic State. It said the fate of the pilot was not known.

The Observatory said earlier it was not clear if it had been brought down by gunfire or suffered a technical fault.—Reuters

## UN says Yemen peace talks atmosphere shows progress

KUWAIT CITY — Yemen’s warring factions held their first direct talks in a UN-backed peace process on Friday and will meet again despite failing to agree on an agenda, participants said.

The United Nations envoy, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, said the meetings in Kuwait had been constructive and the positive atmosphere was a step forward in efforts to end the conflict.

They discussed a more permanent ceasefire in Yemen and how it would be implemented, he said.

The talks, which opened late on Thursday, seek a solution to a war which has killed more than 6,200 people, triggered a humanitarian crisis and enabled al Qaeda and Islamic State militants to consolidate their presence in the country.

They bring together the Iran-allied Houthi movement,

who control the capital Sanaa, and its General People’s Congress (GPC) allies with the Saudi-backed government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, based in the southern port city of Aden.

“The meetings held today were constructive and the atmosphere is an important advancement,” Ould Cheikh Ahmed told a news conference. “We will intensify our efforts.”

But sources present at the talks, delayed since Monday due to the late arrival of the Houthi delegation and its allies, said the two sides continue to be divided on the priorities.

The government delegation wants Houthis and fighters loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh to withdraw from cities and hand over weapons before discussing a political solution, the sources said.



Yahya Doad (2<sup>nd</sup> R), a member of the General Committee of the General People’s Congress Party, and Mohammed Abdul-Salam (2<sup>nd</sup> L), head of the Houthi delegation to scheduled peace talks in Kuwait, gesture after they finish a news conference at Sanaa Airport, Yemen, on 20 April.

PHOTO: REUTERS

The Houthis and its allies want the formation of a new government representing all parties, which will then oversee disarmament.

They also want to focus the discussion on security arrangements and detainees, the sources added. The sources declined to be named because the talks, being held at the palace of Kuwait’s ruling emir, are closed to the media.

A temporary truce between the government and Houthis has mostly held in place since 10 April in preparation for the talks although both sides have accused each other of violations.

The Yemen conflict began in September 2014 when the Houthis seized Sanaa. A Saudi-led Arab alliance intervened in March last year, launching a campaign of mostly air strikes against the Houthis in support of Hadi’s forces.—Reuters

## NATO’s new deterrent may include bigger Black Sea presence

SOFIA — Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania may expand the NATO alliance’s maritime presence in the Black Sea as part of a broader strategy to deter Russia, NATO’s deputy chief said on Friday.

NATO is looking to counter Russia’s military build-up in Crimea, which Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014, and in the Black Sea, which is strategically important for both East and West given its energy reserves and closeness to the Middle East.

“There are some very valuable discussions under way

among the allies who live on the Black Sea ... of more closely integrating their naval forces and operations,” NATO’s Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow said in a visit to Sofia, mentioning the three NATO allies by name.

The US-led alliance is concerned by what it sees as a Russian strategy to try to block NATO from moving about by air, land and sea by positioning surface-to-air missile batteries and anti-ship missiles in Kaliningrad, the Black Sea and in Syria.

NATO already patrols the Black Sea, but Vershbow said that by the time Western leaders meet for a NATO summit in July, allies could have “an enhanced presence” in the area as part of plans to move troops on rotation into the Baltics and Poland.

“We need to consider a more persistent NATO military presence in the region, with a particular focus on our maritime capabilities,” he said.

Backed by a big increase in US military spending, NATO is setting up small eastern outposts,

forces on rotation, regular war games and warehoused equipment ready for a rapid response force to deter Russia.

That force includes air, maritime and special operations units of up to 40,000 personnel.

Worried since the seizure of Crimea and pro-Russian rebel operations in eastern Ukraine that Moscow could exert pressure on Poland or destabilise the Baltic states — perhaps by fomenting unrest in their Russian minority populations — the West wants to bolster defences

on its eastern flank without provoking the Kremlin by stationing large forces permanently.

NATO says it respects a 1997 agreement with Moscow to avoid deploying substantial combat forces on Russia’s borders.

However, the Kremlin’s envoy to NATO sees the alliance’s plans as a threat to its security and has warned there will be no improvement in the worst East-West tensions since the Cold War until NATO withdraws its forces.—Reuters



# The sky is not the limit: China's Mars plan

BEIJING — Like many space-faring nations, China has seen Mars as the next destination ever since it landed on the moon. China plans to orbit Mars, land and deploy a rover, all in one mission around 2021.

No country has tried such a complex mission before, said Sun Zezhou, the chief designer of Mars probe. The United States, which has done most to explore the planet, required two separate missions before landing.

The probe will include an orbiter, a lander and a rover. After an interplanetary journey of 6 to 12 months, the probe will be positioned in orbit. The lander will then be separated, land on the surface and the rover begin its tour, while the orbiter surveys from above.

"All in one mission — that's quite a bold attempt," Sun said after explaining the process.

The greatest challenge lies in the landing process, given that the weather on Mars is hard to predict, Sun said. "If we encounter a dust storm, the rover can't touch down."

"Besides, the environment on Mars is so special that it is difficult for us to imitate on Earth, which makes it hard to

practice," Sun said.

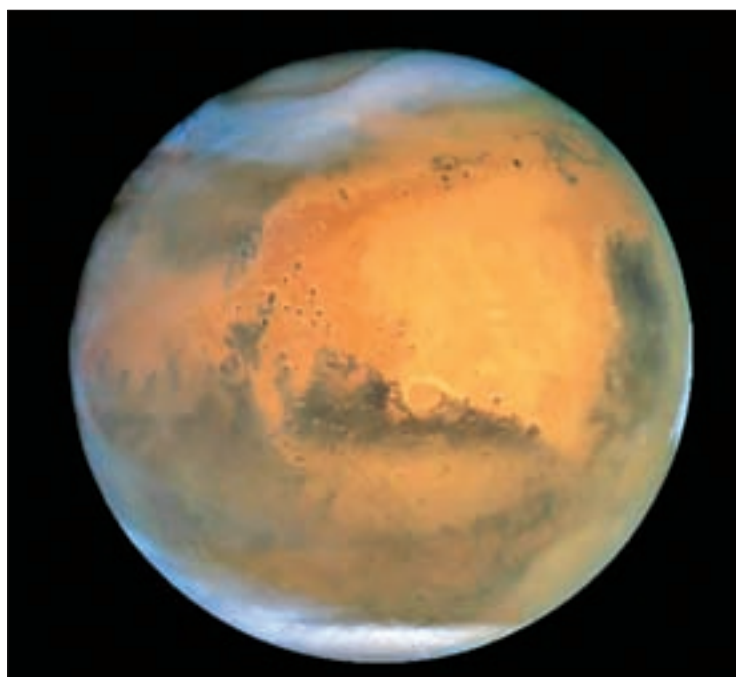
Mars is at least 55 million kilometres from Earth, which makes communicating with the probe another great challenge. One-way transmissions between Mars and the Earth could take as long as 20 minutes, so most of the time the rover will have to deal with things on its own. It must be smart enough to react to whatever it meets, Sun said.

"We have less than five years till the launch, but we are confident. The probe is being developed by the team that completed the Chang'e-3 lunar probe," said Ye Peijian, of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"The successful lunar landing laid the foundation for Mars exploration," said Sun, the chief designer of Chang'e-3 that went to the moon at the end of 2013. "It's on the moon's shoulder that we set have our mission objectives at such high level."

Reaching Mars is so complicated that few countries have attempted it, and even fewer have made it. Among more than 40 missions since the 1960s, about half failed.

China made one unsuccessful attempt in 2011 when a probe carried by a Russian rocket failed to complete the mission. Calls for speeding up China's own mission mounted after



File photo of Mars. PHOTO: XINHUA

India reached the planet in 2014.

"Although we are not the first Asian nation to send a probe to Mars, we want to start at a higher level," said Ye. "It is only when China gets to Mars that we really enter the age of deep-space exploration."

According to Sun, the mission will focus on exploring planet's overall environment.

"One step at a time," he said. "Complicated objectives like looking for extra-terrestrial

life are not included in our plans this time."

Sun also gave a clue to the specific landing place. "Considering all factors including land forms, light, temperature etc., the latitude of the best landing place ranges from 5 NL to 30 NL," he said.

"As China continues further and further into deep space, it will play a bigger role in solving key frontier scientific questions," Sun added.—Xinhua

## China's top astronaut goes to 'space camp'

BEIJING — Liu Wang, one of China's leading astronauts, visited a high school in Beijing Friday and shared his experiences ahead of 24 April celebrations of the launch of the country's first satellite 46 years ago.

"Being an astronaut and exploring the space certainly made me feel proud, but before that, you must go through all the tough training and tests, and some unfortunately will sacrifice their lives," said Liu when recalling how he was selected.

Liu was one of the crew of Shenzhou-9 which conducted China's first manned space docking in June, 2012. He was speaking to over 200 students at the Capital Normal University High School.

Liu encouraged students to study science and technology well, to prepare for future aerospace studies.

"Space technology is based on practical technology in areas such as materials and energy. The advancement of space technology can promote the development of practical technology, that is why China has been allocating so many resources to space technology," said Liu.

Liu showed pictures of how astronauts eat, drink, sleep and conduct experiments under microgravity conditions.

What impressed the students most was the landscape of the earth that astronauts see over 300 km high in the sky. Liu said the oceans, continents, islands, rivers, lakes and the nightscape of cities on the earth can be clearly seen from the spaceship.

"Only when you leave the earth can you feel the beauty of the earth as the home for humans," said Liu, who advised students to conserve resources and protect the environment.

"I think I learned a lot and gained intuitive understanding of what we learned about space in class," said Shen Shuyi, an eighth grader from the high school.

"With the development of manned space flight, more people will have the chance to go into the space. So get ready. The future of China's space research is in your hands," said Liu.—Xinhua

## Mini-brains reveal how Zika causes damage in fetuses

WASHINGTON — US researchers said Friday they successfully created inexpensive mini-brains in lab to reveal how the Zika virus causes microcephaly and other damage in fetuses.

The study, led by Guo-li Ming and Hongjun Song at the Johns Hopkins University and published in the US journal *Cell*, supported that the mosquito-borne virus prefers to infect neural stem

cells but the extent of damage differs depending on time of infection.

The results confirmed what almost the same team suspected in earlier experiments done in two-dimensional tissue cultures.

Mini-brains, or brain-region-specific organoids, have been actively used in research for years, but they are limited by their high cost, lack of access for most

labs, and tricky protocols that prevent clear control experiments.

The Hopkins group solved these problems by 3D printing so-called miniaturized spinning bioreactors to mass produce mini-brains from human stem cells, which can mimic the front, middle and back of a human brain.

These mini-brains can survive and grow for up to six months, thereby allowing the re-

searchers to induce Zika infection during developmental stages equivalent to very early and mid-pregnancy.

The 3D experiments replicated the team's previous work finding that the virus prefers to infect neural stem cells and supported clinical findings that the developing brain is most at risk during the first trimester, or first three months, of pregnancy.

"If infection occurred very early in development, the virus mostly infected the mini-brains' neural progenitor cells, and the effects were very severe," said Ming. "After a while, the mini-brains would stop growing and disintegrate."

"At a later stage, mimicking the second trimester, Zika still preferentially infected neural progenitor cells, but it also affected some neurons. Growth was slower, and the cortex was thinner than in noninfected brains."

These different effects correspond to what clinicians have seen in infants born to women who contracted Zika during pregnancy, as well as miscarriages, she noted, namely that the earlier in pregnancy Zika infection occurs, the more severe its effects.

The research group's next step will be to test drugs using the mini-brains to see whether one might provide some protection against Zika.—Xinhua



Aedes aegypti mosquitoes are seen at the Laboratory of Entomology and Ecology of the Dengue Branch of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in San Juan, on 6 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



# Trump bashes Clinton, promises not to become boring

HOLLYWOOD, Fla./WASHINGTON — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump attacked his top Democratic rival Hillary Clinton on Friday, calling her “crooked,” and promised his supporters that he would not bore them by becoming overly presidential.

The comments undercut what his aides had said would be an attempt by the notoriously blunt-speaking Trump to project a more serious image after his win in New York’s nominating contest this week, including by rolling out more policy details. “I can tell you that if I go too presidential, people are going to be very bored,” the New York real estate baron told Fox News in an interview that will air on Saturday. He added that



US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump holds up the front page of the New York Post as he signs autographs at a rally with supporters in Harrington, Delaware, on 22 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

he worried his supporters would “fall asleep.”

He went on to say that Clinton “is a person who’s got many, many flaws” and

that she’s “the worst possible representative a woman can have,” as he shifted his focus away from Republican rivals and toward the 8 No-

vember presidential election. “The only thing she’s got going is the women card,” Trump said in the excerpts released by the

network on Friday. “We call her ‘Crooked Hillary’ because she’s a crooked person. She’s always been a crooked person.”

Clinton said at a campaign event in Pennsylvania she would not respond to Trump’s comments about her. Donna Hoffman, the head of the political science department at the University of Iowa, said Trump’s fiery personality had put him in a bind at this stage of the race.

“The impetus to become more presidential is coming from some of the elite organs of the GOP, but he got to where he is today because of his persona,” she said. “To continue this way will keep him alienated from the party, but to change means his supporters will question his authenticity.”

In a strong signal that his

persona matters, a January survey showed that among Trump’s supporters about 43 per cent said they liked him because he “speaks his mind,” while only 8 per cent cited his policies. The survey was conducted by the Working America arm of labor organisation AFL-CIO.

Trump’s win in his home state of New York on Tuesday bolstered his chances for the Republican presidential nomination, prompting a more serious study of his prospects in the general election.

Trump will give a foreign policy speech on Wednesday at the National Press Club, part of an expanded policy roll-out the campaign is planning, his aides told Republican leaders and lawmakers this week.—Reuters

## Panama raids Mossack Fonseca property, seizes shredded papers

PANAMA CITY — Panamanian investigators on Friday raided a property used by Mossack Fonseca, the law firm at the centre of a massive leak of offshore financial data, removing bags full of shredded documents as evidence, a local prosecutor said. “We have secured a large amount of evidence found in the location,” said organised crime investigator Javier Caraballo. He said they also found many shredded papers, which they removed as evidence. In a statement, Mossack Fonseca said it had digitized all its documents and that the shredded papers taken from its premises were bound for recycling. The law firm added that as a result of a previous search, prosecutors already had copies of all the documents they removed on Friday. Leaks from the Panama-based law firm, dubbed the “Panama Papers,” have embarrassed several world leaders and shone a spotlight on the shadowy world of offshore companies.

Mossack Fonseca, which specialises in setting up offshore companies, has said it broke no laws, destroyed no documents, and all its operations were legal. Governments across the world have begun investigating possible financial wrongdoing by the rich and powerful after the leak of more than 11.5 million documents from the firm.—Reuters

## Quake toll reaches more than 600 as aftershocks spook Ecuador

QUITO (Ecuador) — The death toll from Ecuador’s devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake rose to 602 people on Friday, as dozens of aftershocks shook cities and towns around the country, spooking residents but causing no further damage. Saturday’s quake, the worst in nearly seven decades, injured 12,492 people and left 130 missing, emergency management authorities said in a bulletin.

Survivors were shaken again late on Thursday night when a powerful 6.0 magnitude quake struck off Ecuador’s coast about 100 km (62 miles) north-northwest of Portoviejo and at a depth of 10 km (six miles). “When it started to shake last night we started to pray,” said Alex Bachon,

43, a construction worker repairing damage from Saturday’s quake at a hotel in Guayaquil. “I have never seen anything like this, it’s been so bad.”

There were more than 70 aftershocks throughout Thursday night and Friday, the country’s geology institute reported. There have been a total of 700 aftershocks since Saturday’s quake.

The tremours will continue for several weeks, emergency management official Ricardo Penaherrera warned on Friday, and he called on Ecuadoreans to stay calm.

Survivors in the quake zone were receiving food, water and medicine from the government and scores of foreign aid workers,

though President Rafael Correa has acknowledged that bad roads had delayed aid to some communities.

With close to 7,000 buildings destroyed, more than 26,000 people were living in shelters. Some 14,000 security personnel were keeping order in quake-hit area, with only sporadic looting reported.

Correa’s leftist government, facing a mammoth rebuilding task at a time of greatly reduced oil revenues in the OPEC country, has said it would temporarily increase some taxes, offer assets for sale and possibly issue bonds abroad to fund reconstruction.

Correa has estimated damage at \$2 billion to \$3 billion.—Reuters

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and Chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2016 (World Workers Day) Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV HYUNDAI ADVANCE VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HYUNDAI ADVANCE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S FAR SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE ( INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER ) ( 5 / 2016 )

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-001(16-17)	Spares for Well Surveying Tool (1) Item	US\$
(2)	IFB-002(16-17)	Mud Chemicals (7) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-003(16-17)	4” ERW Steel Line Pipe (16,100) MTR	US\$
(4)	IFB-004(16-17)	10” ERW Steel Line Pipe (37,030) MTR	US\$
(5)	IFB-005(16-17)	20” LSAW Steel Line Pipe (11,270) MTR	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 19-5-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 21<sup>ST</sup> April, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206



**ASIA WORLD PORT MANAGEMENT WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR THANKS AND  
APPRECIATION TO OUR PARTNERS AND CUSTOMERS  
FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT**

*20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary  
Making a difference*

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT**



**AT ASIA WORLD PORT TERMINAL  
WE STRIVE TO PROVIDE BETTER PROFESSIONAL PORT SERVICES**





## De Niro, Foster, Keitel, reunite for 'Taxi Driver' anniversary

NEW YORK — Robert De Niro, Martin Scorsese, Jodie Foster and Cybill Shepherd turned out in New York to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "Taxi Driver," the 1976 movie that made De Niro a superstar and that spawned the iconic catchphrase "You talkin' to me?"

Although it won none of the four Oscars it was nominated for at the time, the film about an obsessed, lonely Viet Nam veteran

with insomnia who drives his taxi through the streets has since been hailed by critics as one of the best movies of all time.

Foster, who was just 12 years old when she was cast as a young prostitute, said she had watched the movie again a few days ago. "It's funny seeing yourself so young and yet you have the same gestures and the same voice, and the same physical patterns," Foster told Reuters. While many

around her were concerned about the young actress taking on the role of a prostitute, Foster said she took on an "instinctual" approach. "I didn't think about it too much. I read the script, I loved the script and I played the character and that was that."

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked with a screening on Thursday at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York which De Niro founded in 2002.—Reuters

## 'Captain America' team pay tribute to Prince

SINGAPORE — The cast and co-director from superhero action flick "Captain America: Civil War" paid tribute to late pop

superstar Prince on Friday, while promoting the movie in Singapore.

The 57-year old singer song-

writer, known for hits like "Kiss" and "Purple Rain", died at his Paisley Park Studios compound on Thursday in the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen.

"It's tough, it's heartbreaking, he really was a special guy, someone else told me recently that ... between him and David Bowie ... they really were able to kind of redefine what it is to be a man ... what it is to be an artist," the film's star Chris Evans said.

"It's really a tragedy that the music world, the world just lost a couple of great legends this year."

The film's co-director Joe Russo echoed those comments.

"It's very tragic, it's heartbreaking," he said. "Prince was such an influence in my life musically ... my eyes teared up when I read about it."—Reuters



Actors Anthony Mackie, Chris Evans, director Joe Russo and actor Sebastian Stan (L-R) wave to fans. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Rihanna dedicates tour performance to Prince



R&B star Rihanna. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — R&B star Rihanna honoured music icon Prince, who died on Thursday, with a performance of her hit track "Diamonds" during the Canada leg of her Anti World Tour.

The 28-year-old singer stopped her concert in Calgary to pay tribute to the late "Purple Rain" hitmaker, reported Female First.

"Today is a very sad day in music. A sad day to music lovers, musicians, fans all over

the world who lost one of the greatest legends, Prince. We will miss you."

"A lot of us have started making music and listening to music because of Prince, so right now I just wanna honour him, me and my crew, and you guys. Let's shine some light to heaven for Prince right now," Rihanna said.

Prince was found dead at his home on Thursday, 21 April. He was 57. The cause of death is not known yet.—PTI

## Hamlet, Lear line the Thames in London Shakespeare celebrations

LONDON — Some of Shakespeare's best known characters — Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet and King Lear — will be featuring along a stretch of the River Thames this weekend, as part of celebrations to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of England's greatest playwright.

Short films of the Bard's plays will be screened along the south bank of the river, while in the middle of the 2.5 mile (km) route, the Globe theatre will stage a production of Hamlet which returns to London after touring 189 countries in two years.

Dominic Dromgoole, the artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe theatre, said the Hamlet tour, which this month alone has performed in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Elsinore, Denmark, where Shakespeare set the play, demonstrated Shakespeare's enduring relevance.

"He gives you life, and anything that gives you life rather than takes it away is always going to be popular," Dromgoole said in an interview on Friday.

Hamlet, the story of mel-

ancholy Danish prince and his doubting quest to avenge a murdered father, captured audiences across the world, said Dromgoole.

"In some places it provokes, in some places it challenges, in some places it consoles, in others it inspires," he said.

Non-English speaking audiences were provided with synopses and translators, with memorable performances taking place in Somaliland, Dromgoole said, remembering the cast being followed by trucks full of "boys with AK47s".

They also performed for Syrian refugees at the Zaatari camp in Jordan, where the play was interrupted by a sandstorm, and at the migrant shanty town nicknamed the "Jungle" outside France's northern port of Calais.

The final performances of the Hamlet world tour will be staged on Sunday in the open-air core of the timbered, curved-walled Globe, a 1990s replica of the famous theatre which was burned to the ground in 1613.

Those without a ticket will still be able to celebrate Shake-

peare through the film project, named "The Complete Walk".

It will screen 37 short films, one for each of Shakespeare's plays, shot in locations from Athens to Vienna where the

playwright had set his stories but never visited.

Highlighting Shakespeare's international appeal, the Complete Walk is also being exported to cities beyond Britain

including Madrid, Gdansk and Taipei.

Shakespeare's birth place Stratford-upon-Avon will also host celebrations and a parade on Saturday and Sunday.—Reuters



Daffodils are in bloom at Mount Stuart where a Shakespeare First Folio has been discovered nearly 400 years after his death on the Isle of Bute, Scotland, Britain on 7 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Robot monk blends science and Buddhism at Chinese temple



A visitor asks a temple staff to give her chance to take picture with robot Xian'er which is placed in the main building of Longquan Buddhist temple for photograph, on the outskirts of Beijing, on 20 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — A Buddhist temple on the outskirts of Beijing has decided to ditch traditional ways and use technology to attract followers.

Longquan temple says it has developed a robot monk that can chant Buddhist mantras, move via voice command, and hold a simple conversation.

Named Xian'er, the 60-cm (2-foot) tall robot resembles a cartoon-like novice monk in yellow robes with a shaven head, holding a touch screen on his chest.

Xian'er can hold a conversation by answering about 20 simple questions about Buddhism and daily life, listed on his screen, and perform seven types of motions on his wheels.

Master Xianfan, Xian'er's creator, said the robot monk was the perfect vessel for spreading the wisdom of Buddhism in China, through the fusion of science and Buddhism.

"Science and Buddhism are not opposing nor contradicting, and can be combined and mutually compatible," said Xianfan.

Under the careful watch of China's officially atheist Communist Party, religion has slowly crept back into daily life since reforms got going several decades ago.

Xianfan said Buddhism

filled a gap for people in a fast-changing, smart-phone dominated society.

"Buddhism is something that attaches much importance to inner heart, and pays attention to the individual's spiritual world," he said.

"It is a kind of elevated culture. Speaking from this perspective, I think it can satisfy the needs of many people."

The little robot monk was developed as a joint project between a technology company and artificial intelligence experts from some of China's top universities.

It was unveiled to the public in October.

But Xian'er is not necessarily the social butterfly many believe him to be.

He has toured several robotics and innovation fairs across China but rarely makes public appearances at Longquan temple.

Xian'er spends most of his days "meditating" on a shelf in an office, even though curiosity about him has exploded on social media.

Xian'er was inspired by Xianfan's 2013 cartoon creation of the same name. The temple has produced cartoon animations, published comic anthologies, and even merchandise featuring the cartoon monk.—Reuters

## LA children's choir pays homage to Prince with musical tribute



About 1000 high school students sing 'Purple Rain' to honour the late singer Prince at Walt Disney Concert Hall which is illuminated purple in Downtown Los Angeles, US, on 22 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — The music of Prince was brought to life a day after his death, as 1,000 Los Angeles high school students sang a tribute to the late singer.

The students came together from 31 Los Angeles-area schools at the Walt Disney Con-

cert Hall and sang "Purple Rain."

Prince, born Prince Rogers Nelson, was found dead in an elevator at his suburban Minneapolis home on Thursday at the age of 57, shocking millions of fans around the world and prompting glowing tributes.

Los Angeles City Hall, New York's Empire State building and Minneapolis' Interstate 35 bridge were among the numerous monuments around the United States lit up in purple on Thursday night, to honour the late musician.—Reuters

## Iwate aquarium destroyed in 2011 tsunami reopens after 5 years



An aquarium destroyed by the earthquake-triggered tsunami of March 2011 reopens for the first time since the disaster in Kuji, Iwate Prefecture, on 23 April 2016. The city government hopes the Moguranpia aquarium will serve as a symbol of the coastal city's reconstruction and draw tourists from around the country. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

MORIOKA, (Japan) — An aquarium destroyed by the earthquake-triggered tsunami of March 2011 reopened on Saturday for the first time since the disaster in Kuji, Iwate Prefecture, in northeastern Japan.

The city government hopes the aquarium, housed in a rebuilt five-story building, will serve as a symbol of the coastal city's reconstruction and draw tourists from around the country.

The aquarium opened in 1994 as the nation's first underground aquarium, utilizing a tunnel of the national oil storage in the area. It was completely gutted in the tsunami that inundated the city on 11 March 2011. At the reopened aquarium on Saturday, about 200 people attended a celebration and a diver showed off a traditional diving technique inside a large water tank that was newly built there.—Kyodo News



**Entertainment Channel**

(24- 4-2016, Sunday)

**6:00 pm**

- Weather Report
- Music Programme

**6:20 pm**

- Dances

**6:40 pm**

- Myanmar Video

**8:50 pm**

- Music Programme

**9:10 pm**

- International Movie Songs

**9:20 pm**

- Music Programme

**9:50 pm**

- Myanmar Movie

**Midnight**

- Close Down.

\* 09:45 pm Live: English Premier League  
"Leicester City Vs Swansea City"

From 24-4-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm  
To 25-4-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm



**Myanmar International**

(24-4-2016 07:00am ~ 25-4-2016 7:00am) MST

**Today Fresh**

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado of Traditional Design
07:56	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Street Vendor "Spreading Knowledge"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: IN-LEAF
09:43	Am	Egg Shell
09:51	Am	Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Reflected Glory

10:48 Am Myanmar Railways City Circular Train

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

**Prime Time**

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
07:44	Pm	Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar: El Niño Impacts On Fish Breeding
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-II)
08:45	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Khin Zaw Latt

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

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



## Speculation mounts over Tiger's possible PGA Tour return

LOS ANGELES — With Tiger Woods hitting golf balls at a juniors clinic in South Carolina earlier this week, media speculation has been mounting that the former world number one could make his PGA Tour return within the next month.

The 14-times major champion has been sidelined from competition since August as he continues his recovery from back surgeries, but has been ramping up his practice routine while at home in Florida.

Some analysts suggest that Woods could make his PGA Tour return as early as the 5-8 May Wells Fargo Championship, but his manager Mark Steinberg said on Friday there was “nothing new to report” with regard to a timetable.

Woods’ long-time friend Notah Begay III, a 43-year-old Native American golfer who won four times on the PGA Tour, was wary of getting “too carried away” with media speculation.

“What I can say is that I have seen his progression throughout its entirety,” Begay said on Friday in his role as a television analyst with Golf Channel, a day after teaming up with Woods for the juniors clinic at Sage Valley.

“I started seeing him engage in different areas on his rehabilitation ... started seeing him hit pitch shots and then being able to host a clinic with him and walk him through his entire bag from the wedges all the way to the driver.

“So if I were to evaluate this from a beginning point to an end point, with the end goal being a PGA Tour start, Tiger Woods is on the back end of this rehabilitation process.”

Begay, who played with Woods on the Stanford University golf team, offered no timeline. “Now is that 60, 70, 80 per cent through the process? I’m not sure but I can say from what I saw yesterday and from where I saw this thing begin, he is in a much better place,” said Begay.

“The strike was good on the ball, he was able to shape it in a variety of different directions and when the junior golfers were screaming out for him to hit the stinger, he did not disappoint.—Reuters

## Leicester success would be greatest since Ipswich, says Crawford



West Ham's Winston Reid shoots at goal during Barclays Premier League at The King Power Stadium on 17 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — If Leicester City win the Premier League this season it will be the greatest upset since Ipswich Town were champions in 1962, according to Ray Crawford whose goals helped the latter side win their only top flight English title.

Leicester, who were stranded seven points from the safety zone 12 months ago, are five

points clear with four games remaining and within touching distance of becoming the first maiden champions since Nottingham Forest in 1978.

While taking nothing away from Forest, who went on to win the European Cup twice in the following two seasons, Crawford, now a sprightly 79, was full of praise for Leicester as he sees

so many similarities between their campaign and Ipswich's.

Before this season started Leicester were priced at 3-1 by bookmakers to be relegated after last year's narrow escape, while in August 1961 Ipswich, playing in the top flight for the first time, were widely dismissed as no-hopers and

tipped to make an immediate return to the Second Division.

“Leicester have defied the odds and so did we and so much of Leicester's season reminds me of us,” Crawford told Reuters in a telephone interview from his home in Portsmouth.

“And if they were to hang on and win it, it would be the greatest upset since we did it because our biggest incentive at the start of the season was not to get relegated.

“At the start of the season all the national newspapers said we were hot favourites to go straight back down and that we could not survive because we didn't have any class players,” he added.

“But what they did not take into consideration was that Ted Phillips and myself were goalscorers and if you have goalscorers in the team you've always got a chance.”

Fast forward to today and Leicester have exactly that — Jamie Vardy has scored 22 goals in 34 matches while Riyad Mahrez has hit 16 in 33. The rest of the squad have contributed 19 between them as Leicester achieved their own aim of avoiding the drop — and then some.—Reuters

## Murray says will play Davis Cup, despite tough schedule

LONDON — Andy Murray is prepared to switch from grass courts to clay in a matter of days to play for champions Britain against Serbia in the Davis Cup, the world number two said on Friday.

The 28-year-old, who almost single-handedly won the trophy for Britain last year for the first time since 1936, could face world number one Novak Djokovic in Belgrade a week after this year's Wimbledon finals.

Serbia have not surprisingly chosen clay as the surface, knowing that Murray would find the transition from the slick Wimbledon lawns to clay difficult.

Murray, however, plans to play even if his schedule is further complicated this year by the Rio Olympics where he will be the defending champion.

“The plan is to play but it is going to be difficult,” Murray, the 2013 Wimbledon champion, told BBC Sport.

“I need to play it a little bit by ear, as well, because I just don't know how the body is going to respond.”

“These next couple of months are going to be extremely difficult,” he added.

Murray has suffered from back problems and is wary of putting too much strain on his body, although he has been ferociously committed to the Davis Cup.

He has played in every tie since 2013, winning 21 of his 22 rubbers in that period.

“Changing surfaces — almost on a weekly basis — does increase the chance of injury significantly.

“Not many players would go from playing a grass court tournament one week straight onto the clay the following week with only a couple of days preparation time,” he said.—Reuters



Andy Murray of Britain reacts during Monte Carlo Masters at Monaco on 16 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS