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THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Two sections of YGN-MDY highway to be upgraded as part of 100-day plan



The aim to upgrade the two sections of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway is to reduce traffic accidents on them. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

CONSTRUCTION Union Minister U Win Khaing announced a project to upgrade two ten-mile sections of the Yangon-Mandalay highway at a briefing on the launch of his ministry's 100-day development plan.

The union minister gave a guarantee of road quality, stressing that severe action would be taken against the engineer in charge of the construction if an upgraded section of the road fails

to endure for five years.

The project is part of the 100-day plan which is intended to reduce traffic accidents along the highway.

The first section to be upgraded will be between mileposts 15/0 and 25/0, and the second between mileposts 163/0 and 173/0.

Union Minister U Win Khaing described the project as a criterion to be used for estimating the cost of further improving the

366-mile-long highway, vowing to make the estimated cost known to the government and the public.

According to the union minister, the other two projects included in the 100-day development plan are the construction of an affordable 5-storey apartment building with 40 rooms and the establishment of speedy grant schemes for householders.

Myanmar and the United States entered into an agreement

in October 1959 to hire a foreign engineering group called Louis Berger & Associates to carry out a feasibility investment study on the construction of a modern highway linking Yangon and Mandalay. The group presented its initial report of engineering work for the project in February 1960. However, construction did not materialise for various reasons until 2004.

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Peace mediator expresses commitment to achieving eternal peace

DR Tin Myo Win, who is currently a nominee to be appointed as the new peace mediator, has called for all inclusiveness to bring about eternal peace in Myanmar, promising to satisfy all stakeholders when he deals with peace issues.

The personal doctor of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is also the current chairman of the outstanding students foundation, made the remarks at a ceremony held in his honour in Yangon yesterday for his incoming role of the peace mediator.

Regarding the peace process, he expressed his commitment to achieving peace, promising to satisfy all stakeholders the government, the Tatmadaw, ethnic leaders, armed groups, CSOs and the people when has has dealt with in regard to peace issues.

He further stressed the importance of peace to bringing socio-economic development to people in conflict stricken areas, calling for the Tatmadaw, ethnic leaders and ethnic armed groups to work together with the government to achieve stability.

Participants of Myanmar's Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) for Ceasefire Wednesday proposed to rename the Myanmar Peace Centre, which has been working for the country's peace process, as the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC).— *Min Thit*

Authorities in negotiation with gas buyers to seek ways to achieve sufficient power supply

IN order to supply electricity sufficiently to industrial zones in Yangon Region local authorities are negotiating with countries which have bought natural gas from Myanmar to seek possible means of achieving full power supply in the region, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

Meanwhile, the Yangon Region Government is planning to invite investment from the pri-

vate sector to invest in the power supply sector.

To attract investors and to promote the socio-economic improvement of the people in Yangon, the regional government is making efforts to supply power to the region at full capacity.

Power consumption in Yangon has reached around 1,250 MW, making up half of the country's total consumption, with a 15 per cent increase in demand each

year. Meanwhile, experts have suggested the building of gas turbine power plants in 2017 in an attempt to solve the current shortages of electricity.

There are more than 6,200 industries in a total of 23 industry zones in Yangon.

The main problems confronting Yangon townships are concerning electricity and refuse, according to U Lin Naing Myint, deputy speaker of Yangon Re-

gional Hluttaw.

The statement was made by U Lin Naing Myint, who also represents Constituency 2 of Kamayut township in Yangon Hluttaw, on April 27 during a meeting with Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Min and Region Hluttaw 1 representative U Tin Win.

"The primary issues facing residents of every township are relating to rubbish and electricity

supply. These are problems the public are confronted with," said U Lin Naing Myint.

It has been learned that township authorities, support committees and the general public will cooperate together with transparency to resolve such issues as the accumulation of rubbish in alley ways which run between apartment blocks in housing estates and wards in Kamayut township;

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Conjoined twins at pelvis need donations for surgical separation

MANDALAY 550-bedded Children's Hospital has invited donors to provide more assistance to three-month-old conjoined twins at the pelvis who are given care at the hospital.

The three-month-old babies born attached at the pelvis are from Nyaungbintha village in Monywa Township.

Although the hospital has provided milk powder and other necessary assistance to them, the twin babies need more assistance from wellwishers as they have to receive further operations, said Dr Thet Swe, medical superintendent of the hospital.

According to sources, they were born at Monywa hospital on

13 January this year, and referred to Mandalay children hospital for further treatment on 16 January.

As their parents who make a living farming in Nyaungbintha village stay here, they are unable to do their own business at the moment, said the medical superintendent, adding that cash donations are needed for a surgery to separate them. According to the hospital, the conjoined twins are in good health under special health care, and each one defecated separately after receiving a surgery at the hospital.

A wellwisher donated K100,000 to the conjoined twins who came from a poor family on Wednesday.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



The conjoined twins being seen at Mandalay Children Hospital. PHOTO: ATK

Outstanding students go on excursion to Bagan

OUTSTANDING students from various states and regions went on an excursion to Bagan on Thursday with Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung welcoming them upon their arrival.

The group was made up by eighth graders with records of stupendous academic achievement in their respective schools.

The excursion involved going camping, said Dr Soe Myint Tun, head of the camping trip,

adding that the camping was designed to enable young students to be diligent and interested in philanthropic work.

During the excursion students visited pagodas and museums, attended literary talks and went on study tours of a forest museum and a herbal plantation.

They will go camping at Ngwehsaung beach on 2 May, when the excursion will come to a conclusion.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



Outstanding students are seen during their excursion tour of Bagan. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

Two sections of YGN-MDY highway ...

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Construction resumed after the Special Projects Implementation Committee decided to continue the construction as a four-lane highway on 30 March 2004. The decision was reached by Public Works in cooperation with military engineers.

The 366-mile-long highway

passes through 156 villages and 15 townships in Yangon, Bago, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.

Plans are underway to upgrade it to an eight-lane highway, with officials saying that preliminary earth work has been completed in preparation for that project.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mon State villages urgently require donor assisted drinking water

IT has been learned that six villages of Mon State's Thaton township which have been hit by water shortages require further urgent donor assistance in provision of drinking water.

The villages are currently experiencing a worst-case scenario in terms of the availability of drinking water. Despite water being donated to the villages already, donations have not proved sufficient, with the villagers in dire need of the timely delivery of further water donations, explained U Myint Naing, administrator of Tawgyi village.

"The meagre remains of water in drinking water reservoirs are not suitable for human consumption anymore. Our village is far from the town. While some of the reservoirs in the village have completely dried up, others have just enough left for use other than drinking.

We've received water donations but they haven't been adequate in number for all villagers. If people could donate water to us everyday then we should have enough water to drink," he said.

As Tawgyi village is one that suffers from the presence of seawater, water from the majority of wells and lakes, which act as sources of water for the community, cannot be consumed. As such, villagers desire relevant government departments to come and alleviate the community's difficulties in accessing drinking water.

The villages of Thaton township experiencing the worst water shortages are those of Tawgyi, Thauggyi, Naungbo, Naungkala, Zayitchaung and Budinchaung.

Despite efforts from government departments to provide water to appease the water requirements

of the villages that are augmenting by the day, difficulties are being experienced by villagers as water donations are not delivered in a timely fashion, it is known from Thaton township Department of Rural Development. "The department's three vehicles make daily visits to villages with water requirements, but they can't fulfil the daily requirements of every village. If government departments were to team up with donors then the water requirements of all villages could be met," said U Aung Naing Win, assistant director of the Thaton township Department of Rural Development. The six villages with drinking water requirements comprise over 58,000 villagers and 2,000 households, while they require approximately 100,000 gallons of drinking water a day.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Police, war veterans supply water to drought-hit Pauk

MEMBERS of the local police force and members of a local war veterans association delivered supplies of drinking water to villagers in Pauk Township last Friday. The area is currently facing a scarcity of water. They carried the cache by water tanker and distributed the drinking water to 310 villagers in Tarchaung Village and 290 in Thakkalchaung Village.

To overcome the challenges of water scarcity in the township, local authorities have formed a committee to supply water to the areas facing drought by joining hands with related departments in the region.—*Nyan Toe (Pauk)*



Local people collect water supplied by police and war veterans. PHOTO: NYAN TOE (PAUK)

Pr U Htin Kyaw sends Workers' Day message

The following is an unofficial translation of the message sent by Pr U Htin Kyaw on the occasion of Workers' Day which falls on 1st May.



Esteemed workers,

On this auspicious occasion of the International Workers' Day, on which the entire workers' throughout the world are honoured, I wish all the workers in the country health and happiness.

History has witnessed 20-hour working hour per day in 18th century, and dissatisfied with the situation workers' at that time launched the 8-hour day movement in 1886 in Chicago, the United States of America. As a result, the standard working hour for workers has been set for eight hours per day and 40 hours per week. To honour the efforts of the workers, the International Workers Day has been marked yearly since then for over 120 years.

For Myanmar workers' also, May Day is the meaningful and an auspicious occasion as this May Day marks the one-month

anniversary of the new government elected by the people.

On such an auspicious occasion, the new government pledges to realise the political objective inspired by the people for long. Moreover, the government, hand in hand with the workforce, will strive for ensuring national development through the cooperation among the government, the employees and the employers based on social justice.

Currently, laws are being promulgated to create peaceful working environment with good relations among the tripartite force of the government, the employees and the employers; to enable workers to enjoy the legal rights; to enjoy worksite safety and build a safety culture to mitigate the workplace injuries; to create job opportunities at home and abroad; to introduce safe labour migration; to conduct on-job training to be able to strengthen competitiveness among workers; to implement social welfare plan which will provide social protection and healthcare to workers with social welfare insurance; and to settle labour dispute through the tripartite system based on free and fair manners. Moreover, obsolete laws are revoked and repealed or amended.

Esteemed workers,

In accord with the Labour Organization Law enacted in

2011, associations were formed independently and the country saw 1917 labour organisations at the basic level, 105 in township level, 14 in region and state level, seven labour federations and one labour confederation. So also were formed the employee organization and thus there emerged 28 employee organizations in the basic level, one township level employee organization and one federation.

It is safe to say that emerging numerous labour organisations legally; holding tripartite meetings among employer, employee and government to set minimum wage; expanding the knowledge of workers; ensuring good relations between employee and employer by making negotiations through the representatives of labour organizations and the employee in labour dispute; and enabling workers to participate in the tripartite meetings regarding workers' rights of the government, the employee and the employer are the benefits of forming such organizations.

In cooperation with the International Labour Organisation, the registered labour organizations in states and regions have been lectured on the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right of Organize Convention 87 of ILO and 162 times of meetings and discussions in that regard could be made since July 2012.

As the elimination of forced labour is important for creating appropriate job opportunities, ward or village tract administrative law was amended in conformity with Forced Labour Convention 29 of ILO. A work plan is laid down and implemented together with the ILO to eliminate forced labour.

Myanmar is now practicing the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention -182 and with the cooperation of ILO, Myanmar Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour is being launched.

As a member of ASEAN, Myanmar is actively taking part in the programmes implemented across the ASEAN region together with fellow member countries. As the ASEAN Community was established on 31 December 2015, workers will be able to migrate from one country to another in ASEAN region freely. At such a time, our workforce will have to compete with others in the region and there is an urgent need of skilled labours in various fields. To meet this end, the State has promulgated job and skill development law. At the same time, joining hands with private entrepreneurs, vocational training schools were opened to produce skilled labours.

Job policies and migrant workers policies were laid down for overseas workers enabling them to enjoy the rights of the host countries, to get appropriate jobs,

to promote skills and to create job opportunities at home and abroad. The Complaints Mechanism Centres were opened in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon to fulfill the needs of Myanmar workers at home and abroad the centres are handling the workers' affairs round the clock. In addition, to provide the information for migrant workers, Migrant Resources Centres (MRC) have been opened in 11 cities including Yangon and Mandalay. If a loophole is found in implementing such plans, remedied measures will be taken as soon as possible.

I would like to urge all the workers to abide by the prescribed laws to fully enjoy the rights, to learn the laws and share them to fellow workers to be able to produce full workforce, and to cooperate each other.

On this occasion of the International Workers' Day, I, hereby, pledge that the new government will stick to the policies of emerging a constitution which will lead to national reconciliation, internal peace and democratic federal union and raising the social standard of the entire people. Again I pledge that the government will put all its energies into the tasks of ensuring social protection and safety of the entire people including workers.

I wish all the workers peace of mind while striving with their physical and spiritual prowess for national development.

THE ASEAN Occupational Safety and Health Network (Asean-Oshnet) held its first awards ceremony in Da Nang province, Viet Nam, on Thursday, at which two pharmaceutical industries from Myanmar won awards.

Fame Pharmaceuticals Industry won the Excellence Award while Best Practice Award went to Proven Technology Industry (Toyo Battery).

The Asean-Oshnet was established in 2000 with the aim of serving as an effective network in fostering a safe and healthy working environment to bring about a productive and competitive workforce striving to bring about a better quality of life.

Following its 14th meeting in Singapore, the network reached an agreement to present Excellence Awards and Best Practice Awards every two years in an effort to strengthen beneficial cooperation and solidarity among the occupational safety and health institutions in the ASEAN community.

The Asean-Oshnet will hold its second awards ceremony in Cambodia in 2018. —Myanmar News Agency

Two local pharma industries win Asean-Oshnet awards



Fame and Toyo Battery posing for a group photo. PHOTO:MNA

Authorities in...

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drain blockages; an erratic electricity supply; and the opening of shops in municipal housing wards.

"There's only one area to discard of refuse in the area which is on Insein road. It's part of the reason behind blocked drains. As such, I would like there to be at least two or three designated areas created for the disposing of rubbish. I also wish for our drains to be cleared of waste." said U Sein Win, a resident of Ward 2 in Kamayut township.

The deputy speaker of Yangon Regional Hluttaw stated such problems would be resolved regardless of time involved, highlighting the importance of the role of local neighbourhood administrators and relevant government departments. Chief Minister of Yangon, U Phyo Min Thein, told the press during this month of April that efforts would be made study, record and resolve problems of some townships in the greater Yangon Region which suffer from flooding during the rainy season because of issues with poor drainage.— Ko Moe with Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Five dead, 10 in critical condition after pick-up runs into Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand



Myanmar migrants seen after a pick-up has run into them in Thailand. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHAUNG-IPRD)

A GROUP of Myanmar migrant female workers were run into by a silver coloured Mitsubishi pick-up in Ranong, Thailand yesterday morning, it has been learned.

The Mitsubishi pick-up car struck the Myanmar workers

on the side of Saphan Pla street in Ranong, Thailand while they were waiting for a ferry bus to go to work. The car fled the scene following the accident.

Three of the female workers died on the spot, another two died in hospital while receiving

medical treatment.

Ten have been admitted to hospital with critical injuries.

The Myanmar workers worked at the Sifco fish and prawn cold storage factory in Ranong.—*Kyaw Soe (Kawthaung-IPRD)*

Passenger bus overturns on Loikaw-Yangon highway

A PASSENGER bus identified as belonging to the Swan Group Express overturned on the Loikaw-Yangon highway between mileposts 11/0 and 11/1, on 19 April, leaving 31 passengers injured.

The accident occurred when the driver lost control of the bus which was heading to Yangon from Nay Pyi Taw.

The bus was carrying 48 passengers including the driver when it crashed into a barrier in

the middle of the road.

Thirty-one out of 48 passengers were seriously injured in the accident.

The bus driver, Nyein Chan, has been charged by police.—*Ko Nyi*



Passenger bus seen overturned. PHOTO: KO NYI

Employee ferry accident injures 28 in Nay Pyi Taw



Employee ferry seen after crash. PHOTO: 014

AN employee ferry collided head on with another employee ferry at the corner of Thuka Myine and Yadanar Myine road, Zabu Thiri township, Nay Pyi Taw on 29 April. The ferry, being driven by one U Lin Kyaw, 26, with employees on board crashed into another employee ferry being driven by U Maung Muang Oo, 52, when the

former driver lost control. The latter vehicle stopped after it had crashed into a new apartment building nearby, said a witness.

The collision injured 28 out of 33 employees. However, they are said to not be in a serious condition. The injured are receiving medical treatment at the 1000-bed general hospital.—*014*

Fire destroyed house in Monywa

AN outbreak of fire caused by electric short circuiting destroyed a CK chicken shop in Dawbon Chan ward, Monywa town, Sagaing region on Thursday.

According to an investigation the fire broke out due to an overheated electric fan inside

the shop of one Kyaw Myo Aung, 34. The fire quickly got out of control and badly damaged the shop. The fire was finally put down by firemen with the help of neighbours. Local police have filed charges against the store owner.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Illegal saw-machinery confiscated in Yinmabin



Illegal saw-machinery confiscated in Yinmabin.

PHOTO: TUN KO KO (YANMABIN)

A COMBINED investigation team comprising officers and staff from Forestry Department discovered logs weighing 0.9 tonnes, a 25 HP engine, a round saw and other saw-machinery related materials on an agriculture farm owned by one U Ba Kyi, 53, near Ka Paing village, Yinmabin township, Sagaing

region on Tuesday, according to the police yesterday.

An officer from Ahlaung-daw Kathapa National Park handed over the saw-machinery to the Yinmabin Forest Department. The police arrested U Ba Kyi and he will face charges under the forestry law.—*Tun Ko Ko (Yanmabin)*

LOCAL Business



Oil being grinded by an ox drawing grinding machine. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sales of pure peanut oil fall as sub-standard variants flood the market

THE peanut oil market is currently being flooded by cheap, sub-standard and fake variants, according to businesspeople involved in the industry.

A scarcity of raw materials within the cooking oil industry has resulted in growing numbers of producers selling sub-standard oil varieties that contain palm oils and chemical additives. This trend has resulted in a decline in business for producers of authentic peanut oil.

“Fake peanut oil, which consists of concoctions of various oil varieties or palm oil with a peanut oil aroma added to it, are selling in the region of K2,000 per bottle. Coopera-

tion between the municipal and health departments is required to control these sub-standard oils from being sold and for legal action to be taken against sellers,” said U Khin Soe, chairperson of the Yangon Region Oil Millers Association.

Imports of foreign cooking oils are also responsible for the more than 50 per cent decline in the domestic peanut oil market. Oil millers have called for tighter controls and higher taxes on imported oils.

“Sales [of domestically produced peanut oil] have also declined because of substitute oils being imported from neighbouring countries. An increase in taxes on foreign im-

ported oils might reduce their influx into the country. There are many service charges locally, not to mention the export of raw peanuts abroad, causing a scarcity of commodities within the country,” said U Win Htun, owner of the Kaung Thant oil mill.

It is known that a nationwide Oil Millers Association will be formed to call for an increase in oil miller rights and accountability for the oil they produce.

Over 2,500 members currently comprise the membership of the Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions’ oil miller associations.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Foreign oil and gas firms to pay full compensation to farmers

FOREIGN firms contracted by the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) have been conducting petroleum exploration in farms in Myanaung and Kyankhin townships in Ayeyawady Region and in Padaung Township, Bago Region. The firms have announced they will pay full compensation to the landowners by 15 May.

Malaysia-based Petronas and Central Asia Oil and Gas Company (CAOG) based in Singapore conducted seismic surveys for petroleum exploration in which the sound wave bounced off underground rock

formations and holes dug in the farms, but the farmers have reportedly not received the compensation yet.

“We have not received the compensation of K25,000 per hole yet. Those businessmen started to work a month before the incumbent government took power,” said a farmer from Inpin Village, Myanaung Township.

Officials from the companies say they will pay a compensation of just K20,000 per hole, according to the contract and the prescribed rules of respective townships, and that

they have already paid over K100 million to farmers in about 100 village-tracts.

“The sound wave analysis for petroleum exploration has not yet concluded. We have not paid the outstanding compensation. But we will pay them the full amount by 15 May,” said U Aung Kyi Win, the operations manager for CAOG.

The farm owners also want to know what benefits they will receive if the companies find petroleum in their farms. However, MOGE has not issued any statements related to this matter.—*ML/Union Daily*

Japan dominates market for Myanmar garments

JAPAN accounted for the largest number of garment orders from Myanmar in 2015, with US\$580 million worth of garments exported to Japan by Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

This year, the European Union (EU), which was previously placed third, has overtaken South Korea to take the second place, according to Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, the secretary of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

Japan has been the largest market for Myanmar’s garment

sector since 2010, and it started purchasing Myanmar garments in 2007.

Myanmar garments were mainly exported to the US before 2003, when the US imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar. The EU increased its orders in 2004 and 2005.

Demand from Japan has risen year by year, reaching an export value of \$183 million in 2010 and \$580 million in 2015, according to statistics from the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.—*ML/Union Daily*

Bình Điền Fertiliser JSC to expand to regional markets

THE Bình Điền Fertiliser Joint Stock Company (BFC) planned to pay a 30 per cent dividend in cash for 2015 and would enter the regional markets of Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand this year, according to the Vietnam News.

The firm reported that it earned VNĐ6.1 trillion (US\$273 million) in revenue and VNĐ203 billion profit after tax in 2015, adding that its sales and profits saw some reduction due to less consumption by central highland farmers under the impact of a prolonged drought and lower coffee prices.

This year the firm plans to produce more than 650,000 tonnes of fertiliser, up 17 per cent compared to 2015. It also scheduled a revenue of VNĐ6.6

trillion and a before tax profit of VNĐ369 billion, as much as a year-on-year increase of 9 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

BFC leaders told shareholders that if they met the plan, they would pay another 20 per cent dividend in 2016.

In early March, Singapore-based investment company BMM Venture (S) Pte-Ltd (BMM-V) formed with Mitsui and the Behn Meyer (BM), a major distributor of chemicals in Southeast Asia and announced that it has reached an agreement with the Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO), their local partner, the Agri First Co Ltd (AFC) to manufacture and distribute imported fertilisers in Myanmar.—*GNLM*

Condominium prices for foreigners drop 20 per cent

WITH the number of apartments increasing in the real estate market, rental rates for condominiums for foreigners has dropped by 20 per cent from last year’s rate. The number of foreign tenants is also on decline, said a member of the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association.

Expatriates are looking for places that have easy access to where they work. Six downtown townships of Yangon (Pazundaung, Botahtaung, Kyauktada, Pabetan, Latha and Lanmadaw) and the suburbs such as

Ahlon, Sanchaung, Kyimindine and Mayangone are favourites among foreigners.

Previously, well-furnished 1,250-square-foot condominiums went for around K1.8 million (US\$1,531), down from around K3 million (\$2,553) last year. Apartment rental rates for foreigners range between K1 million and K2 million per month, depending on the furniture in the apartments and on the market.

The average rate for houses is over \$3,000.—*Myawady*

More than 12,000 buildings could collapse in quake-hit SW Japan



People affected by powerful earthquakes in southwestern Japan bring garbage to a temporary depot in the village of Nishihara on 30 April. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — More than 12,000 houses and other buildings are in danger of collapsing in areas of southwestern Japan struck by powerful earthquakes earlier this month, government officials said Saturday.

The Land, Infrastruc-

ture, Transport and Tourism Ministry has collected reports from the municipalities of Kumamoto Prefecture on more than 43,000 buildings and found 12,013 of them to be “dangerous” as they could collapse due to aftershocks or other occur-

rences.

The number is bigger than the 11,699 designated as hazardous buildings following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan, even though the officials said it is difficult simply to compare the two figures be-

cause lots of houses were swept away by the tsunami in the 2011 disaster.

Magnitude 6.5 and 7.3 quakes hit Kumamoto Prefecture on 14 and 16 April, respectively, killing at least 49 people. The region still appears to be seismically active, with an M4.5 temblor jolting nearby Oita Prefecture on Friday.

The government is compiling an extra budget to finance reconstruction and support measures for people affected by the quakes in Kumamoto and Oita.

The Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to submit the draft supplementary budget for fiscal 2016 to parliament in mid-May.

“I want each ministry and agency to take every necessary step without hesitation,” Abe told a meeting of government officials to discuss emergency responses to the quakes.—*Kyodo News*

Australia launches new strategies to promote international education

CANBERRA — The Australian government on Saturday launched three new strategies to promote its international education sector, one of the country’s largest services export industries and was worth more than 19 billion AU dollars (14 billion US dollars) to the Australian economy in 2015.

Being launched are the National Strategy for International Education 2025; the Australia Global Alumni Engagement Strategy and the Australian International Education 2025 (AIE2025) market development roadmap.

“As Australia transitions to a knowledge and service-based economy, the Government’s innovative strategies will strengthen and grow our international education sector over the coming decade,” said a joint statement by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Minister for Tourism and International Education Richard Colbeck.

The statement said that

the National Strategy for International Education 2025 will enable Australia’s international education sector to be more adaptive, innovative and globally engaged.

It will further strengthen the country’s internationally recognised education system, increase global partnerships and drive collaboration with local communities and global partners.

Complementing the National Strategy, the AIE2025 roadmap will position Australia to capitalise on new opportunities and markets over the next decade.

More than 2.5 million international students have studied in Australia over the last 50 years, many of whom currently occupy positions of influence around the region. The Australia Global Alumni Engagement Strategy will seek to leverage those alumni to promote Australia’s diplomatic, trade and investment interests.—*Xinhua*

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Cambodia’s passenger trains restart regular services after 14-year suspension



A passenger train departs a railway station in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 30 April, 2016. Cambodia’s passenger train services resumed regular weekend operations between Phnom Penh capital and southwestern Sihanoukville on Saturday after a 14-year hiatus. PHOTO: XINHUA

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia’s passenger train services resumed regular weekend operations between Phnom Penh capital and southwestern Sihanoukville on Saturday after a 14-year hiatus.

In a bid to promote the kingdom’s railways, Prime Minister Hun Sen boarded the first train, which ran on the 266-km railroad from the capital to the coastal

province.

John Guiry, CEO of the Royal Railway, said the resumption of passenger train services was made after the successful operation of a nine-day trial run early this month.

The services from Phnom Penh to and from Sihanoukville will be operated on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, departing Phnom Penh at 7am, with

two stops in the provinces of Takeo and Kampot, he said, adding that the train from Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh also departs at 7am.

“The one-way ticket price is 6 US dollars,” he said. “The wagons can accommodate over 200 passengers and the full journey may take around 7 hours.”

Standard cars are equipped with fans, while

VIP cars sport air-conditioners, he added.

Tim Malis, a 70-year-old passenger, said she was very happy to see the revival of passenger train services.

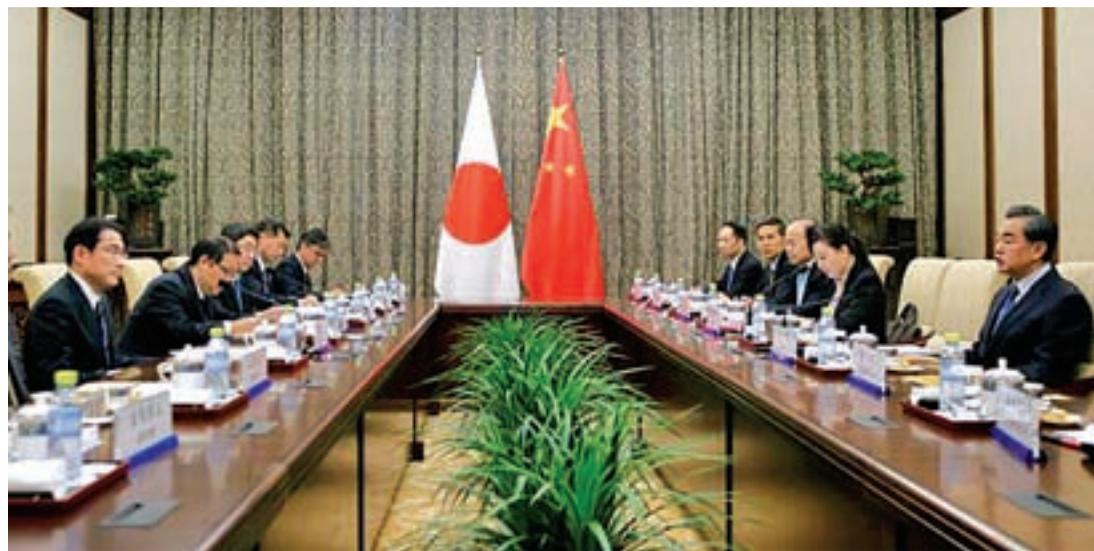
“My family members and I chose to go by train because we think that travel by train is safer than travel by taxi,” she told Xinhua. “Moreover, train fares are cheaper than those of taxi or bus fares.”

The Southeast Asian nation has two lines of railroads. One southern line connects Phnom Penh to the seaport of Sihanoukville, and the other line in the north stretches from Phnom Penh to Poipet City and to Thailand in the distance of 385 km.

The two lines, which had been built between 1929 and 1969, were damaged during decades of civil war.

In 2009, the Asian Development Bank and development partners provided 141 million US dollars to the country for the rehabilitation of the two rail networks.—*Xinhua*

China says Japan ties should be based on cooperation, not confrontation



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) during a meeting at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, in Beijing, China, on 30 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China's relations with Japan should be based on cooperation not confrontation, China's foreign minister told his Japanese counterpart on Saturday, adding that China would judge Japan's desire to improve ties depending on its actions.

China, the world's second-largest economy, and Japan, the third-largest, have a difficult political history, with ties strained by the legacy of Japan's World War II aggression and conflicting claims over a group of uninhabited East China Sea islets.

Ties have been thawing recently, with meetings between Chinese President Xi Jinping and

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, but Beijing remains deeply suspicious of Japan, particularly of moves by Abe to allow the military to fight overseas for the first time since the war.

Meeting in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida that ties had fallen to a low ebb, something Japan should be clear of the reasons for.

"We have recently seen the Japanese side repeatedly expressing its hope of improving the bilateral relationship. You have also shown your willingness to take the first step. If you come with sincerity, we welcome you," Wang said.

"As the Chinese saying goes, we should make a judgment based on not only what people say but also what they do. I am ready to listen to your opinion about how to improve China-Japan relations, and I am also going to see whether the Japanese side will match its words with deeds," he added.

"Facing up to history, abiding by promises and cooperation rather than confrontation should be the basis of China-Japan relations."

Kishida, in comments in front of reporters, thanked Wang for expressions of condolence from China for recent earthquakes in Japan.—Reuters

Vietnamese PM chairs irregular meeting with Cabinet members to address business petitions

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc on Friday in Ho Chi Minh City chaired an irregular meeting with Cabinet members to consider and address requests made by businesses during the online conference with the Government leader on the same day in Ho Chi Minh City.

At the meeting, Government members proposed specific measures for the requests, focusing on major issues such as business registration, market approach, access to capital and credit, land, construction procedures, taxation, and customs, Viet Nam News Agency reported.

Ministries and sectors reached a consensus on the necessity to build a Government resolution on business development with a target of at least 1 million enterprises by 2020.

Speaking at the meeting, Phuc required ministers and sector heads to handle businesses' petitions in the spirit of innovation.

He also asked ministries, sectors and localities to work out agricultural and rural devel-

opment policies to serve equitable agricultural development and the building of new-style rural areas.

Earlier, speaking at the online conference in Ho Chi Minh City with the attendance of representatives of thousands of businesses nationwide, the first dialogue between the leader of the newly-established Government and entrepreneurs, Phuc said: "Enterprises are the driving force for national economic development."

The Vietnamese Prime Minister stressed that all enterprises, regardless of their scales and types except for some operating in security and national defence, will have equal access to resources such as capital, natural resource, land, market and business opportunities.

He promised more efforts to boost administrative reform and fight corruption, adding that unsuitable regulations should be abolished including sub-licenses.

The Government will issue a resolution on business development in the coming time, he said.—Xinhua

China denies Hong Kong visit request by US carrier group — Pentagon

WASHINGTON/HONG KONG — China has denied a request for a US carrier strike group led by the USS John C. Stennis to visit Hong Kong, the US Defence Department said on Friday, amid heightened tensions over China's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

A Pentagon spokesman, Commander Bill Urban, said a US warship, the USS Blue Ridge, was currently in Hong Kong on a port visit and the United States expected that to continue.

Urban said the request for the Hong Kong visit by the carrier and its accompanying vessels, which have been patrolling the South China Sea, was recently denied, despite a "long track record of successful port visits to Hong Kong."

A US Navy official, who did not want to be identified, said the Chinese Foreign Ministry's commissioner in Hong Kong conveyed Beijing's denial of visit, saying it was "not convenient" at this time.

The Chinese government and its embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The nuclear-powered Stennis

has been conducting patrols in the South China Sea, which China claims most of and where Beijing has sparked US and regional concerns by building artificial islands to bolster its claims.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter visited the Stennis while it transited the South China Sea on 15 April to underscore US concerns about the need to maintain freedom of navigation in the face of Chinese moves.

A wide range of US military vessels and aircraft have long routinely stopped in Hong Kong, a reflection of the "one country, two systems" formula under which Britain handed the global financial hub back to China in 1997.

The visits occasionally have been suspended in periods of heightened tensions, such as after a mid-air collision between a US EP-3 surveillance plane and a Chinese plane off China's Hainan island in 2001.

The USS Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier also was denied permission to enter Hong Kong over Thanksgiving in 2007 but was cleared to visit five months later. The Navy official said a visit by the USS Halsey also was denied in 2014.

The United States has stressed the importance of good relations with China's military to avoid misunderstandings and Chinese military officers are invited routinely aboard US ships during port visits, and are sometimes flown out to land on US carriers at sea.

While aboard the Stennis,

Carter dismissed China's characterisation of a more robust US military presence in the region as being the cause of heightened tensions. Washington has in turn accused China of militarising its outposts in the South China Sea by building airstrips and other facilities.

Carter made a similar stop

at the USS Theodore Roosevelt in November as it transited the South China Sea near Malaysia.

The Stennis has been on a routine deployment in the Western Pacific for more than three months, the carrier strike group's commander, Rear Admiral Ronald Boxall, said earlier this month.—Reuters



The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS John C Stennis arrives to join the annual Key Resolve military exercise conducted by South Korea and the US, at a port in Busan, South Korea, on 13 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Fresh impetus to economic development through export promotion and import substitution

Kyaw Thura

It is natural that all workers dream of enjoying the fruits of their labours from the day they start work to the day they retire. Since civil servants alone are entitled to retirement pensions, retirement security is a constant source of worry to employees from private companies and services. For the government, how to guarantee a good retirement income to every employee should now be at the top of the agenda.

The government has vowed to get the national economic growth bandwagon to roll within 100 days starting from its inception. In doing so, the government should invite suggestions from outside sources on the issue of export promotion and import substitution, while understanding the crucial need to encourage the development of domestic industry.

Every country looks inward and outward in fostering their economic growth. Take Japan for example, this Asian economic giant is often quoted as a perfect example of the modern industrial world. As part of import substitution, Japan concentrated all its efforts on strengthening its automobile and electronics industries while providing financial assistance to small and medium enterprises. The Japanese government made it sure that the benefits of economic growth were not in the hands of the privileged classes.

Creating jobs and increasing incomes will generate temporary benefits, considering the challenges of globalisation. The provision of free courses on capacity building and job training will act as an incentive for the employed to work harder as well as for the unemployed to follow their dreams. After all, the government should add fresh impetus to the development of human resources by encouraging the private sector to further strengthen microeconomic efficiency on the domestic economy.

ENGLISH TODAY

Win Myint Han (F.N.I)

First and foremost, the essentiality (absolute necessity) of English language in spurring the economic development of a least-developed nation like Myanmar need be clarified and emphasized in order to convince and educate those bigots who firmly believe that intensive learning of English by non-English people is just a *longing for a distant aunt over the own mother* (Myanmar saying). Of many reasons that can be cited, 2, 3 only would be enough to be mentioned hereunder.

Take for instance India and China of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China), the group of the most rapidly developing countries in the world during the past one and half decades. They try their very best to make it a *Must* for their people to study English as much as possible. India which had even made English to be its official language has so large an English-speaking educated labor force that big multi-national corporations from abroad had outsourced part of their work for some time therein because of Indian famous workmanship especially in IT. Now China (dubbed *economic powerhouse*) is very rich and a big creditor to which the U.S. owes billions of U.S dollar. Even while the former was poor many years ago, it nevertheless made sure that thousands of its top students were annually sent abroad especially to English-speaking nations as state scholars to pursue further studies. Now China is important and powerful so much so that international community dare not dismiss her as a developing country without any clout political or financial. Some famous American economists even predicted that she would surpass the Uncle Sam as the biggest economy in the coming 2020. One of the fundamental causes of the economic growth of both nations is their all-out study of English. As they sow, so they reap.

In Myanmar textbooks of almost all subjects except Myanmar officially prescribed for standards eight, nine and ten (in state high schools) are all written in English, let alone University. The last but totally undeniable fact is that unless well-versed in English non-English personages like U Thant, Ban Ki-moon, Kofi Annan, Boutros Boutros—Ghali and the likes would have never become the Secretaries

General of the United Nations. It speaks for itself.

Today, the standard of written English in Myanmar is at its lowest rung. Unless I point out those silliest mistakes below, you, my esteemed reader would not believe them, as they are most silliest. (double superlatives -Shakespearean usage in the *Julius Caesar*).

Your attention is drawn to the 27th SEA GAMES held successfully in 2013 in Myanmar. At its closing ceremony a dignitary, may be the minister of sports was delivering a speech in Myanmar with the English translation thereof concurrently being shown on T.V. At some point the interpreter who seemed at least fairly -versed in English inadvertently used the word *biannual* instead of *biennial*. As the Sea Games is usually held once every 2 years, he/she should use the latter and not the former, because *biannual* means *twice one year* whereas *biennial* once every 2 years. But I am certain that out of millions of people hearing and seeing the word, only a handful would have noticed the error.

Secondly, KANBAWZA is a well-known household word of success in Myanmar with big businesses in banking, airline, insurance etc like APPLE in the U.S. and MIT-SUBISHI in Japan. But when the Kanbawza bank inserted an advertisement in the newspaper *Kyemon*, appreciating the establishment of representation in Yangon by *OECD bank*, it accidentally used the word *renounced*. I am sure that what the author intended to write would

be, *renowned* which inexplicably became, *renounced*, causing opposite meaning, because *renounce* inter alia means *relinquish, reject, spurn, shun* whereas *renowned famous, famed*.

The *Kyemon* with the largest circulation in Myanmar and as the mouthpiece of the previous regime is a very successful paper in which many businesses and people advertised. But as far as English is concerned it is rather weak, (maybe) because it is a Myanmar—language paper. When reporting the name of the daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, England (William and Kate), the paper mentioned her name *Charlotte* as *Charlotti* (ဇာလတ္တီ) instead of *Charlotte* (ဇာလတ်တီ). Likewise, very recently on March 24, 2016 it published an advertisement of the MSEC about the start of stock trading with the title in bold letters *Stock Trading Start—on 25th, March*.

Everything about it is grandiose and impressive except for one weakness. I.e. -s which must be suffixed to the Start is missing. If meant for past tense, then *ed* must be suffixed thereto. The advertiser might be to blame but the editor concerned should have known and corrected the mistake, as it is very easy and simple.

Lastly, I want to quote the poorest possible translation into English of Myanmar or Pali passage in Myanmar. It is at the pagoda OAKPATATHANTI in Naypyidaw where the Buddha's 4 Noble Truths

and Eightfold Path written in Myanmar, Pali and translated into English are shown. I reproduce below 3 translations only without their corresponding Myanmar or Pali text in order to save space.

(Quote) 1. *Noble Truth of Cessation of Suffering*

The reality of cessation of all (the) sufferings exist evidently. The absolute cessation of *tanha*—greed, renunciation, forsaking, forsaking at far-away, emancipation, free from attachment are the real essence of the Nibbana.

(Unquote) (the) before *sufferings* is superfluous, because the *sufferings* is used for the first time and not extraordinarily significant like *the sun or the moon*. As use of (the) is very controversial, let it be. But *exist* needs to be suffixed by *S*, because subject (reality) is singular. Similarly, as subject (cessation) is singular, *are* must be *is*. And *free* must be *freedom* (noun), because all the words up to *tanha* which precede the *free* are all nouns.

(Quote) 2. *Noble Eightfold Path*
These Noble Eightfold Path comprising with eight characteristics which is *relied upon* by the saintly noble persons are the *Right View, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Bodily Action, Right Livelihood, Right Endeavour, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration*.

(Unquote) As subject (Path) is singular, *These* must be either *The* or *This* (*The* is better). *with* is superfluous, because *comprising* or *comprise* (verb) needs no prep-

osition. Only when used as a past participle it needs a preposition. (e.g. Our team is comprised of 3 doctors.) *relied (rely) upon* which means *depend upon* is not appropriate and should be replaced by *trodden*. The following sentence with the same meaning is proposed to be substituted for the original:—

The Noble Eightfold Path which must be trodden by those wishing to attain Enlightenment is composed of eight characteristics: Right View, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Bodily Action, Right Livelihood, Right Endeavour, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration.

(Quote) 3. *Noble Truth of Origin of Suffering*

Tanha (craving) is potent for the new life which is accompanied by pleasure and lust. Seeking satisfaction by roving for sensual pleasures. What is this Tanha? i.e. Kama Tanha (craving for sense pleasures). Sassataditthi Tahna (a desire for an eternity of existence), Ucchedaditthi Tahna (a desire for an annihilation of the soul)

(Unquote) As *potent* and *accompany* are not appropriate terms, the sentence with the same meaning shown below is proposed to replace the original:—

Tanha (craving) is bound to reproduce a new existence replete with ever-present pleasure and lust.

The phrase (or sentence), "Seeking satisfaction by roving for sensual pleasures" is verbi- less. *Pleasure* is suffixed by *s* in



If ...

POEM:

If we have more metta for fellow beings who daily track the same route as us,
If roadside shopkeepers have more kindness for pedestrians who find their way through the mazes they create,
If trishaw men have more empathy with drivers, who like them, hurry along roads that twist and turn,
If drivers have more sympathy for other road users who all must get to their destination at the appointed time,
If vendors think less of sales and have more pity on those whose paths they have invaded,
If municipal officials remember their duties and make constant checks,
Roads less choked, pavements less robbed, drivers less aggressive, and pedestrians less weary, there will be,
Then, kids who must go to school, and mothers, fathers, and others who must work, will sooner get back home.
More time for children to freely frolic and be children once again!
More time for mothers to cook the meal that delights the family!
More time for fathers to help with household chores, and to coach their offspring!
More time for young workers to relax, refreshed to face the wiles of the new day!
And, more time for you and I, to meditate on the woes of this world!

Myo Myint

Myanmar Dairy Delegation attended Israeli Expo

A DELEGATION of senior members of the local livestock and dairy farms sector visited a demonstration dairy farm in Viet Nam this week at the invitation of the Israel Embassy in Yangon. The delegation, headed by Dr. Mya Han (President, Myanmar Livestock Federation), including seven senior members of the dairy sector, was accompanied by the ambassador of Israel to Myanmar. The event was hosted by an Israeli-managed farm near of Ho Chi Minh Province.

The farm was installed by MASHAV—Israel's agency for

international cooperation, in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture of Ho Chi Minh.

The members visited the farm installation where they observed a milking session and were briefed by the farm's manager on policy, procedures and technology harnessed by the Israeli dairy sector with an emphasis on the importance of proper management, proper nutrition and the cows' health – factors that have brought significant improvement to their milk production within a short period.—

G/NLM



The Myanmar delegation posing for a group photo.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY ISRAEL EMBASSY

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Anti-Trump protests break out for second day in California

BURLINGAME (Calif) — Protests erupted in California for the second day in a row on Friday against US presidential candidate Donald Trump, who is moving closer to winning the Republican nomination after a string of victories this week.

The billionaire businessman was forced to halt his motorcade and go through a back entrance to a hotel to give a speech to the California Republican convention and avoid several hundred loud protesters gathered outside.

“That was not the easiest entrance I’ve ever made,” Trump told the gathering in Burlingame, south of San Francisco, after weaving around a barrier and clambering across a road to get to the venue. “It felt like I was crossing the border actually.”

Demonstrators, some of whom held Mexican national flags, at one point rushed securi-

ty gates at the hotel and police officers had their batons out.

The mogul had already drawn protests in California, with chaotic scenes on Thursday outside a Trump rally in Costa Mesa. Anti-Trump protesters smashed the window of a police car and blocked traffic. Some 20 people were arrested.

Protests have become common outside rallies for Trump who has earned ardent critics, as well as support from Republican voters, for his rhetoric against illegal immigration.

His campaign abandoned a rally in Chicago last month after clashes between his supporters and protesters.

He has accused Mexico of sending drug dealers and rapists across the US border and has promised to build a wall and make Mexico pay for it.

Trump, who described him-

self this week as the party’s presumptive nominee, would take a large stride toward knocking his Republican rivals out of the presidential race if he wins the Indiana primary next week.

On Friday, he said he is approaching the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the nomination.

Trump, who has run as a political outsider and only recently started making inroads with the Republican establishment, called for the party to band together behind him. But said he could win the White House without them if needed.

“There should be and there has to be unity. Now with that being said, would I win, can I win without it? I think so, to be honest,” Trump told the convention. His speech drew applause, though not the fervent reception of his usual campaign rallies.—*Reuters*

Aviation industry seeks EU intervention in Britain-Spain row over Gibraltar airport



A British Airways plane is seen on the tarmac before taking off at the Gibraltar International airport, in Gibraltar, south of Spain in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — Aviation industry leaders want European Union transport ministers to intervene to help settle a dispute between Britain and Spain over Gibraltar’s airport which threatens proposals to smooth travel across the bloc.

The dispute over whether the territory’s airport should be included in EU legislation on aviation could paralyse a shake-up of European airspace and has blocked progress on matters from passenger rights to ground-handling liberalisation.

The airport’s runway crosses the only road connecting Spain to Gibraltar, a British overseas territory.

Spain claims the whole of Gibraltar but views the isthmus containing its airport as a distinct issue. Madrid argues that it was not included in the treaty ceding Gibraltar to Britain three centu-

ries ago, and so has always been Spanish territory.

Representatives of airlines, airports, traffic controllers and plane manufacturers have written to ministers of both countries and the Netherlands, which chairs EU meetings, protesting at the damage to a sector caused by the dispute.

They want EU transport ministers to discuss the four-year-old impasse at a meeting on 7 June. “Unfortunately, and unacceptably, this deadlock has led to major delays in advancing some of the most important European air transport files to the detriment of consumers,” the heads of 10 industry groups said in the letter, seen by Reuters.

“The industry believes that this situation has now become unsustainable.” Britain has backed their complaint and responded by accusing Spain of

breaking a 2006 agreement to co-operate. Britain and Spain cannot agree whether the airport should be covered by EU aviation laws and until that dispute is resolved, no progress is possible on EU aviation reforms.

“It is regrettable that since 2012, Spain has chosen to ignore its own commitments, which had included removing its objection to the inclusion of Gibraltar airport in EU aviation legislation,” British Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin told aviation bosses, according to a copy of his reply seen by Reuters.

A Spanish transport ministry official said: “Spain has always been ready to find a neutral solution to the problem”.

A Dutch official said the Netherlands, whose transport minister will chair the 7 June meeting, was studying the industry’s letter.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crashed helicopter had maintenance delayed twice in 2015

OSLO — An Airbus (AIR.PA) Super Puma helicopter that crashed off the Norwegian coast on Friday, killing at least 11 of the 13 people on board, had maintenance servicing delayed twice last year, an official at the Norwegian Civil Aviation Authority told Norwegian daily VG.

“I can confirm that this specific helicopter had seen its maintenance delayed. It is correct that there was an application for a so-called travel-time extension,” a senior legal adviser at the Civil Aviation Authority, Hege Aalstad, told the website of VG.

“The first one was for a delay of 100 flying hours ... and the other was also for 100 flying hours.” A spokeswoman at the helicopter’s operator, CHC Helicopter, which is owned by US private equity firm First Reserve, was not immediately able to comment when contacted by Reuters.—*Reuters*

Twenty-four people missing after deadly garbage dump accident in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY — At least 24 people are still missing after a collapse at Guatemala City’s largest garbage dump this week that killed four people, the city said on Friday.

People sifting through the dump, which receives about 500 truckloads of trash every day, were caught unawares on Wednesday when part of the massive heap of garbage caved in, according to authorities in Guatemala City. Four people were killed and 15 were rescued from the mountains of waste with injuries. City spokesman Carlos Sandoval said the 24 missing included seven recycling workers. Others had apparently entered the dump illegally, he said. The search for the missing continued on Friday.—*Reuters*

Islamic State-linked hackers post target list of New Yorkers

NEW YORK — A group of hackers linked to Islamic State has posted online a list of thousands of New York residents and urged followers of the militant group to target them, according to a source with knowledge of the matter.

Federal agents and New York City police officers have been contacting the individuals on the list to inform them of the posting, but the source said law enforcement does not believe there is any credible threat. In a statement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said, “While our standard practice is to decline comment on specific operational and investigative matters, the FBI routinely notifies individuals and organisations of information collected during the course of an investigation that may be perceived as potentially threatening in nature.”—*Reuters*

Australia working to locate aid worker kidnapped in Afghanistan

KABUL — Australia said on Saturday it is working with Afghan and British authorities to try and locate an Australian aid worker who was kidnapped in Afghanistan. Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the government did not know who had taken Katherine Jane Wilsonn from the office of a women’s charity in Jalalabad on Thursday morning.

“We are working very closely with authorities in Afghanistan as well as countries who have significant resources on the ground, including the British, to ascertain her whereabouts,” Bishop said.

“We are working with those who can assist us in making contact with those who may well have been involved.”—*Reuters*

Buenos Aires nightclubs ordered closed by judge after drug deaths

BUENOS AIRES — Buenos Aires’ nightclubs were ordered closed by a judge on Friday in response to the drug-related deaths of five people at a music festival in the city this month but nightclub owners vowed to ignore the order.

The capital’s iconic tango milongas and dance get-togethers held at cultural centres are exempt from the ruling by municipal judge Roberto Andrés Gallardo, which otherwise calls for an end to “all commercial activity involving dancing with live or recorded music.”

Nightclub owners said they would not follow the ruling, pointing out that the deaths took place at an electronic music festival at an events complex, not a typical nightclub.

“How do you obey a totally unconstitutional order like this one?” Jorge Becco, head of the Buenos Aires chamber of discotheque owners, told local television. “It’s like shutting the vegetable store because you found food poisoning at the butcher shop.”—*Reuters*

'Monstrous' violence in Syria as government excludes Aleppo from truce

BEIRUT — Syria called local truces near Damascus and in a northern province on Friday but no halt to combat on the main battlefield in Aleppo, after a surge in fighting the United Nations said showed "monstrous disregard" for civilian lives.

A new "regime of calm" would begin from 1:00am on Saturday and last one day in the capital's eastern Ghouta suburb and three days in the northern countryside of the coastal province of Latakia, the army said in a statement.

But by excluding the city of Aleppo, scene of the worst recent violence, the narrow truces were unlikely to resurrect a ceasefire and peace talks that have collapsed this week.

In the worst recent attack, an air strike destroyed a hospital in a rebel-held area overnight

on Wednesday-Thursday. The French charity Medecins sans Frontieres, which supported the hospital, said on Friday the death toll had risen to at least 50, including six medics.

A Syrian military source said Aleppo was excluded from the newly announced truces "because in Aleppo there are terrorists who have not stopped hitting the city and its residents ... There are a large number of martyrs in Aleppo, which is why the situation is different there".

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted the officer in charge of a Russian ceasefire monitoring centre as saying the truces meant all military action would cease in the covered areas.

Damascus described the truces as an attempt to salvage a wider "cessation of hostilities" agreement in place since Febru-



Smoke rises after airstrikes on the rebel-held al-Sakhour neighbourhood of Aleppo, Syria on 29 April.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ary. That ceasefire, sponsored by Washington and Moscow, allowed peace talks to start but has all but completely collapsed in recent days along with the Geneva negotiations.

Violence was "soaring back to the levels we saw prior to the cessation of hostilities," said United Nations human rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Husseini.

"There are deeply disturbing

reports of military build-ups indicating preparations for a lethal escalation," Zeid said in a statement that described a "monstrous disregard for civilian lives by all parties to the conflict".—Reuters

US strike on Afghan hospital in 2015 not a war crime: Pentagon

WASHINGTON — A deadly US air strike in Afghanistan last year that destroyed a hospital run by Doctors Without Borders did not amount to a war crime but was caused by human error, equipment failure and other factors, a US military report released on Friday concluded.

Forty-two people were killed and 37 were wounded during an 3 October strike that destroyed the hospital run by the international medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), known as Doctors Without Borders in English.

An initial US investigation in November found that US forces had meant to target a different building in the city of Kunduz and were led off-track by a technical error in their aircraft's mapping system.

"The investigation conclud-

ed that certain personnel failed to comply with the rules of engagement and the law of armed conflict," General Joseph Votel, commander of US Central Command, said in a news briefing on Friday to release the final report. "However, the investigation did not conclude that these failures amounted to a war crime."

This is because none of the service members were aware that they were striking a hospital, Votel said.

The incident was caused by "unintentional human errors, process errors, and equipment failures," he said. Fatigue and "high operational tempo" were also factors, he added.

MSG President Meinie Nicolai responded in a news release that the briefing amounted to "an admission of an uncontrolled mil-

itary operation in a densely populated urban area, during which US forces failed to follow the basic laws of war."

MSF said the disciplinary action announced on Thursday against 16 service members over the air strike, including a general, was too light.

It is "out of proportion to the destruction of a protected medical facility," MSF said.

The report said condolence payments had been made to more than 170 individuals and families and \$5.7 million had been approved to reconstruct the MSF facility.

Votel said \$3,000 had been paid for those injured, and \$6,000 for those killed.

Many victims of the strike in Afghanistan said in interviews that they were unsatisfied with the findings and actions being taken by the United States.

"There's a lot of talking without much happening," said Obaidullah Nazari, who survived in the basement when his brother, a patient at the hospital, died in the attack.

Votel said that even though fewer US forces were on the ground than in previous years, he was comfortable with the ability of the military to evaluate risk factors.

The Obama administration plans to keep 5,500 troops in Afghanistan into 2017 for training and counter-terrorism operations, down from about 9,800 now.—Reuters

Azerbaijan to shell all military positions of Armenian army: spokesman

BAKU — Azerbaijan's armed forces located on the line of contact were ordered to open a retaliatory fire on all military positions of Armenian army on the frontline, spokesman of Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry told local media here on Friday.

"The Azerbaijani armed forces have been instructed not to shell the settlements located on the occupied territories," he said, adding that the Azerbaijani army will shell only military points of Armenian army.

He alleged that starting 26 April, Armenia has violated the ceasefire and shelled Azerbaijani settlements using mortars, howitzers and BM-21 multiple rocket launchers.

Two Azerbaijani civilians were killed and seven others were severely wounded in an attack by Armenian forces in several villages of Terter and Aghdam regions near the line of contact overnight Thursday.

The Armenian attack has also damaged 84 houses, includ-

ing schools, private houses, electrical substation and cattle farms in these regions. Some of them have been completely destroyed. The Azerbaijan's Aghdam region was open to journalists Friday.

Heavy fighting broke out on 2 April between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the separatist Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The clash lasted several days and left more than 70 soldiers dead on both sides before a ceasefire was agreed in Moscow on 5 April.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been locked in a bitter dispute over the mountainous region of Nagorno-Karabakh seized by Armenia-backed forces from Azerbaijan in 1991. Peace talks have been held since 1994 when a cease-fire was reached.

Firefights have been frequently reported recently between the two countries along their shared border and across Karabakh's volatile front line.—Xinhua



A sign commemorates 14 medical personnel who were killed when an American airstrike destroyed the Medecins Sans Frontieres hospital in Kunduz. PHOTO: REUTERS

At least 14 people killed in heavy rains in Nairobi

NAIROBI — At least 14 people have been killed and several others injured or displaced after heavy rains pounded Kenya's capital of Nairobi Friday night.

Nairobi police commander Japheth Koome confirmed on

Saturday the death toll, saying seven people were killed after a six-storey residential building collapsed in Huruma, east of Nairobi, and seven others lost their lives due to heavy rains on Friday evening.—Xinhua

Britain praises Cuba's Castro for embracing realities of modernity

HAVANA — Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on Friday praised Cuban President Raul Castro for embracing the realities of the modern world after a meeting with the Communist leader that marked a further step in Cuba's thaw with the West.

He is the first British Foreign Secretary to set foot on the Caribbean island since its 1959 revolution, and his visit follows one by US President Barack Obama in March.

Hammond said he had a "long and interesting discussion" with Castro about the octogenarian leader's push to update one of the world's last Soviet-style command economies. "He is espousing a programme of gradual change, embracing the realities of the world we live in," Hammond said in an interview at the British ambassador's residence in Havana.

"I was very struck by the fact that he described

the Internet as the reality of our world, spoke positively about the benefits the Internet could bring."

Cuba still has one of the world's lowest Internet penetrations with access expensive and restricted.

The state says it wants to expand access and has been installing Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the country. But change is slow and critics suggest the government fears losing control of media and seeing new avenues of political opposition open up. Castro has vowed to "update" Cuba's socialist model but market-style reforms have been implemented haltingly and even reversed in some areas. A Communist Party Congress this month proposed little new to tackle the country's economic woes.

"Castro is seeking to position himself in the middle between those who are resisting change and those who want much faster, more



Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond (L) shakes hands with Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla during their meeting in Havana, on 28 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

radical change," said Hammond, adding that Britain hoped to foster reforms through cooperation in certain sectors.

The Foreign Secretary said the government recognised its financial services sector was underdeveloped.

"Castro said to me directly 'we lack management expertise in banking services' and this is an area where the UK (United Kingdom) has something very clear to offer," he said. The main sectors where Britain sees opportunities for its companies to do business in Cuba were financial services, tourism and renewable energy, Hammond said.

Challenges to doing business in Cuba remain

however, he said, not least due to the US trade embargo.

"We have also had discussions with the US about the challenges for British and other European banks in doing business with countries that face US sanctions," said Hammond.

"There are some problems here but we are working through them with the US and hope to make progress in a way that will enable British businesses to do more business with Cuba." Exports of British goods to Cuba rose 32 per cent in 2015 compared with the previous year but the government deems there is scope for growth as other European countries export far more to the island.—Reuters

Pacific frustration mounting at climate change inaction

WELLINGTON — Peoples of the Pacific islands are becoming increasingly frustrated at the world's failure to properly address the causes of climate change and rising sea levels, a leading New Zealand climate change expert warned Friday. Experts throughout the Pacific were urging all countries to sign up to and ratify the new Paris Agreement on climate change, or face up to the prospect of a climate that won't be safe for humanity, said Professor James Renwick of Victoria University.

Renwick was a co-author of the Outcome Statement of the university's Pacific Climate Change Conference in February, which made recommendations on how Pacific nations could combat the effects of climate change. It called for other strong actions including establishing a universal price on carbon and increasing contributions from Pa-

cific nations to international climate change reports and science research.

The statement was based on the feedback from more than 250 professionals in climate change science, international law, indigenous rights, advocacy, politics, civil society, sustainable development and the media, Renwick said in a statement. It captured "the unprecedented roar of voices heard at the conference of people frustrated that the current pace of change isn't enough to address or resolve the problems we're facing in the Pacific." "We're already seeing a steady rise in sea-levels, ocean acidification and increasing intensity of extreme weather events, with an alarming outlook for future change. If we don't make serious efforts now, the outcome could be catastrophic for people of the Pacific, and that includes New Zealand," he said.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2016 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 COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Portugal taxi drivers stage massive protest against Uber

LISBON — Thousands of taxi drivers protested across Portugal on Friday, against what they claim is an illegal car-sharing service.

Hundreds of taxi drivers drove down Lisbon's Avenida de Liberdade (Freedom Avenue) in the city centre, beeping their horns and displaying signs that read "Stop Uber" in what was the country's biggest anti-Uber protest to date.

The taxi drivers were received by the Lisbon Mayor Fernando Medina at the town hall. They then headed to parliament where heads of the association were welcomed by the President of Parliament Ferro Rodrigues.

Citizens were recommended to take public transport as the protest disrupted traffic during the morning rush hour.

Protests also took place in the second largest city Porto and in southern city Faro.

The protests come af-



Portuguese taxi drivers line up for a protest against Uber, in Lisbon, Portugal on 29 April, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

ter a manifesto was handed to the government earlier this month, with associations claiming the service is illegal because it doesn't comply with rules which taxi drivers are subject to.

"It (Uber) is illegal because it doesn't respect laws which in Portugal guides transport activities of taxis," the manifesto

reads. Uber says all its drivers have a license and that they comply with the law.

The Portuguese government has asked for an opinion regarding the company's functioning to the transport and mobility authority, and is awaiting guidelines from the European Commission.

Portugal's Left Bloc party agreed that Uber's activity was illegal. Taxi drivers said they would not abandon parliament until the heads of the taxi associations were welcomed by a member of the government. Uber protests have taken place recently in numerous cities around the world.—Xinhua

Chinese ship to inaugurate Expanded Panama Canal

PANAMA CITY — China COSCO Shipping on Friday won the draw to inaugurate the Expanded Panama Canal this June with one of its mega vessels, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announced.

“The shipping line’s container vessel Andronikos will be making the inaugural transit,” the ACP said in a press release.

The draw, which took place Friday morning at the Panama Canal Administration Building, pitted the Norwegian/Swedish shipping line Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines (WWL) against China

COSCO. COSCO’s Andronikos, which has a maximum capacity of 9,400 TEUs - (20-foot equivalent units of shipping containers) and measures 8.25 metres in beam and 299.98 metres in length, beat out WWL’s car carrier Thalatta, which has a maximum capacity of 8,000 CEUs (car equivalent units), and measures 36.5 metres in beam and 199.97 metres in length, the ACP said.

“It is a great honour to have one of our top customers celebrate this historical moment with us,” said Panama Canal Administrator, Jorge L. Quijano.

“We are excited and prepared to continue providing the same reliable and efficient service within the Expanded Panama Canal that our customers have come to expect through the years.”

More than 100 Neopanamax-size cargo ships have already made reservations for commercial transit through the new larger locks beginning 27 June, the day after the historic inauguration, the ACP said.

The Panama Canal announced in March it would invite its top customers to participate in the draw. —Xinhua



A representative from China COSCO Shipping (L, front) reacts during the draw ceremony in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 29 April 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Australia proposes reforms to boost anti-money laundering drive



Australian dollar notes and coins can be seen in a cash register at a store in Sydney, Australia, on February.

PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Australia on Friday proposed changes to simplify its anti money-laundering and terrorism financing laws, notably extending the regulations to include intermediaries and professions currently not required to report suspicious transactions.

The 84 recommendations in a statutory review published on Friday include extending the current anti-money laundering

rules to encompass accountants, lawyers, real estate agents and dealers in high-value objects such as jewellery.

The global anti-money laundering body Financial Action Task Force (FATF) last year found significant gaps in Australia’s AML framework, particularly in the regulation of professional service providers such as lawyers and accountants, who are not covered by existing rules.

Friday’s recommendations would help bolster Australia’s compliance and enforcement and allow it to simplify its anti-money laundering/counter terrorism financing (AML/CTF) regulations to minimize red tape and duplication.

The reforms will be progressed in two stages to prevent “regulatory fatigue,” the Justice Minister Michael Keenan said in the report.

Australian anti-money laundering regulator AUSTRAC welcomed the recommendations. “Better reporting practices from industry means we produce better intelligence, which then helps national security, law enforcement agencies and our partners in Government to investigate and crack down on people doing the wrong thing,” AUSTRAC CEO Paul Jevtovic said in a statement.—Reuters

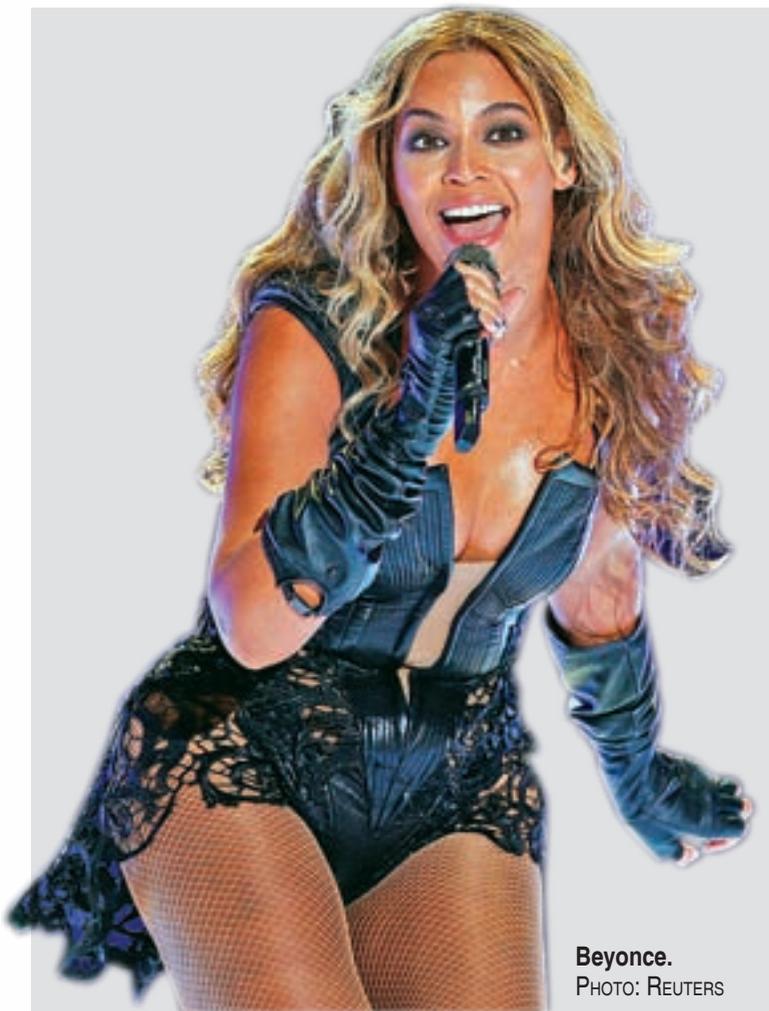
Announcement to MPT Service Users

The advanced MGN/ MSAN exchanges has been replaced at S- 12 Thingangyun Exchange (Yangon) on February 10, 2016, following an unrecoverable System Breakdown on January 31, 2016. In doing so, all telephone numbers beginning with (01-56xxxx) were switched to (01-233xxxx) or (01-856xxxx) .

For telephone users’ convenience, Myanma Post and Telecommunication has also provided with Call Forward service with no charges for making calls from old numbers to the new numbers.

It has already been two and half months since the provided Call Forward service. In order to start using new numbers only, we would like to inform that the Call Forward service for old telephone numbers to new numbers will be terminated with effective from May 14, 2016.

Myanma Post and Telecommunications



Beyoncé.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Fourteen Prince albums climb UK charts, but Beyonce goes top

LONDON — Fourteen albums by US pop superstar Prince have flooded back in to the British charts since his sudden death last week but Beyoncé's "Lemonade" went straight to the top after notching up some of the fastest sales of the year.

"The Very Best Of" Prince was at two, "Ultimate" was third and "Purple Rain – OST" from "Prince & The New Power Generation" climbed 51 places to fourth, the Official Charts Company said on Friday.

Three more Prince albums entered the higher reaches of this week's chart: "The Hits/The B-Sides" at 13, "Sign O' The Times" at 15 and "1999" at 28. In all, 14 of the singer's albums were in the top 100.

The influential singer, musician and songwriter was found

dead at age 57 on Thursday last week in an elevator at his Paisley Park Studios compound in a Minneapolis suburb. The cause of death is not yet known.

Lemonade, Beyoncé's sixth studio collection, racked up 73,000 chart sales, making it Britain's second-fastest selling artist record of 2016 behind David Bowie's "Blackstar," the charts company said.

It is her third chart-topping album in the UK, following her 2003 debut "Dangerously In Love" and 2011's "4."

On the singles chart, rapper Drake's "One Dance" notched up a third week at No. 1 while Sia's "Cheap Thrills" remained at two for the fourth week running, followed by Mike Posner's "I Took A Pill In Ibiza" unchanged at three.—Reuters

Alicia Vikander to play Lara Croft



Alicia Vikander. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Swedish Oscar-winning actress Alicia Vikander has scooped the coveted role of Lara Croft in the "Tomb Raider" movie reboot, according to industry reports.

Vikander, who won an Academy Award this year for her role in "The Danish Girl", follows in the footsteps of Angelina Jolie to play the famed adventurer.

According to industry publication Variety, Roar Uthaug will direct the movie.—Reuters

Filmmaker Coppola cements legacy

LOS ANGELES — Veteran filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola left a permanent mark on Hollywood on Friday, after his hands and feet were imprinted in cement to be displayed at the landmark TLC Chinese Theatre. The ceremony honoured the 77-year-old Oscar-winning director's 50-

year career, highlighted by films such as "The Godfather" trilogy and "Apocalypse Now" and five Oscar wins. It took place during Turner Classic Movies' annual Classic Film Festival in Hollywood, which will run through Sunday, where Coppola's films will be played.

"Maybe 40 years ago people might not have appreciated a film like 'Apocalypse Now,' which was kind of unusual to say the least," Coppola told Reuters about receiving the honour after so many years in the industry.

"If you're looking as an artist for some type of assurance that

what you are doing is OK or going in the right direction then I think you have to wait for the judgment of time before you know."

Among those on hand were wife Eleanor, son Roman Coppola, sister Talia Shire and fellow director Peter Bogdanovich.—Reuters

Pop star Kesha releases first single after label dispute

NEW YORK — Pop star Kesha released her first new music in three years on Friday after losing a legal bid earlier this month to scrap her recording contract with Sony Music and producer Dr. Luke, whom the singer had accused of sexual assault.

Kesha, 29, teamed up with DJ Zedd on the single "True Colors," an electro-pop ballad released through the singer's label RCA Records, an unit of Sony Corp's Sony Music Entertainment, and Dr. Luke's Kemosabe Records, to which Kesha is still signed to.

In a tweet on Friday, Kesha said "#truecolors spoke to me so deeply I had to spread the beautiful message of personal empowerment."

Zedd added on Twitter, "Just to clarify: We didn't use any loop holes. Kemosabe / RCA gave us permission to release this song!"

Earlier this year, Kesha appealed a New York Supreme Court justice's decision to refuse to release her from a six-album

contract with Sony, after the singer filed a sexual assault lawsuit against Dr. Luke in 2014.

Representatives for Sony Music and Dr. Luke did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment on Friday. The producer has previously denied Kesha's allegations of rape and emotional abuse.

The justice found in February that Kesha, who had not released new music since 2013's "C'Mon" and "Crazy Kids" from her "Warrior" album, was free to record for Sony with other producers, without interference from Dr. Luke. The singer said the decision was akin to slavery.

The case sparked the #FreeKesha campaign on social media and a petition asking Sony to release Kesha from her contract. The singer also earned support from other artists such as Taylor Swift, Adele and Lady Gaga.

"True Colours" features Kesha singing lyrics such as "We've escaped our capture, And I have



Singer Kesha arrives at the 2014 MTV Music Video Awards in Inglewood, California in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

no master," and "I won't apologise, For the fire in my eyes, Let me show you my, my true colours." Kesha had made a surprise appearance on stage with Zedd at the Southern California mu-

sic festival Coachella earlier this month to debut the song.

"True Colours" is currently at No.8 on the iTunes US top-selling songs chart for Friday.—Reuters

Stephen Merchant joins cast of 'Wolverine 3'

LOS ANGELES — "The Office" co-creator Stephen Merchant has joined the cast of "Wolverine 3", the latest in the Hugh Jackman-starring X-Men stand-alone franchise.

The British comedian, known for his work with Ricky Gervais, is the latest name to join the cast of the X-Men spin off, reported Deadline.

Few details about Merchant's role have been released. Richard E Grant has also signed up to play a "villainous mad-scientist type" in the new instalment.

"Narcos" star Boyd Holbrook, 34, will also portray a bad guy, while franchise regular Patrick Stewart will return as X-Men leader Professor X.

"Wolverine 3" is expected to be Hugh's last outing as the character, a role he has embodied since 2000.

The film, directed by James Mangold, is scheduled to be released in cinemas in March next year.—PTI

Major railway museum opens in Kyoto

KYOTO — A major railway museum opened Friday in Kyoto, with the operator expecting up to 1.3 million visitors in the first year.

The museum, which showcases 53 various train cars — from a steam locomotive to a bullet train — has about 30,000 square feet floor, one of the largest of its kind, according to operator West Japan Railway Co.

The museum opened at 8:50am, 10 minutes earlier than scheduled, as some 2,000 people had lined up outside the facility. When the museum opened, visitors gathered around the train cars on display and took pictures.

Yoshiyuki Ario, a 56-year-

old man from Kagoshima Prefecture, was at the very front of the long line of visitors. “I came to see the 0 series and a steam locomotive,” he said.

Visitors also can learn about the mechanism of a pantograph and a connector of trains by seeing the actual devices close up. Shusei Kawanaka, a fourth-grader in elementary school in Kyoto, said, “I was impressed to see so many motors.”

The admission fee is 1,200 yen for adults, 1,000 yen for senior high school and college students, 500 yen for elementary school and junior high school students, and 200 yen for children aged 3 or older.—*Kyodo News*



“The SL Steam,” an exhibit where visitors can ride in passenger cars pulled by steam locomotives, is seen at the Kyoto Railway Museum in Kyoto on 29 April 2016, the day of its grand opening. Operated by West Japan Railway Co., the museum is one of Japan’s largest, showcasing a total of 53 trains ranging from steam locomotives to bullet trains. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Former circus lions begin journey to South African refuge from Lima

LIMA — A blind lion, one that is missing an eye, and 31 others that had worked in circuses began the journey to a South African wildlife sanctuary from Lima, Peru, on Friday in what their rescuers called “the biggest transfer of animals in captivity” ever undertaken.

“These lions have endured

hell on earth and now they are heading home to paradise. This is the world for which nature intended these animals for,” Jan Creamer, president of Animal Defenders International, said in a statement. “It is the perfect ending to ADI’s operation which has eliminated circus suffering in another country.”

The organization said it rescued 24 of the lions in surprise raids on circuses in Peru. “They were living in deplorable conditions in cages on the backs of trucks.

“Nine were voluntarily surrendered by a circus in Colombia. Almost all of the rescued lions have been mutilated to remove their claws, one has lost an eye, another is almost blind, and many have smashed and broken teeth so would not survive in the wild,” it said in the statement.

The lions are destined for the Emoya Big Cat Sanctuary in the African bush.

Eva Chomba, a veterinarian with Animal Defenders International, said the trip to Johannesburg would take about 16 hours with a stop in Brazil to refuel.

“We’re going to take care of the animals throughout the whole trip. Three of us are going on the plane ... to tend to the animals’ needs, to give them chicken meat and water because the trip is very long and they need attention,” Chomba said.—*Reuters*



A former circus lion looks out from inside its cage in Callao, Peru, as it is prepared for transportation to a wildlife sanctuary in South Africa, on 29 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Prince’s motorcycle jacket from ‘Purple Rain’ film on auction

LOS ANGELES — A motorcycle jacket worn by the late pop star Prince in his 1984 film “Purple Rain,” when he rides through the woods with the movie’s leading lady, Apollonia, will be sold at auction, the company behind the sale said on Friday.

The V-neck jacket, which is black with white cross-hatching and has leather sleeves from the elbows down, will be presented for sale in Profiles in History’s auction between 29 June and 1 July in Calabasas, California.

Brian Chanes, who handles client relations at Profiles in History, said the auction house received the jacket about six weeks ago, before the musician’s unexpected death on 21 April at age 57. Officials from the company had estimated the jacket would sell for between \$6,000 and \$8,000, but that was before Prince’s death, which drew an outpouring of tributes for the seven-time Grammy-winner from President Barack Obama, Hollywood figures and fans worldwide.

“Now, all bets are off,” Chanes said, adding that the



Prince “Purple Rain” jacket is shown in this image released on 29 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

jacket could fetch more than \$100,000. Profiles in History officials said few items of Prince memorabilia have ever been offered for sale.

The jacket was given to a make-up artist for Prince and Apollonia Koteru, a singer who starred as the pop star’s girlfriend in the 1984 film “Purple Rain,” and the make-up artist’s sister is the consignor for the sale, said Jeff Hare, a spokesman for Profiles in History.—*Reuters*



Entertainment Channel

(1- 5-2016, Sunday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Music Programme

6:30 pm

- Dances

6:50 pm

- Myanmar Movie

8:50 pm

- Music Programme

9:00 pm

- International Movie
- Songs

9:20 pm

- Myanmar Movie

* 09:30 pm Live: English Premier League “Southampton Vs Manchester City”

From 1-5-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm
To 2-5-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(1-5-2016 07:00am ~ 2-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- 07:03 Am News
- 07:26 Am Elegant and Exquisite Myanmar Cotton Fabrics
- 07:38 Am Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
- 08:03 Am News
- 08:26 Am School For the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)
- 08:51 Am Thin Byu Mat
- 09:03 Am News
- 09:26 Am To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (EP-2)
- 09:47 Am A Way of Life: Aikido
- 10:03 Am News
- 10:26 Am Interview with Mandalay Region Chief Minister

- 10:38 Am Products of Myanmar - Mya Setkyar Pure Silk Fabric From Inle Lake
- 10:52 Am TECH School

(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
- 07:25 Pm Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
- 07:40 Pm One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo
- 07:49 Pm Today Myanmar: Yangon Stock Exchange Up and Running
- 08:03 Pm News
- 08:26 Pm Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part- 3)
- 08:53 Pm Myanmar Masterclass “Caricature”

(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)

Perfect Piller piles on birdies for second-round Texas lead

IRVING — American Gerina Piller continued her sizzling recent form with a ball-striking clinic, hitting every green in regulation on her way to the second-round clubhouse lead at the Texas Shootout in Irving on Friday.

She rolled in several medium-length putts before completing her day in style with a tap-in birdie at the last for a bogey-free six-under-par 65 at Las Colinas Country Club.

On a day when half the field did not complete the round due to fierce afternoon thunderstorms, Piller posted a 10-under 132 halfway total, one stroke ahead of South Korean Ji Eun-hee (66). Fellow South Korean Hur Mi-jung was alone in third place on eight-under after 12 holes when play was halted for the day. The second round is scheduled to resume early Saturday, with the third round set to begin late morning.

Piller, who lives in nearby Fort Worth, is enjoying sleeping in her own bed this week, albeit without her husband, PGA Tour player Martin Piller, who is competing in New Orleans. "I love sleeping in my bed, our bed," said the 31-year-old, who is coming off top-six finishes in her past three LPGA events.—*Reuters*



Paris St Germain's Marquinhos in action during French Ligue 1 at Parc des Princes stadium, Paris, France on 29 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ibrahimovic leads PSG to 4-0 rout of Rennes with double

LONDON — Paris St Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored two goals and set up another as the runaway Ligue 1 champions thrashed Stade Rennes 4-0 on a wet evening in Paris on Friday.

Four second-half goals at the Parc des Princes allowed PSG

to equal their own record for the most points in a Ligue 1 season — 89 — with two games remaining.

Ibrahimovic joined in a second-half scoring frenzy when he picked up a cross from Argentine Angel di Maria and sent it beyond the reach of goalkeeper Benoit

Costil in the 54th minute.

Four minutes earlier, the Swedish striker had helped to set up Maxwell for the opening goal and Ibrahimovic scored again himself with a left-footed drive in the 78th to take his league-leading tally to 34, his

best ever in a season. Edinson Cavani added the fourth goal in injury time as PSG, who won the League Cup for the third consecutive time last weekend, all but extinguished the seventh-placed visitors' hopes of playing in Europe next season.—*Reuters*

Glorious summer in sight for Leicester City after many winters of discontent

LEICESTER, (England) — When King Richard III was reinterred in Leicester in March last year 500 years after his death, fans of the English city's unheralded football club might have thought it too was dead and buried.

Richard's remains had been found beneath a municipal car park. Leicester City were also at a low point, bottom of the Premier League table having won just

six games all season. Then they embarked on an incredible run, winning seven of their last nine matches to comfortably avoid relegation.

Now are on the brink of becoming league champions for the first time in their 132-year history, with just three defeats all season. Their exploits have thrust the provincial city into the global spotlight once again.

"It's a remarkable coinci-

dence," Wayne Harding, a season ticket holder for 34 years, said of the link between Richard's reburial and Leicester's meteoric rise.

Rated 5,000-1 long shots by bookmakers last August, if "the Foxes" win at Manchester United on Sunday, the title will be theirs with two games still to go.

"Everybody's buzzing. If they do it on Sunday, it will be an absolutely banging day," said Harding, 53, standing by a new statue of King Richard outside the city's cathedral.

Leicester, about 100 miles (160 km) north of London, has become a sea of blue and white, the team's colours.

Bunting with the club crest flutters from poles in the main shopping thoroughfares and shop windows are adorned with huge Leicester flags and blue and white balloons.

"It's had a massive impact, everyone's talking about it whether you're a fan or not," said Ian Derry, 51, who went to his first game in 1969.

In a league dominated for the

last 25 years by a select few rich, glamour clubs such as Man Utd, Chelsea and Arsenal, neutrals and supporters from other clubs are also rooting for Leicester, said shop-worker Derry.

"The great escape surprised us all and then to push on to the top and possibly, possibly win it, is unbelievable. All the planets just seem to have aligned."

The highest Leicester have previously finished was second, way back in 1928-9. The club has also been FA Cup runner-up four times but never triumphed, although it has won the less prestigious League Cup three times.

Just eight years ago, it was languishing in the third tier of English football.

"I've worked in Leicester for 10 years and never heard a word about Leicester football club until this year," said Phil Wiley, 52, who hails from northeast England. "Now everyone is banging on about them. They've all gone mad."

Billboards for the Leicester Mercury newspaper read "Biggest Game in Club's History" and "Pubs Set For Big City Party".

Bars and restaurants are offering blue-themed food and drinks, a butcher is selling sausages named after Italian manager Claudio Ranieri, and pubs are pouring beer named in honour of top scorer Jamie Vardy.

One restaurant is planning to give away 1,000 free curries to season-ticket holders if Leicester win the title.

Like its football team, Leicester itself has rarely found itself in the headlines. The city, which dates back to Roman times some 2,000 years ago, is one of Britain's most ethnically diverse areas, with about half its 330,000 citizens non-white British, according to a 2011 census.

The tourist office's list of famous residents past and present has few household names, featuring the likes of psychedelic rock band Gaye Bykers On Acid and crooner Engelbert Humperdinck.

"It's not a high-profile city. We're not really on the tourist map. When we went abroad and said we're from Leicester, they didn't know where it was," said Bev Danson, 56, who has lived in Leicester all her life.—*Reuters*



A Leicester City fan holds a flag as he celebrates after his team scores against Swansea City while watching the game on a big screen, in Bangkok, Thailand, on 24 April. PHOTO: REUTERS