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# SEEKING NEGOTIATIONS

## Amyotha Hluttaw to discuss proposal to end fighting in Rakhine State

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw resumed its 17th day session yesterday, approving an urgent motion to end fighting in Rakhine State. The parliament also submitted a bill to revoke the People's Council Law and conducted a question-and-answer session.

U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine

State Constituency 1 put forward an urgent motion calling for an immediate end to the fighting between the Myanmar Defence Services (Tatmadaw) and the Arakan Army (AA) in Rakhine State. The motion also calls for bringing the AA into political dialogue.

In response to the urgent

proposal, Brig-Gen Aung San Chit, a Tatmadaw-appointed MP, objected to the use of the term 'AA Tatmadaw' in the motion, saying there is only one Tatmadaw in the country and that the AA is an insurgent group.

Moreover, he also protested the submitter's comments,

in which he said civilians were forced to become porters. The military MP denied that porters were conscripted on the ground.

Brig-Gen Aung San Chit suggested that talks with the AA be conducted in accordance with Nationwide Ceasefire Accord, calling for the executive body's

involvement in the matter in accordance with rules and regulations.

Despite the objections by military MPs, the urgent proposal was approved through the support of more than one-third of the representatives in parliament.

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Reed Lake. PHOTO: SHIN NAY MIN



## Reed Lake in Chin State threatened by silt deposits

REED Lake, which is considered the heart of picturesque Chin State, is in the throes of a silt scourge as sand washing from the surrounding environment flows into it.

The heart-shaped lake is threatened by silt deposit every year and may be in danger of extinction.

Conservationists have been sounding the alarm in order to preserve the lake.

The depletion of forests in the environs of the lake and damage to watershed areas have

been blamed for the silt deposits in the lake.

To save the lake, authorities have banned slash-and-burn cultivation in hilly areas within a three-mile radius of the lake, as well as logging.

Reed Lake has become popular for tourists from the area, as well as from Mizoram, India.

The majority of foreign visitors to the heart-shaped lake, which is 2,966 feet above sea level, are students from Mizoram, while Myanmar people have visited the lake on group trips.

The lake is just two miles away from the border with India. Situated between Chin and Indian mountain ranges, the lake is also known as Rih Dil, or Rih Lake. It has a circumference of 3 miles.

A significant feature of the lake is its tendency to turn into a reddish colour each December, according to local residents.

An attempt to drain the lake was made during the British colonial period. Chin people believe all spirits have to pass through the lake and that it was

these spirits who thwarted the attempt to dry it up.

The lake holds high significance in the faith and tradition of the locals, and even people from India believe that their ancestors' souls are alive in the lake and make prayer visits there.

Myanmar's proposal for the recognition of Natma Taung National Park in Chin State as a World Heritage Site was rejected by UNESCO, prompting locals and conservationists to re-vamp their efforts to protect the lake.—*Shin Nay Min*

## Severe weather coming this week: DMH

THE weather bureau has warned the public of strong winds accompanied by hailstorms and lightning strikes in many parts of the country, alerting the peoples to the possibility of severe weather patterns from 3 to 7 May.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department announced the warning saying its observation at 3:30pm yesterday found some cumulus clouds in upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states due to unstable atmospheric pressure.

The forecast of the Meteorology and Hydrology Department at that time said rain accompanied by strong wind, hailstorms and lightning are expected over those regions from 3 to 5 May.

The same severe weather pattern is expected to strike upper Sagaing Region, Kachin State, Chin State, Mandalay Region, Bago Region, Yangon Region, Taninthayi Region, Shan State, Kayah State, Kayin State and Mon State from 6 to 7 May, said the statement.—*GNLM*



# Bill to revoke State Protection Law put forward to PyithuHluttaw

THE second PyithuHluttaw resumed for the 19th day of its regular session yesterday with the submission of a bill to revoke the Law to Safeguard the State against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts.

The law, enacted in 1975, allows declarations of states of emergency for any territory in the country and restrictions of any citizen's fundamental rights, if necessary, in any territory in the country.

U TunTun Hein, chairperson of PyithuHluttaw Bill Committee, said a bill to revoke the law was submitted to the parliament as the law is not in conformity with the present situation in the country.

The submission of the bill came after a coordination meeting attended by members of the PyidaungsuHluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, the PyithuHluttaw Public Administration Committee and officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs on 27 and 28 April.

The law must be revoked as politicians are not criminals, said U PeThan, a Lower House rep-



Pyithu Hluttaw is convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

resentative from the Arakan National Party, adding that the law has been intentionally used to detain politicians for many years under the single-party system and authoritarian regimes.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint invited submissions of proposals to amend the bill not later than 5 May.

During question-and-answer session that day, Union Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung responded to a question raised by U Pike Ko of Pakokku Constituency on whether there is a plan to inform people of the benefits or impact of telecommunication towers installed in wards and villages via

MRTV or other media.

In his reply, the Union minister said the installation of the telecom infrastructure in wards and villages can contribute toward better network coverage and speedy telecommunications there.

He said no evidence of health effects from radio frequencies of

mobile networks were found as telecommunications equipment used in Myanmar meet international standards.

Educational talks on public concerns over the durability of towers, noise pollution and health hazards will be given to the public during field trips and through MRTV, newspapers, radio and other media, added the Union minister.

Next, the Union minister replied to a question from U Ba Shein of Kyaukphyu Constituency, saying work is underway to build a coastal-going vessel with imports of metal sheets and frames to operate a shipping route from Sittwe to townships in the southern part of Rakhine State.

He said the 200 million Japanese yen in aid for the resumption of ferry schedules for the route is not enough to buy such a vessel, referring to a disaster involving an inland-going vessel last year.

During the session, a congratulatory message sent from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the PyithuHluttaw Speaker was documented.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Union Information Minister meets Myanmar Media Council

UNION Minister for Information Dr PeMyint held talks with members of the Myanmar Media Council on the council's ongoing work and future tasks in Yangon yesterday.

During the meeting, the Myanmar Media Council reported on the present status of private-owned newspapers and difficulties they are facing. They also discussed the Broadcasting Law. In the morning, the Union minister met officials from the Myanmar Book Aid Preservation Foundation, the Myanmar Library Association and the Association of Myanmar Architects at the SarpayBeikman Building in Yangon.

In his discussion, the Union minister said the Sarpay Beikman Building is set to be upgraded to become a library of international standard on which the people can rely, while pre-

serving the building's original structure.

He suggested that a committee to conserve the building be formed with all stakeholders, and he invited suggestions for the opening of private bookstalls on the ground floor of the building. Next, the Union minister toured the building, including the children's library and the SarpayBeikman bookstall.

The Myanmar Book Aid Preservation Foundation and the ministry's Information and Public Relations Department are set to sign an MoU on the upgrading of libraries and the development of mobile library services with smart phones and tablets.

Work is underway to set up five mobile services-equipped libraries each in Yangon and Mandalay regions and one each in other regions and states.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds talks with Myanmar Media Council. Photo: MNA

## Strong wind topples electric towers

STRONG wind toppled three electric towers carrying the Beline-Thabyaywa 230 KV transmission line of the country's national power grid on 1 May, according to the Ministry of Electric Power.

Due to the strong wind, cross arms and earth wires of the towers and the earth wire clamps of Yeywa-Thabyaywa 230 KV No (1) transmission line were damaged.

Despite the damage, power outages were avoided as delivery of electricity was reverted through other transmission lines, said the ministry.

The ministry added that efforts are being made to resume power supply through the damaged towers as soon as possible with a force of about 100 service personnel from the ministry.—*Myanmar News Agency*



About 100 service personnel are repairing the damaged towers.

PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER

## Amyotha Hluttaw to discuss proposal ...

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Also that day, U Zaw Min of Sagaing Region Constituency-6 put forward a bill to revoke the People's Council Law (Law No 8/1974) to the parliament.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the bill will be discussed in parliament after the Bill Committee produces a report on it.

According to the Bill Com-

mittee, the law promulgated in the time of the Burma Socialist Programme Party in 1974 is not in conformity with the 2008 constitution or the present situations in the country as Myanmar currently employs a multiparty democratic system.

During a question-and-answer session, U Aung Myint, a member of the Union Election Commission, replied to a question raised by U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway Constituency-4, saying monthly allowances for non-military members of

sub-commissions would be disbursed following the approval of the Union Government Office and the Ministry of Finance.

In response to a question by U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State Constituency-11, the UEC member said it is hard to add contesting parties' emblems and half body photos of candidates to ballot papers for future elections.

The UEC member also said the amount of election deposits will be increased if the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw calls for it.—*Thein Ko Lwin*



# Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets USAID administrator

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received Ms Gayle Smith, administrator for United States Agency for International Development-USAID in Nay Pyi Taw at 2.30 pm yesterday.

During the call, the two discussed matters concerning promotion of cooperation between

the two countries in the areas of implementation of Food Security Strategy, greater private sector participation and health-care.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ms Gayle Smith, administrator of the US Agency for International Development. PHOTO: MNA

## Myanmar to cut energy use by 20 per cent by 2020

MYANMAR has set a target of 20 per cent energy savings by 2020 and 30 per cent by 2025, based on energy consumption data from the ASEAN region, said Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho at the 11th ASEAN Energy Awards in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was part of the

20th Annual Meeting of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Sub-sector Network (EE&C-SSN) set to run for five days from 2 to 6 May at the Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

According to the Ministry of Industry, international experts said Myanmar is expected to save

at least 40 per cent of its current total energy consumption.

Under its energy efficiency policy, measures will be taken to cut the ministry's energy use by 12 per cent by 2020, 16 per cent by 2025 and 20 per cent by 2030, the ministry stated.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Myanmar government, USAID hold talks on priority sectors

UNION ministers Dr Than Myint and Dr Aung Thu held talks with administrator Ms Gayle E Smith of US Agency for International Development and US ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel the country's development yesterday.

During the meeting, the ministers and the American officials held discussions on cooperation in agricultural growth, land reform, trade facilitation and access to finance, which are prioritised sectors.

They also exchanged views

on human resources development, food security, raising farmers' income, promotion of crop quality, narrowing the rural-urban development gap, the promotion of trade and productivity and technological assistance to SMEs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Govt promises 'really' affordable housing with Nay Pyi Taw project

IMPLEMENTATION of an affordable housing project will commence on land belonging to the Nay Pyi Daw Council and the Ministry of Construction, according to the Minister for Construction.

The housing project will consist of 40 units across five floors, with estimated price tags for each unit to be set just under K10 million.

"Affordable housing constructed in the past was not affordable. We're now going to build actually affordable housing that will set a new standard. Future [affordable] housing will be built with the same budget and expenses as this current project," said Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing.

Once built, the housing will be made available for purchase by the

public with suitable prices for the quality. "As we're only building one [affordable housing project], expenses incurred could be fairly high. Fewer expenses would be incurred if many [housing projects] were built. This project is being built to allow for the construction of really affordable housing," added U Win Khaing.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Order 36/2016  
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(2 May 2016)

## Appointment of Deputy Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234(a) and (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16(b)(9) of the Union Government Law, Dr Tun Win has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Myanmar Gazette

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred U Zaw Min Oo, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Rail Transportation, to the position of Director-General of the Road Transport Administration Department under the Ministry of Transport and Communication from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## President, First Lady invited to visit Lao PDR

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and his wife, Daw Su Su Lwin, will pay a state visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the near future at the invitation of Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, President of the Lao PDR and his wife, Mrs Khammeung Vorachith.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Union Attorney-General meets FATF mission

ATTORNEY-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received a mission from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) led by Ms Michelle Harwood at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call, matters re-

lated to works being carried out by Myanmar and the FATF in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) and the implementation of action plans and legal frameworks were discussed.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Japanese FM arrives Nay Pyi Taw

A Japanese delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Fumio Kishida arrived Nay Pyi Taw at 7 pm yesterday.

He was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Air-

port by U Kyaw Zeya, Director-General of the Political Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and officials of Japanese Embassy in Yangon.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Foreign Minister Mr Fumio Kishida is welcomed by U Kyaw Zeya, Director-General of the Political Affairs Department. PHOTO: MNA



## Crime NEWS

### Truck overturns on Tatkon-Pyinmana road

A TRUCK loaded with bags of rice overturned on Sunday on the road between Tatkon and Pyinmana in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. No one was injured.

Investigators say the vehicle, which was driven by Kyaw Soe Oo of Taundwingyi Township, was en route from Kyauktaga to Meiktila and skidded when the driver tried to avoid a collision with a public transport bus.

No injuries or deaths were reported, police say.

Police are still investigating the case.—*Tin Maung Lwin*



Bags of rice spill from an overturned truck in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG LWIN

### Illegal teak seized in northern Shan State

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Defence Services founded illegal teak logs weighing about three tonnes on Saturday while they were patrolling Mabein Township in northern Shan State.

The soldiers discovered 312 three-foot teak logs on an ownerless six-wheel vehicle stopped near Tonkwa Village.

The logs were transferred to the relevant authorities, who are still investigating the case to arrest the owner of the vehicle.—200

### Two children found dead in village pond

TWO boys under 13 years of age were found dead in the western part of a pond in Wunbein Village on Sunday morning by villagers.

Wai Moe 12 and Zin Min Khaing, 9, went to Myakantha Pond, located in the compound

of a monastery in the southern part of the village, in order to collect fresh water on Friday morning.

With the assistance of villagers, U Tayar Aung, the father of Zin Min Khaing, searched for the two boys in the pond the

next day after they did not return home. "We found them in the pond, which is 60 feet wide and nine feet deep," a villager said.

No injuries were found on their bodies. Local police are still investigating the case.—*KZY (Mahway)/Union Daily*

### Drunken man sets fire to his own home

A 40-YEAR-OLD man, who was reportedly drunk, has been charged by the local authorities under the Criminal Law after he burned his home on Friday, according to a police report.

The fire was controlled by firefighters in cooperation with villagers and police within 10 minutes. According to the police in-

vestigation, the fire was caused by U Soe Shwe, who set his home on fire at 12:05pm that day. His home is located in Myakhaymar Ward-3 in Mokesoegwin Village-tract, Myaungmya Township, of Ayeyawady Region.

Police filed charges against him under Section 436 of the Criminal Law.—200

### Two women killed in road accident

A COLLISION between a motorbike and a six-wheel vehicle on Sunday in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, left two motorbike riders dead, local police said.

The head-on collision occurred near the Sharpinseik traffic light between mile post No

277/1 and No 277/2 on the Yangon-Mandalay road. The six-wheel vehicle being was driven by Ko Pauk of Mayingyi Village and collided with the motorbike, which was paused at a red traffic light as its driver prepared to turn right.

The collision killed motorbike driver Ma May Thingyan and her passenger Ma Moe Sandi Htwe instantly.

Police arrested the driver, who fled on the scene after collision, later that evening.—*Tin Tun Tar*

### Two missing after boat sinks

A MAN and his daughter are still missing after their boat sank near Tayapile Village in Kyunsu Township, Myeik District, on Saturday evening, police reported yesterday.

U Maung Win, 53, along with his 10-year-old son and six-year-old daughter, visited Magyigyun Village from Tayapile Village on

his fishing boat. The boat sank on their return because of tempestuous weather. The 10-year-old Maung Phyo survived the capsizing and was rescued by people from nearby boat. Local authorities and villagers are still searching for U Maung Win and his daughter along the water by boat.—*Township IPRD*

### Heroin, yaba confiscated in Shan State, Mandalay Region

A COMBINED team including members of Anti-Drug Squad Unit-24, based in Lashio, searched a vehicle driven by Kyaw Aung at the entrance to Naungkoi at mile post No 80/4 on the Muse-Mandalay road on 30 April.

Police confiscated 150 soap boxes containing 1.95 kilos of heroin from the car. While the suspect was being examined by police, he confessed that a man named Phone Win made him carry the heroin from Kutkai to a house in Mandalay and that he was being paid K500,000 for the job.

Similarly, Anti-Drug Squad Unit-24 seized 454 yaba pills from Tun Tun Oo, who was trav-

elling by passenger bus at the same location that day.

On the same day, a combined team comprising members of Anti-Drugs Squad Unit-18 from Mandalay searched a man named Tun Win at a restaurant beside the Mandalay-Pyin Oo Lwin road and discovered 1,260 yaba pills.

Similarly, members of the Taunggyi Police Station searched a motorbike driven by Sai Kyaw Aung Than between Zale Village and Sakhe Village on the Taunggyi-Zale road on 30 April. Police seized 470 yaba pills.

All the suspects are facing charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Aung Kyaw poses with soap boxes full of heroin, which was discovered in his possession. PHOTO: MNA



# LOCAL Business

## K1.4 trillion in tax earned from car imports over four years

WITH over 536,100 cars imported, over K1.4 trillion (US\$1.2 billion) have been collected in taxes over the last four years, according to the Myanmar Customs Department.

There were a total of 536,144 cars imported after stricter enforcement of the Tax Law was imposed and after the project for the replacement of ageing vehicles was launched on 25 October 2011. The K1.4 trillion collected in government revenue from imported cars includes K7.54 billion from tariff taxes and K6.57 billion from commercial taxes.

The replacement project for ageing vehicles consists of a total of 136,960 cars. Over the last four years, there have been 274,824 individual car buyers, 118,378 cars in showrooms, 2,818 cars with a seaman's permit, 286 cars with permits from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 730 cars with company permits, 43 cars with migrant workers' permits, 1,997 cars registered to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and 108 cars for military attaches and staff.

There were a total of 772,788 cars, 4,536,570 motorcycles and 73,611 three-wheel motorcycles legally registered as of January 2016. The vehicles are allowed to drive only after registering with the Road Transportation Administration Department.



Cars are crawling on a road in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

## JJ-Pun Tiostone to extend investments in concrete manufacturing businesses

THE JJ-Pun Tiostone Co will extend its investments in concrete manufacturing businesses.

JJ-Pun Tiostone started to enter the concrete industry in 2014 at Dagon Jetty in Yangon and manufactured concrete blocks and flagstones. The company plans to extend the manufacturing of the concrete blocks by installing new machines with an added investment of US\$1 million.

"The Myanmar market seems

promising but still faces difficulties with selling its products. On the other hand, the country is making effort to transform the traditional market. We decided to extend our investments and upgrade the production because of a promising development," said Christian Heugas, a general manager of JJ-Pun Tiostone. The company has been conducting its business jointly with Tiostone Holdings, based in Hong Kong, with each company holding

a 50 per cent stake. The company will import the required machines from Germany with an investment of more \$1 million.

The manufacturing of concrete blocks and flagstones usually uses recycled materials, but few recycled materials are available in Myanmar, though the amount is expected to increase in future. Most of the raw materials used in construction are imported from Germany.—200

## USAID helps promote quality of Myanmar tofu, soybeans

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been supporting efforts to improve the quality of Myanmar tofu and soybeans.

According to the agency, USAID will continue to support Myanmar to strengthen its market strategy, launch awareness campaign about nutrition for consumers, boost retail sales at supermarkets, change consumers' behaviour and provide technical expertise to preserve food. USAID will support the industry until people accept tofu as a low-cost protein.

Locally made soybeans are mostly used for oil, animal feeds and the snacks. Around 35,000 to 40,000 tonnes of soybeans are used for making tofu each year. Among them, 60 per cent of soybeans are produced in southern Shan State.

"I grew 10 acres of soybeans. It has been three years of cultivation. The farms are infested with more insects this year due to the hot temperature. I thank USAID for offering its technical expertise," said U Aye Maung, a grower from Tatkon Township.—200

## High taxes on raw forestry materials pose problems for entrepreneurs

ENTREPRENEURS are facing difficulties importing cheap, raw timber materials because of high taxes, said an official from the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Entrepreneurs Association at its meeting with the Ministry of Commerce and entrepreneurs.

Exports of whole logs were halted in 2014, and the local extraction of logs was reduced in 2015 and 2016. As a result, the local price of timber has risen. Therefore, businessmen want to manufacture wooden products by importing raw materials from abroad at cheaper prices.

Teak and sawed timber are

included among the 16 types of special goods listed by the Union Tax Law of 2016. For such products, import taxes amount to 25 per cent, commercial tax is five per cent and income tax 25 per cent.

"Importing raw materials can create job opportunities for labourers. Taxes for imported raw materials are 55 per cent, whereas only five per cent is collected for finished products. This makes our job difficult," said U Kyaw Thu, the executive officer of the Myanmar Forest Products and Timber Entrepreneurs Association.—PTK/Union Daily

## Mangosteen sells well despite low yield in Paung Township

MANGOSTEENS from Paung Township, Mon State, are in high demand this year, despite this year's low yield compared to that of last year.

"A mangosteen sold for K150 until 20 April. They were sent to the old Thiri Mingala Market, Bayintnaung Market and Mandalay's 29th Street Market in packages of 120 mangosteens per plastic basket," said Daw Mi Chan Myint from the Paung Township mangosteen depot. The retail price of a mangosteen is K250 in Yangon and Manda-

lay, and even in Paung Township. The price reached K350 per fruit during the early blossom.

Mangosteen yields were low this year because of high temperatures and a lack of water.

"There are 50 to 300 trees in each mangosteen farm. We pick the mangosteen as soon as we see the blood colour on the top of the fruit. Just over 30 mangosteens are yielded," said U Khin Oo, the farm owner.

There are two species of local mangosteen, one being sour and the other, sweet.—200

## Myanmar's border trade down in first month of FY 2016-17

Myanmar's border trade was down by over 24 million US dollars in April, the first month of fiscal year 2016-17, according to official figures of Ministry of Commerce on Monday.

The border trade for nearly one month stood at 147.433 million US dollars while that of the

same period of the fiscal year 2015-16 was 171.877 million US dollars.

The border trade was down due to some temporary restrictions by China on some items including rice and re-exported sugar.

Meanwhile, traffic jam happened on the route to Muse, a bor-

der trade zone between Myanmar and China, slowed down trade activities, Dr. Maung Aung, former advisor to the Ministry of Commerce, told Xinhua.

At present, Myanmar's officials are trying to expand the route, he added.

Minister for Commerce U

Than Myint outlined plan to boost the country's export volume three time higher within five years at a meeting with exporters in April.

The border trade value between Myanmar and China through Muse border trade zone reached 86.663 million US dollars for nearly one month of the fiscal

year 2016-17 while the same period of the fiscal year 2015-16 was 118.597 million US dollars.

There are 15 border trade zones in Myanmar which link China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh. Of them, Muse border trade zone has the maximum trade value. —Xinhua



## India to monitor mines via satellite after finding illegal limestone extraction

NEW DELHI — India will monitor thousands of mines with the help of satellites starting this year, a government official said, after a three-month pilot project found rampant illegal extraction of limestone in a big state.

Mines Secretary Balvinder Kumar declined to name the state ahead of the completion of surveillance in some other regions, but said the findings echoed a multi-billion-dollar iron ore scam that led to a three-year mining ban and turned India into an importer from a net exporter of the steelmaking commodity.

Local media have reported about illegal limestone mining in two of the top producing states — Andhra Pradesh in the south and Gujarat in the west, home to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The state-run Indian Bureau of Mines is digitising maps of all mines under the purview of the ministry to check — as satellites pass over every

23 days — whether companies are violating rules by mining outside their lease areas.

“We suspect that there is rampant illegal mining by the unorganised sector,” Kumar told Reuters late last week.

“After covering all the major minerals like iron ore and limestone in the next three months, we will look at sand mining. A lot of money is being made there.”

A state minister in Karnataka was arrested in 2011 and iron ore mining was banned for three years there and in Goa after India’s top court found that fly-by-night operators had profited from a surge in Chinese demand for the steelmaking ingredient.

Kumar said the scam had crippled India’s steel industry and the government was keen to avoid a repetition. He said he would soon write to the top bureaucrat of the state where limestone is being illegally mined to initiate action.—*Reuters*

## Cambodian court charges five human rights defenders, one UN officer with bribing witness

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian court on Monday charged five human rights defenders and an officer of UN’s human rights office in Cambodia with either bribing or conspiring to bribe a witness to tell a lie, a court spokesman said.

The five people include local rights group Adhoc’s head of monitoring Ny Sokha, his deputies Nay Vanda and Yi Soksan, its senior investigator Lim Mony and former Adhoc senior official Ny Chakrya, who currently serves as the deputy secretary-general of the National Election Committee (NEC).

And the UN officer

was identified as Sally Soen.

“The court has charged four Adhoc officers with bribing a witness to tell a lie and the two others — former Adhoc officer Ny Chakrya and UN officer Sally Soen — with conspiring to bribe the witness,” Phnom Penh Municipal Court’s spokesman and deputy prosecutor Ly Sophanna told Xinhua.

He said under the charges, they could serve a prison term of between five and 10 years if convicted.

The Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) arrested the five human rights defenders last Thursday as the

UN officer is still on the run.

Their arrests were made as a result of claims by Srey Mom, an alleged mistress of deputy opposition party leader and lawmaker Kem Sokha, that they convinced her to deny her sexual relationship with Sokha.

Last Wednesday, the ACU also arrested an opposition commune chief for allegedly paying Srey Mom 500 US dollars to lie and say that she and Sokha had not had an affair.

After two months of denials, 25-year-old hairdresser Srey Mom admitted last month of having an affair with Sokha during questioning at the mu-

nicipal court. She accused the commune chief, Adhoc officers, and the UN officer of persuading her to tell a lie in order to protect Sokha’s reputation.

The alleged sex scandal between Srey Mom and Sokha came to light in February when leaked audio clips of telephone conversation between them went viral on the Internet. In the clips, they discussed sex, pregnancy and paying for an apartment.

Since the scandal broke out, Sokha has not publicly commented on the veracity of the audio recordings; instead, he advised supporters not to respond to provocations.—*Xinhua*

## Japan to support Mekong countries with \$7 billion over three years

BANGKOK — Japan wants to work with countries in the lower Mekong river basin and will help them improve infrastructure and bolster development with 750 billion yen (4.82 billion pounds) in aid over three years, its foreign minister said on Monday.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida made the pledge to help the Southeast Asian economies in Thailand’s capital, Bangkok, where on Sunday he began a week-long visit to the region in which Japan competes with China for influence.

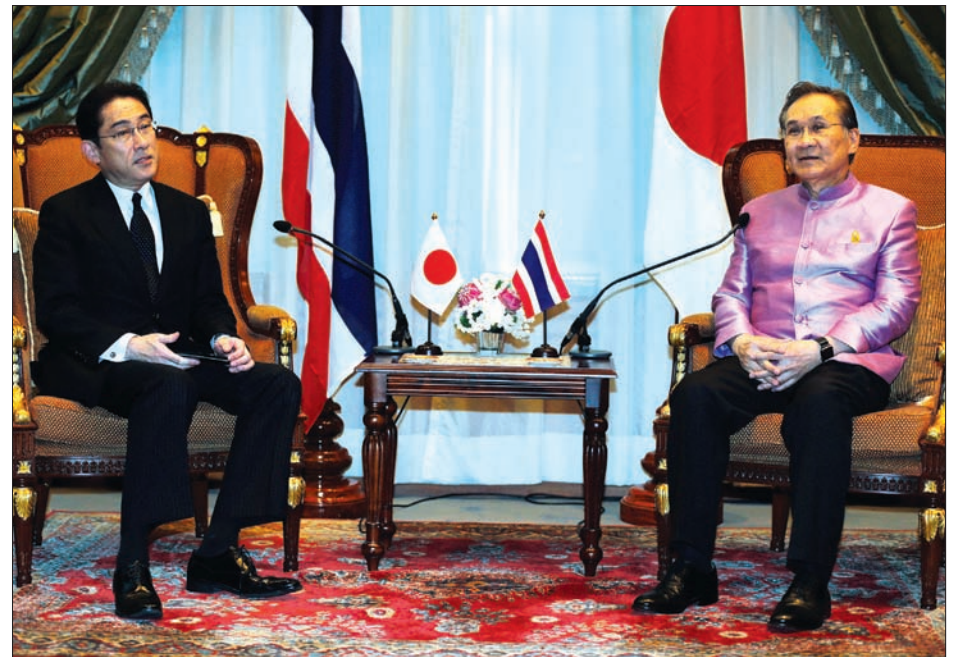
“Japan would like to work with the countries of the Mekong region to create a framework to support efforts by the Mekong countries in a detailed manner, on a region-by-region basis or on a theme-by-theme basis,” Kishida said in a speech.

Japan announced the three-year plan last year.

China has offered billions of dollars in infrastructure loans and government aid programmes to Southeast Asian countries.

Kishida did not mention China in his speech. He is also due to visit Myanmar, Laos and Viet Nam.

On Monday, he met Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who has led a military govern-



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida meets with Thailand’s Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok, Thailand, on 1 May.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ment since the army took power in a May 2014 coup. Thailand has drawn closer to China since the coup which many western countries criticised.

Kishida and Prayuth discussed Thailand’s political process, regional terrorism threats and economic challenges, a Japanese official said. Kishida visited Beijing on the weekend where both China and Japan expressed willingness to improve relations strained over conflicting territorial claims in the East China Sea.

In his speech in Bang-

kok, Kishida addressed maritime security and renewed a call for countries to respect the rule of law.

He also backed a Southeast Asian bid to draft a code of conduct for the South China Sea, where China’s claim to virtually the entire sea clashes with claims to parts of it by Viet Nam, Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines.

“We must establish a regional order whereby the principle of the rule of law is truly upheld and practiced,” he said. “I would like to renew my call for the early conclusion of an

effective Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.”

Japanese Prime Minister Shinto Abe is pursuing a more robust foreign policy but Masato Otaka, deputy press secretary at Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told reporters Kishida’s visit was not aimed at counteracting China’s influence.

On Sunday, Kishida reaffirmed Japan’s economic ties with Thailand, an important base for many Japanese companies, after Japanese investment in the country nosedived in 2015.—*Reuters*

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# As Asia's rice crop shrivels, food security fears resurface

SINGAPORE — Nearly a decade after a spike in global food prices sent shockwaves around the world, Asia's top rice producers are suffering from a blistering drought that threatens to cut output and boost prices of a staple for half the world's population.

World rice production is expected to decline for the first time this year since 2010, as failing rains linked to an El Niño weather pattern cut crop yields in Asia's rice bowl.

A heat wave is sweeping top rice exporter India, while the No.2 supplier Thailand is facing a second year of drought. Swathes of farmland in Vietnam, the third-biggest supplier, are also parched as irrigation fed by the Mekong river runs dry.

The three account for more than 60 per cent of the global rice trade of about 43 million tonnes.

"As of now we haven't seen a large price reaction to hot and dry weather because we have had such significant surplus stocks in India and Thailand. But that can't last forever," said James Fell, an economist at the International Grains Council (IGC).

Rice inventories in the three top exporters are set to fall by about a third at the end of 2016



A rice mill worker holds rice fallen onto the ground in Udon Thani, Thailand, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

to 19 million tonnes, the biggest year-on-year drop since 2003, according to Reuters calculations based on US Department of Agriculture data.

Any big supply disruption can be extremely sensitive. In 2008, lower Asian rice output due to an El Niño prompted In-

dia to ban exports, sending global prices sky-rocketing and causing food riots in Haiti and panic measures in big importers such as the Philippines.

Manila at the time scrambled to crack down on hoarding, ordered troops to supervise subsidised rice sales and asked fast

food chains to serve half-portion, as well as urging Vietnam and others to sell the country more rice.

The world has suffered a series of food crises over the past decade involving a range of grains due to adverse weather.

In the case of rice, bench-

mark Thai prices hit a record around \$1,000 a tonne in 2008. Price spikes like this typically also boost demand for other grains such as wheat, widely used for noodles in Asia, and soybeans and corn used for food or feed.

While currently far below 2008 highs, rice earlier this month hit \$389.50, the strongest since July and up 13 per cent from an eight-year low of \$344 in September.

Bruce Tolentino of the Philippines-based International Rice Research Institute is concerned about Asia's vulnerability.

"In general prices are still stable right now. They're inching up though, and what will drive things over the edge will be a major calamity in one of the major producing countries."

Although India's rice output in 2015 was largely stable, extremely hot temperatures are threatening a second crop in eastern regions. Traders see further price gains by June as India's next big crop is not due until September and Thailand's main crop by year end.

The IGC sees a 2016 world harvest of 473 million tonnes, down from 479 million tonnes in 2015 and the first decline in six years.—*Reuters*

## Hundreds promoting independence detained in Indonesia's Papua

JAKARTA — Indonesian police on Monday detained hundreds of pro-independence demonstrators in the eastern province of Papua on the anniversary of Dutch New Guinea's 1963 integration into Indonesia.

Around 500 people were detained in the provincial capital, Jayapura, police said, and dozens in other cities of the resource province of around 3.5 million. There were no reports of violence.

"In spirit they support Papua's separation from Indonesia," said Papua police spokesman Patridge Renwarin. "We are try-

ing to explain to them that this goes against the spirit of the unitary state of Indonesia."

Papuan activist Markus Haluk told Reuters demonstrators had voiced support for calls for an internationally monitored referendum for independence.

Papua has seen a long-running and often violent separatist conflict since being incorporated into Indonesia after a widely criticised UN-backed referendum in 1969. Dutch colonial rule ended in 1963.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has made several trips to Papua since taking office in 2014

and has promised to bring development to the impoverished region after decades of neglect. His government has also released several political prisoners and pledged to resolve cases of human rights violations.

But security forces still maintain a strong presence in the restive region and are often seen as taking a heavy-handed approach to peaceful demonstrations, activists say.

Papua province and West Papua make up the western half of an island north of Australia, with independent Papua New Guinea to the east.—*Reuters*

## Oxy apologises to South Koreans for usage of toxic chemical in humidifier steriliser

SEOUL — Reckitt Benckiser Korea, better known as its brand name Oxy, on Monday apologised to South Koreans for using toxic chemical in humidifier steriliser for about 10 years in the midst of ongoing prosecution investigations into suspected concealment of fatality.

Ata Safdar, chief executive of the British firm Oxy's South Korean unit, told a press conference that he offers a heartfelt apology on behalf of Oxy Reckitt Benckiser and his company will make every effort to assure the victims have necessary support and fair compensation.

The chief executive said he also represents headquarters in Britain.

It marked the first time since the release of Oxy sterilisers in question 15 years ago that the company made an official apology.

The company began using polyhexamethylene guanidine (PHMG), which is fatal to humans when inhaling, in its steri-

lizers from 2001.

It had used the toxic chemical for about 10 years despite repeated complaints from consumers that the usage of humidifier steriliser caused pulmonary problems and even deaths.

Known deaths, caused by the use of the fatal steriliser, reached a whopping 70. The number of those suffering from pulmonary damages was 177. Potential victims are estimated to far surpass the known victims.

The company had sold the fatal steriliser until the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) announced a research result in 2011 about linkage between chemicals used in Oxy sterilisers and pulmonary health problems.

Prosecutors are investigating whether Oxy voluntarily concealed toxicity of sterilisers in its own tests or manipulated documents from research institutes that had tested the sterilisers' fatality.—*Xinhua*

## Australian company bottles air for Chinese consumers

SYDNEY— Australian entrepreneurs in Sydney are paving the way for a new export to China — cans of Australian air.

John Dickinson and Theo Ruygrok, founders and directors of Green & Clean, devised a way for those overseas and in China to have a taste of Australian air harvested from some of the nation's most iconic locations.

Ruygrok told Xinhua on Monday he found that pollution in some parts of China was quite

heavy and he wanted to do something about it.

"When I came back to Australia (from China) and found pristine locations that we have, we came up with the idea of bottling pure air from those locations," Ruygrok said.

Green & Clean harvests air with a mobile farming unit from some of Australia's most picturesque and pristine locations such as Sydney's Bondi Beach and Queensland's Gold Coast.

The company sold the cans of air in souvenir shops and airports, where customers can take "part of Australia back to their home country."

Ruygrok recommended users take 10 deep breaths from the can to help clear their lungs, which contains approximately 140 breaths of clean Australian air.

The company is in the process of finding a Chinese distributor for their product.—*Xinhua*



# Opinion

## Write for us

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

## Public participation is essential

**Khin Maung Aye**

**T**HE new government that has come to power in Myanmar with the people's mandate has been exerting its utmost effort since its assumption of duties to fulfil people's aspirations within the first 100 days of its term. People have placed high hopes upon the democratic government to help them to be free from the woes they have suffered for over five decades.

The new administration has initiated the process of national reconciliation along with the peace process. Moreover, all 21 ministries are implementing reform measures and have formulated 100-day plans.

It is worth remembering

that poverty is an issue that cannot be addressed in 100 days.

This being so, people cannot expect the government to alleviate poverty in such a very short period. What they ought to expect of the new government is progress in fulfilling three basic needs: food, clothing and shelter.

As long as tangible results from the new government's reform measures are achieved, people should be satisfied with government's effort.

Nevertheless, people should not forget the fact that a government can achieve success in its nation-building activities only

with the active participation of the people.

In fact, the failures in the past can be attributed in part to people's lack of participation, which is something unachievable without popular support.

There is no denying that the incumbent government has won overwhelming popular support, judging by the landslide victory in 2015 election.

People's profound love and admiration for the ruling party's charismatic leader have made the democratisation a great success. Nevertheless, their duties do not end with voting for the NLD.

The public must not

stand aside, only showing its love for the State Counselor, doing nothing but giving applause and appreciation.

As public participation is a big part of good governance, people are required to change their mindsets, which now keep them aloof from public affairs but being actively involved in community affairs, local affairs, regional affairs and national affairs.

In this function, public awareness campaigns should be launched by the government with the active cooperation and participation by NGOs and CSOs to highlight the importance of public participation in nation-building.

# Bribery and Corruption

**Ko Myat**

**E**VERYONE has not only good qualities but also bad ones. If they possess more good qualities than bad ones, they are called good men. To the contrary, they are termed as bad men if bad qualities are prevalent in them.

Every nation has not only good citizens but also bad ones. Its standard is not judged by area, wealth or natural resources but determined by the character and integrity of its citizens. Indeed the greatness of a nation lies in the hands of its people.

Nowadays, countries around the world are struggling with malaise inflicting them all — bribery and corruption. According to Webster's Third New International Unabridged Dictionary, corruption is defined as impairment of integrity, virtue or moral principle. Good human qualities are jeopardized in exchange for material possession and personal satisfaction.

Transparency International (TI), an NGO headquartered in Berlin, Germany, has been publishing Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) since 1995. TI

clearly states on its website that its index annually ranks countries by their perceived levels of corruption, as determined by expert assessments and opinion surveys. So we should not take CPI as an absolute truth. It may not reflect the actual level of corruption in a country. Sometimes it may be either inaccurate or biased. Some argue that its reliability may be doubtful. But it is of assistance to analysts, observers and policy makers. It offers some ways of expression that corruption exists in some form or another from minimum to some extent.

TI's definition of 'corruption' — the misuse of the public power for the private benefit — is well worth noting. There are some points in studying corruption perceptions indices. It is stated that no nation in the world is completely free from corruption. Around 68% of countries worldwide are facing serious problems of corruption. It is striking that half of G20 are among them.

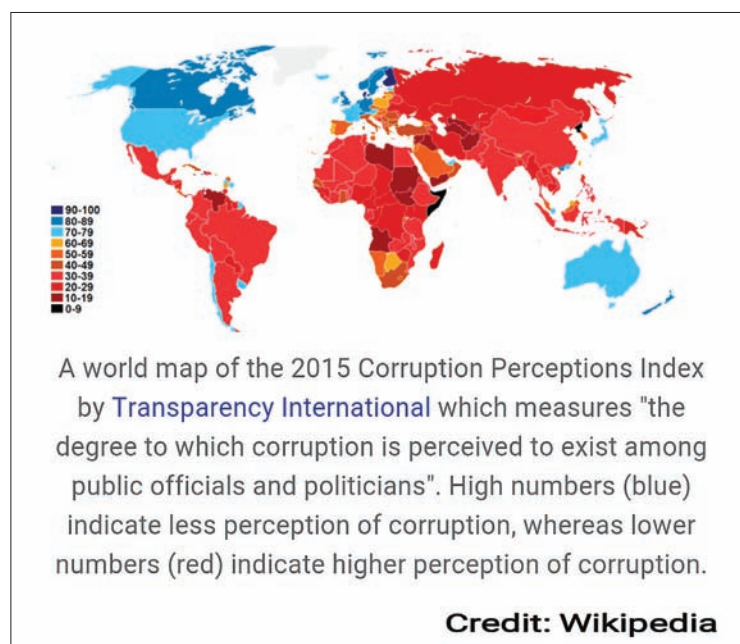
TI calls itself as the global coalition against corruption. It is an undeniable fact that corruption has become a global problem like climate change. Every

nation should strenuously strive to eradicate bribery and corruption completely from this world.

Chinese president Xi Jinping has been waging relentless war on corruption in his country for four years. He has vowed to crack down on 'tigers and flies', implying corrupt high-level officials and low-level civil servants alike. China jumped from 100th in 2014 CPI list to 83th in 2015.

In our country, the new government has publically stated that it will not tolerate any form of bribery and corruption. The President's Office issued a directive on April 1 warning against taking bribes. The NLD government has laid down the policy of 'not giving' and 'not taking'. That is a good news for ordinary citizens, who have been bearing the brunt of graft and corruption for years.

In 2015 CPI list, Myanmar is ranked 146th out of 177 countries even though it stood only at 156th in 2014 list. One of the ASEAN nations, Singapore, is ranked in top ten list both in 2015 and in 2014. In the ease of doing business index, created by the World Bank Group, Myanmar is ranked 177th out of 189 countries in 2015 whereas Sin-



gapore stands first in that list.

That is why the new government of Myanmar is moving heaven and earth to stamp out corruption, an impediment to socioeconomic progress. It is a herculean task to clean the Augean stables of corruption in several sectors of the economy and society. Their effort will come to little avail without the active participation of all citizens.

Younger generation should

be nurtured to value good character and hard work. Older one should kick the old habits and disipline themselves. We, all citizens, must work collaboratively and treat each other respectfully. We must be good citizens, who love responsibility, accountability and trustworthiness.

Lastly, remember the saying: "If wealth is lost, nothing is lost. If health is lost, something is lost. But, if character is lost, everything is lost."



## Senior general warns against acts aimed at 'disintegrating Tatmadaw unity'



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets members of the Tatmadaw at the Yangon Region Command.

PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing warned yesterday of a possible range of acts designed to disintegrate the unity of the Tatmadaw and to harm its strength by those who have misconceptions on the stances and activities of the Tatmadaw which, the senior general said, is taking a rightful way to ensure a strong and sustainable political system in the country.

In his address at a meeting

with officers and other military personnel at the Yangon Region Command, the senior general said much work remains to be done to realise peace, stability and rule of law in the country.

He stressed the need to bring an end to armed conflicts and the strict adherence to laws, rules and regulations in order to take the country's democracy to a durable stage.

He pointed out that some ethnic armed organisations are

raising their demands, neglecting provisions stated in the law.

Buddhists make up 85 per cent of the population in Myanmar, where religious freedom is guaranteed, he said.

After the meeting, the commander-in-chief and his wife, Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, presented books and publications to families of the servicemen and cash awards to the maternal and child welfare associations of the command.—*Myawady*

## Ngapali Beach in need of infrastructure improvements



A view of Ngapali Beach.

"ALTHOUGH Ngapali beach has received an increase in domestic visitors, the growth is slower than in Chaungtha and Ngwe Saung beaches," a businessman said.

Ngapali is Myanmar's premier beach destination. Located on the Bay of Bengal in Kyaukphyu Township, Rakhine State, its main feature is an idyllic stretch of white sand and palm tree-lined coast, with a number of resorts spread out beside traditional fishing villages.

The beach is ranked 8th on

TripAdvisor's list of the world's most beautiful beaches.

Locals say they want the government to improve hotels and service facilities in the area with the aim of attracting international visitors.

"Transportation plays an essential part in tourism development," a tour operator said, adding that the country needs to focus on infrastructure development and better services.

Myanmar has seen a massive influx of tourism year on year for

the last several years.

According to the ministry's Master Plan (2013-2020), tourist arrivals are estimated to hit 7.49 million by 2020.

There are over 1,000 hotels with nearly 50,000 rooms across the country, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The World Travel and Tourism Council estimated that Myanmar will top the list of tourism development sites in the future.—*SM/Union Daily*

### Stakeholder, stakeholder ! POEM:

Stake-holder, stake-holder, what do you need ?  
A roof over my head, a place to call home, and work to feed family.

Stake-holder, stake-holder, what do you want ?  
Equal opportunity, good working conditions, good neighbours and clean neighbourhood.

Stake-holder, stake-holder, what do you wish for ?  
Education for my children, a better future for all.  
Stake-holder, stake-holder, what are your dreams ?  
Nation-wide peace, nation-wide progress, nation-wide prosperity.

Stake-holder, stake-holder, who exactly are you ?

I'm the man in the street,  
With a wife and four kids.

Driving a taxi to make ends meet.

I'm the lowly-paid teacher at school.

Teaching sixty kids in a class. Ain't I a fool?

I'm the crony in the Rolls Royce.

What I do, where I live, what I eat and who I treat, it's my choice.

I'm the trishaw driver who sweats for a dollar.

If you want a cheap ride, just give me a holler,

I'm the company boss, trying to make profit.

With so many laws and so much red-tape, how can I make it ?

I'm the young graduate just got a degree,

But can't get a job, and nothing is for free.

I'm the landless farmer with no crops to tend.

I'm useless to all without my land.

I'm the homeless, displaced by strife.

No shelter, no work, no hope; that is my life.

Yes. I am all of that.

Whoever lives in this land

Is a stakeholder. Whether he, or she, be black, brown, yellow or white.

Whether he, or she, be Jew or Christian, Buddhist or Hindu or Muslim.

We are all stake-holders.

STAKE-HOLDERS ! ALL OF US !

TOGETHER WE PROSPER.

Hla Maung

## New BRT buses to be added to routes this month

PUBLIC Bus Co will add new buses for both of its routes with the aim of providing better transportation services to Yangon commuters.

"We plan to add 20 buses imported from foreign countries that will be ready to operate in the second week of May after carrying out the licensing process," a company spokesperson said.

Each bus can carry over 80 passengers, and bus fare is set at K300 per head for air-conditioned buses.

The BRT buses operate between the hours of 6am and

9pm daily. The company is also adding new bus stops along its routes.

With a fleet of 18 buses imported from China, the company launched services along its first Bus Rapid Transfer (BRT) route on 7 February. The route has 23 stops and runs from Htaunkyant to Pyay Road and Bogyoke Aung San Road to 8<sup>th</sup> Mile Junction via Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road. The second route has 26 stops and runs from Pyay Road to Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Botahtaung Pagoda Road and Strand Road.—200



A BRT bus pauses at a bus stop near Bahan Third Street.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



# Anti-immigrant AfD says Muslims not welcome in Germany



Frauke Petry (L), chairwoman of the anti-immigration party Alternative for Germany (AfD) votes during the second day of the AfD congress in Stuttgart, Germany, on 1 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

STUTTGART, (Germany) — Members of the anti-immigration party Alternative for Germany (AfD) on Sunday backed an election manifesto that says Islam is not compatible with the constitution and calls for a ban on minarets and the burqa.

Set up three years ago, the AfD has been buoyed by Europe's migrant crisis, which saw the arrival of more than one million, mostly Muslim migrants, in Germany last year. The party has no lawmakers in the federal parliament in Berlin but has members in half of Germany's 16 regional state assemblies.

Opinion polls give AfD support of up to 14 per cent, presenting a serious challenge to Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and other established parties ahead of the 2017 federal election. They rule out any coalition with the AfD.

In a raucous debate on the second day of a party congress, many of the 2,000 members cheered calls from the podium for measures against "Islamic

symbols of power" and jeered a plea for dialogue with Germany's Muslims.

"Islam is foreign to us and for that reason it cannot invoke the principle of religious freedom to the same degree as Christianity," said Hans-Thomas Tillschneider, an AfD lawmaker from the state of Saxony-Anhalt, to loud applause.

Merkel has said freedom of religion for all is guaranteed by Germany's constitution and has said on many occasions that Islam belongs to Germany.

Up to 2,000 left-wing demonstrators clashed with police on Saturday as they tried to break up the first full AfD conference. About 500 people were briefly detained and 10 police officers were lightly injured, a police spokesman said.

The chapter of the AfD manifesto concerning Muslims is entitled "Islam is not a part of Germany". The manifesto demands a ban to minarets — the towers of a mosque from where the call to Muslim prayer is made — and

the burqa, the all-encompassing body garment worn by some conservative Muslim women.

Germany is home to nearly four million Muslims, about five per cent of the total population. Many of the longer established Muslim community in Germany came from Turkey to find work, but those who have arrived over the past year have mostly been fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Last month the head of Germany's Central Council of Muslims likened the AfD's attitude towards his community to that of Adolf Hitler's Nazis towards the Jews.

Although the AfD aimed to broaden its political agenda during the congress, members hardly debated on domestic issues, such as taxation and social welfare.

The party's leadership has proposed the introduction of an income tax bracket system and the abolition of inheritance taxes, which experts say would benefit high earners. —Reuters

## UN Secretary-General's Message on World Press Freedom Day 3 May 2016

HUMAN rights, democratic societies and sustainable development depend on the free flow of information. And the right to information depends on press freedom. Each year, we observe World Press Freedom Day to emphasize these fundamental principles, to protect the independence of the media and to honour media workers who risk and have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

This year, World Press Freedom Day coincides with three important milestones. It is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world's first freedom of information law, covering both modern-day Sweden and Finland, and it is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration of press freedom principles. Finally, 2016 is also the first year of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Press freedom and the free flow of information are necessary not only to inform citizens about the Goals, but to enable them to hold their leaders accountable for fulfilling the pledges they have made. The media — including, and increasingly, new online media — serve as our eyes and ears. We all benefit from the information they provide.

A free, independent and safe media environment is essential. Yet, all too often, journalists are threatened, harassed, obstructed or even killed in the pursuit of information. Many languish in detention, some in appalling conditions, for shedding light on governance failures, corporate malfeasance or societal problems.

I am very concerned about the increasingly restrictive environment for media workers in many countries. Constraints on freedom of expression place shackles on progress itself. On this World Press Freedom Day, I urge all Governments, politicians, businesses and citizens to commit to nurturing and protecting an independent, free media. Without this fundamental right, people are less free and less empowered. With it, we can work together for a world of dignity and opportunity for all. — UNIC/Yangon

## French PM says all Australian submarines to be built in Australia

CANBERRA — French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Monday he was committed to building all of a new Australian submarine fleet in Australia, apparently contradicting the French contractor who said last week the deal would create jobs in France.

Valls stopped off in Australia while headed to New Zealand for a scheduled visit, just days after Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said France had beaten out Japan and Germany for the A\$50 billion (£26.01 billion) contract.

Valls said he would personally oversee the drafting of the contract, one of the world's biggest defence deals, between France's state-owned naval contractor DCNS Group and Australia over the next few months.

"We would like to conclude as soon as possible this contract," Valls told reporters through an interpreter after meeting Turnbull.

"We will now deliver on all of our commitments .. the choice of the Australian contract was to have the 12 submarines built in Australia and that was the basis of our agreement."

Comments by DCNS chief

Hervé Guillou last week that the deal would create about 4,000 jobs in French shipyards caused consternation in Australia, where the contract was heavily sold as a local build.

The deal will likely play a critical role in Australia's general election due on 2 July, with it expected to shore up support for the ruling Liberal Party-led coalition in the state of South Australia where the bulk of benefits will flow.

The victory for DCNS underscored France's strengths in developing a compelling military-industrial bid, and was a blow for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push to develop defence export capabilities as part of his security agenda.

Japan, with its Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kawasaki Heavy Industries boat, had been seen as the early frontrunner, but their inexperience in global defence deals and an initial reluctance to say they would build in Australia saw them slip behind DCNS and Germany's ThyssenKrupp AG.

"Right from the beginning it was supposed to be a partnership that would create jobs right from the beginning, so it is a win-win partnership," Valls said. —Reuters

## Iranian leader speaks out against North Korea's weapons programmes

TEHRAN — Iran's president Hassan Rouhani said on Monday that his country opposes North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons, following a meeting with South Korea's president.

Speaking after meeting with Park Geun-hye, Rouhani said that Iran wants to see weapons of mass destruction eliminated from the Korean Peninsula, and that he is opposed to the devel-

opment of nuclear weapons by North Korea. The remarks come despite Iran's history of diplomatic relations with North Korea, dating back to the late 1970s, and the two countries' exchanges of weapons and military expertise.

Park arrived in Tehran on Sunday for a two-day state visit, during which she was also scheduled to meet with Iran's supreme

leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

She has been accompanied by four key Cabinet ministers and a delegation of 230 business leaders, with the hope of sealing deals with Iran in a range of fields. North Korea is the subject of numerous sanctions and UN resolutions as a result of its ongoing pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missile technology. —Kyodo News



# Suspected Islamic State suicide bomber kills two police in southeast Turkey

GAZIANTEP, (Turkey) — Two police officers were killed and 22 people wounded in a suicide car bomb attack in the southeastern Turkish city of Gaziantep, the governor and police sources said, in one of three attacks on the security forces on Sunday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but security sources said police raided the home of a suspected Islamic State militant believed to have carried out the attack and detained his father for DNA tests and questioning.

Turkey has suffered attacks recently both by Kurdish militants and members of Islamic State, raising concern at home

and among NATO allies about the increasing spillover of conflict from neighbouring Syria. The city of Gaziantep is just 65 km (40 miles) from the Syrian border.

The Gaziantep-based suspect is believed to have detonated a bomb-laden vehicle just outside the gates of the city's main police headquarters on a street housing several other provincial government buildings, whose windows were also smashed.

"The father of a suspect who is believed to have carried out the attack has been detained. We have records of the suspect's links with Islamic State," a security source said.



Police forensic experts inspect the scene after an explosion in front of the city's police headquarters in Gaziantep, Turkey, on 1 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sources also said there were two vehicles carrying out the attack. While the suicide bomber was inside the detonated car, three men opened fire on police guarding the station from a second.

Several security sources also said police had received intelli-

gence on the attack on Saturday and had ordered officers not to gather in front of the station as they deployed for May Day celebrations, a move which may have prevented a higher toll.

Nineteen police and four civilians were wounded, a statement from the governor's office

said. One officer died at the scene and a second later in hospital, a security source said.

"We have eight people in intensive care. Seven of them are police officers," Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek told reporters after visiting the wounded.—Reuters

## Kerry says getting closer to an understanding on Syria ceasefire

GENEVA — Talks with Russia and coalition partners are "getting closer to a place of understanding" on renewing a ceasefire in Syria, including around the city of Aleppo, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday.

Kerry spoke before a meeting in Geneva with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir in stepped-up diplomatic efforts to stop a surge in fighting and salvage UN-led peace talks brokered by the US and Russia on 27 February.

Kerry will meet UN envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura before returning to Washington later in the day.

The Syrian government said on Friday it was introducing a temporary "regime of calm", or lull in fighting, in an area around Damascus and Latakia province; but Kerry has made clear a ceasefire brokered by the US and Russia on 27 February must also include Aleppo, which has seen the brunt of the increase in fighting.

"We're getting closer to a place of understanding, but we



Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir shakes hand with US Secretary of State John Kerry during a meeting on Syria in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

have some work to do, and that's why we're here," Kerry said at the start of the meeting with Jubeir.

Jubeir condemned the escalation of fighting as a "violation of all humanitarian laws", blaming the air strikes in Aleppo on government forces and called for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down.

"He can leave through a political process, which we hope he will do, or he will be removed by force," Jubeir said, adding:

"The world is not going to allow them to get away with this," he said referring to air strikes that hit a hospital in Aleppo last week, killing children and doctors.—Reuters

## Egyptian police raid press syndicate, arrest two journalists

CAIRO — Egyptian police on Sunday raided the press syndicate in Cairo and arrested two journalists critical of the government, a syndicate official and reporters said in what the syndicate called an unprecedented crackdown.

The interior ministry denied officers had stormed the press labour union building, a traditional spot in downtown Cairo to stage protests, but confirmed some of its members had arrested the journalists inside the syndicate.

Security forces have sought to quell dissent since thousands took to the streets on 15 April to protest a decision by President Abdel Fattah Sisi to hand over two islands to Saudi Arabia. Police dispersed smaller protests two weeks later.

On Sunday, journalists held a sit-in inside the union when officers arrested two of them working for the opposition website Bawabet Yanayer including its editor, syndicate officials said.

"The incident is true and at the very least the interior minister has to be fired and there needs to be an apology," Khalid al-Balshy, a syndicate board member told Reuters.

Mahmoud Kamel, a member of the syndicate board, said over 40 policemen raided the building but the interior ministry said its force consisted of only eight officers.

"The ministry affirms that it did not raid the syndicate or use any kind of force in arresting the two journalists who handed themselves in as soon as they were told there was an arrest warrant," the interior ministry said in a statement.

A security guard was wounded in the eye when police raided the union, Kamel said.

"There was an arrest warrant for the two journalists issued a week ago but the syndicate was negotiating with the interior ministry over the matter," he said.

The syndicate council called for an indefinite strike among Egyptian journalists until the interior minister resigns and urged newspapers to black out their front pages.

"This is unprecedented, no president or prime minister or interior minister has ever dared to do something like this," Kamel said. Under the law only a prosecutor is allowed to search the union in the presence of its chairman or deputy, he added.

Dozens of journalists later held a new sit-in at the syndicate to protest against the arrest, a reporter said.

Sisi faces criticism for putting the uninhabited Red Sea islands of Tiran and Sanafir in Saudi waters and a faltering economy though there are no signs that his rule is under threat.—Reuters

## Somalia launches operation in Middle Shabelle against Al-Shabaab

MOGADISHU — The African Union peacekeeping force, along with the Somali army, has launched an operation in Middle Shabelle region in Somalia, targeting major Al-Shabaab strongholds.

Abdullahi Yusuf, deputy mayor of the Middle Shabelle

region, said late Sunday that the joint force aimed to rid the region of Al-Shabaab militants.

"Our forces will ramp up operations in the coming days to completely destroy Al-Shabaab. So far they have captured most of the major towns formally controlled by Al-Shabaab,"

said Yusuf.

The joint force on Saturday retook about four villages from Al-Shabaab in Middle Shabelle.

Al-Shabaab has lost many areas previously under its control, but the Islamist group is still struggling to stage attacks in Somalia.—Xinhua



## Hooded youths clash with police in Paris over labour law

PARIS — Hooded youths clashed with police in Paris on Sunday during a May Day rally against planned labour reforms, while the government insisted it would not withdraw the bill which is due to be debated in parliament later this week.

Police, who said they clashed with a group of about 300 youths and detained three of them, responded with tear gas.

The reforms would give employers more flexibility to agree in-house deals with employees on working time, a move the government says is needed to bring down unemployment now above 10 per cent.

Critics say the reforms will lead to poorer working

conditions and more sackings.

"The draft bill is fair and necessary for the country," Labour Minister Myriam El Khomri told Europe 1 radio, Le Monde and iTELE in an interview.

More than 80,000 people marched throughout France on Sunday, including up to 17,000 in Paris, police said. That is far fewer than in the first rallies against the reform which started two months ago.

The CGT labour union said there were 70,000 protesters in Paris alone.

Three days ago, over 100 protesters were detained country-wide in another series of marches against the reform.

—Reuters



French CRS riot police secure a position as clouds of tear gas fill the Place de la Nation during clashes with youths who protest against the French labour law proposal during the May Day labour union march in Paris, France, on 1 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Puerto Rico declares moratorium on Government Development Bank's debt

SAN JUAN/NEW YORK

— Puerto Rico's governor on Sunday declared a moratorium on a \$422 million debt payment due Monday by the island's Government Development Bank, the most significant default yet for the US territory facing a massive economic crisis.

Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla said in a televised speech that he signed the moratorium on Saturday in what he characterised as a "painful decision" based on inaction from the US Congress, which continues to debate a legislative fix for Puerto Rico's \$70 billion debt load.

Garcia Padilla, addressing Puerto Rico's 3.5 million people in Spanish, said the island's American citizens had sacrificed much for the nation throughout history and asked Congress on many occasions for tools to restructure its financial liabilities.

"We do not want a bailout. We haven't asked for a bailout. We haven't been offered a bailout," he said as the US territory's economic crisis enters its most dire stretch yet.

Puerto Rico, a tropical paradise in economic purgatory, faces a \$70 billion debt bill it knows it cannot pay, a staggering 45 per cent poverty rate and a shrinking population as citizens flee to the mainland.



The Government Development Bank (GDB) is seen in San Juan, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The legality of this move to invoke the moratorium, which effectively means defaulting on the debt, is almost certain to be challenged by the GDB's creditors, and could spawn costly lawsuits and perpetuate more economic uncertainty for the island.

"One of our operating assumptions is that protracted or chaotic litigation will reduce aggregate recoveries," Moody's Investors Service senior credit officer Ted Hampton said.

Though island agencies have defaulted in the past, they have been small and isolated. The failure to pay by the GDB could reverberate through the local economy as it serves as Puerto Rico's primary fi-

cal agent.

"Agencies being able to access money to cover costs on a week-to-week basis is the only thing keeping Puerto Rico's doors open," said Height Securities analyst Daniel Hanson.

GDB has held talks with groups holding some of its \$4 billion in bonds to try to restructure the debt consensually. The moratorium covers Monday's payment on the GDB's 2011 Series B Senior Notes.

The missed payment at GDB could mean the beginning of the end to how the bank conducts operations. It could be wound down by a receiver and its deposits shifted to a new entity.

Some creditors say

government reforms could allow the island to pay its debts without hurting its people, while Garcia Padilla, whose administration has not published annual financial statements since fiscal year 2013, insists it needs relief from debt payments.

"The government has known the GDB was a ticking time-bomb and yet nothing constructive was done to forestall a default," said Arturo Porzecanski, economist and sovereign debt expert at American University in Washington, adding that "the approach is symptomatic of all that is wrong with how Puerto Rico has dealt with its deteriorating financial situation."—Reuters

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Date 3 May 2016

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KAY THI OHN, LL.M

Advocate

No. 3, 34th Street, Yangon.

Tel : 09 5007264

Date : 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

## Holiday mountain climbing death toll hits five

TOKYO — Four men were found dead Monday on mountains in Japan's Northern Alps straddling Nagano, Gifu and Toyama prefectures, police said, bringing to five already the number of fatalities in climbing accidents since Saturday during the Golden Week holiday that runs through this Sunday.

The police found the body of a man believed to be in his 60s on Mt. Oku-hotakadake and are trying to rescue another man they spotted from a helicopter on the same mountain that may have been hit by an avalanche.—Kyodo News



# Sturgeon says Scottish independence vote likely if she wins election

EDINBURGH — Scottish nationalist leader Nicola Sturgeon said a second referendum on independence was “more likely than not” in the next five years if she wins an election on Thursday as polls predict.

The pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) had said it would not press for another vote on independence until it was clear most Scots wanted to leave the United Kingdom.

Sturgeon said on Sunday that she believed opinion would shift in favour of a break away, with the cause boosted by the prospect of Britain voting for Brexit next month. “Do I think (a referendum) is more likely than not? Yes,” she told the *Sunday Herald* newspaper.

Pressed on whether a vote would come while she was first minister, she said: “I would like to think that’s the case.” “If I can’t persuade more people than we persuaded in 2014 of the case for independence then there won’t be. But if we can



Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon launches the Scottish National Party's (SNP) manifesto for the Holyrood election, at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Scotland, Britain, on 20 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

then I think there will be.”

Voters rejected independence by 55 to 45 per cent in a referendum in 2014, but went on to win a sweeping victory in a national British election in 2015, taking all but three of Scotland's 59 seats in parliament in London. The SNP's manifesto pledges another independence vote if Scotland is forced out of the European

Union “against its will” via a British referendum vote to leave the bloc on 23 June.

“If we do see rising support for independence, and certainly the prospect of Brexit I think if Scotland voted to stay in, would definitely lead to growing demand for Scottish independence,” Sturgeon said on the BBC's Andrew Marr show.

“If we see that growing

demand, then nobody has the right to stand in the way of that.”

But she added that she wanted to be sure she could win another referendum before calling one. “We would want to see clear and sustained evidence that independence had become the preferred option of the majority of people in Scotland,” she said.—*Reuters*

# Abe meets Italy's Renzi, eyes cooperation to support world economy

FLORENCE, (Italy) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with his Italian counterpart Matteo Renzi in Florence on Monday to discuss measures to stabilize the global economy ahead of a Group of Seven summit Japan will host in late May.

Abe is set to seek Renzi's cooperation on sending a message at the summit that the G-7 members are ready to boost public spending in a flexible way to address global economic uncertainty, according to Japanese officials.

The Japanese leader intends to discuss with the Italian premier the “unpredictable risks” facing the global economy stemming from a broad slowdown in emerging economies and stress the need to implement preemptive measures to keep the world economy from falling into crisis.

He will also tell Renzi that Japan will place counterterrorism and the response to the refugee crisis high on the agenda at the summit.

Abe and Renzi are expected to cover a range of geopolitical issues, with Abe expressing concern over recent Chinese military activity in the South China Sea and North Korea's nuclear and missile development.

The Ise-Shima Summit, scheduled for 26 and 27 May in central Japan's Mie Prefecture, will bring together the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

After Italy, Abe is scheduled to visit France, Belgium, Germany and Britain to exchange opinions ahead of the summit. He will then travel to Russia before returning to Japan.—*Kyodo News*

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### MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT  
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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING  
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

## INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (3/2016) [TENDER NO. MPPE/ HSD / T /1 (2016 — 2017)]

- Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel (423.000 ± 10% Barrels)
- Tender Closing Date & Time - 19 - 5 - 2016, 12:00 Hrs
- Tender Opening Date & Time - 19 - 5 - 2016, 13:00 Hrs
- Delivery Time - June 2016 to September 2016
- Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during our office hours commencing 2 - 5 - 2016 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyats 100,000) per set.
- Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director  
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise  
Ministry of Electricity and Energy  
No (6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

Contact Phone No.  
067-411487/411486/411280

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

### MV KULNATEE VOY NO (04/16)

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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  
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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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U2 guitarist David Evans, also known by his stage name The Edge, poses with Irish bishop Paul Tighe (R) before listening to US Vice President Joe Biden in Paul VI hall at the Vatican, on 29 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

## U2 guitarist The Edge makes history as he rocks Sistine Chapel for cancer

VATICAN CITY — The Edge, lead guitarist with the Irish band U2, has become the first rock star to play in the Sistine Chapel, a venue he described as “the most beautiful parish hall in the world”.

The performer, whose real name is David Evans, sang four songs on Saturday night for about 200 doctors, researchers and philanthropists who attended a conference at the Vatican on regenerative medicine called Cellular Horizons.

Backed by a choir of seven Irish teenagers, and wearing his trademark black beanie cap, he played acoustic guitar and sang a cover of Leonard Cohen’s “If it be your will”, and versions of U2 songs “Yahweh”, “Ordinary love” and “Walk on”.

The Edge, whose father died last month from cancer and whose daughter overcame leukemia, is on the board of foundations working for cancer prevention.

He joked with his audience,

telling them he was stunned when asked to play in the chapel which was painted by Renaissance master Michelangelo in the 16th century.

“When they asked me if I wanted to become the first contemporary artist to play in the Sistine Chapel, I didn’t know what to say because usually there’s this other guy who sings,” the musician said, referring to U2 front man Bono.

“Being Irish you learn very early that if you want to be asked to come back it’s very important to thank the local parish priest for the loan of the hall,” he said.

He then thanked Pope Francis and other Vatican officials “for allowing us to use the most beautiful parish hall in the world”.

The Edge dedicated his performance of “Walk on”, written in 2000 for Myanmar democracy advocate Aung San Suu Kyi when she was under house arrest, to Pope Francis, who he described as “the people’s pope”.

“He’s doing an amazing job and long may he continue,” he added.

The rock star sprinkled his address with technical terms such as bio markers and angiogenesis.

“I can tell this is a really cool audience because normally when I say angiogenesis eyes glaze over,” he said. Angiogenesis is the process through which new blood vessels, which tumors need to grow, are formed. Scientists are seeking ways to block tumor angiogenesis.

The Vatican conference, which was addressed by US Vice President Joe Biden on Friday, was organised by the US-based Stem for Life Foundation to share ideas and treatments on the use of adult stem cells to cure rare diseases. — Reuters

## Box Office: ‘Jungle Book’ Triumphs, ‘Keanu’ Stumbles, ‘Mother’s Day’ Bombs

LOS ANGELES — “The Jungle Book” pulverized a trio of box office lightweights, racking up \$42.4 million to lead ticket sales for the third consecutive weekend. Disney’s live-action adaptation of Rudyard Kipling’s Mowgli stories has made \$252.1 million since opening last month. It should have no trouble becoming the fourth film this year to cross \$300 million domestically, joining the likes of “Deadpool,” “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” and “Zootopia.”

It’s heady company. Just don’t look for this weekend’s new releases to number among those ranks. “Keanu,” an action-comedy sendup from Jordan Peele and Keegan-Michael Key, nabbed third place with \$9.3 million across 2,658 screens. The weak result is alleviated somewhat by the fact that the Warner Bros./New Line release cost a meager \$15 million to produce. The film finds the stars of Comedy Central’s “Key & Peele” trying to rescue a kidnapped kitten. Reviews were strong, which could help the picture in the coming weeks when the competition gets fiercer.

Open Road’s “Mother’s Day,” an ensemble romantic

comedy with Julia Roberts, Jennifer Aniston and Jason Sudeikis, collapsed at the multiplexes, eking out \$8.3 million across 3,035 locations to finish in fourth. That could spell the end for director Garry Marshall’s lucrative “throw a bunch of stars at a holiday” franchise -- a collection of films that also encompassed “Valentine’s Day” and “New Year’s Eve.” Don’t hold your breath for “Arbor Day.”

And Focus Features’ “Ratchet and Clank” struggled to leave an impression. The adaptation of the video game series about a fugitive robot and a cat-like alien only managed to pull in \$4.8 million from 2,891 locations, marking it as D.O.A.

Analysts and box office watchers weren’t expecting a lot from this crop, but the results were even worse than expected. Going into the weekend, tracking services had both “Mother’s Day” and “Keanu” debuting to north of \$10 million.

“If April is the cruelest month then the last weekend of April is particularly cruel,” said Jeff Bock, an analyst with Exhibitor Relations. “All three of these films faltered.” — Reuters

## UK royal Kate appears on cover of Vogue’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition

LONDON — The Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, will appear on the cover of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the British version of fashion magazine Vogue, following in the path of her husband’s late mother, Princess Diana.

Late on Saturday Vogue revealed the cover of its June edition on its website, which goes on sale on Thursday, showing a smiling Kate in a rural outdoors setting wearing a green hat, brown jacket and white blouse. Another photo show her in a red and black striped top, leaning on a wooden fence.

“I am hugely grateful that we have been able to continue with our tradition of outstanding royal portraiture,” Vogue editor-in-chief Alexandra Shulman said.

Two of the pictures of Kate from the photo-shoot, which were taken in January by British photographer Josh Olins, will be displayed at London’s National Portrait Gallery as part of an exhibition in May to mark Vogue’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Diana, the mother of Kate’s husband Prince William, featured several times on Vogue’s cover, but Vogue said this was Kate’s first fashion photo-shoot. Queen Elizabeth and other royals have appeared inside the magazine, but not as cover models.

Kate’s clothing choices sometimes lead to a surge in sales of similar items, and Vogue said she had selected items for the shoot from designers including Britain’s Burberry and French maritime-themed label Petit Bateau. — Reuters

## Kendall Jenner starstruck by Barack Obama

LOS ANGELES — Supermodel Kendall Jenner says she was starstruck when she met US President Barack Obama at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner.

The 20-year-old model said she doesn’t normally get overcome with nerves when she meets other famous people but couldn’t help but be gripped by shyness when she came face-to-face with the US leader at the annual White House Correspondents’ Dinner, reported *People* magazine.



Kendall Jenner and Barack Obama. PHOTO: PTI

Asked if she gets starstruck, she said, “Never. That was like my first time, ever.”

The president was more interested in Kendall’s half sister Kim Kardashian West and brother-in-law Kanye West, who he has met

several times.

Kendall said, “He was like, ‘Say hi to Kim and Kanye. I was like ‘OK’.” — PTI



Britain's Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge. PHOTO: REUTERS



## Japan begins 'Cool Biz' energy-saving casual wear campaign

TOKYO — Japan began on Monday its annual "Cool Biz" campaign, encouraging workers to dress more casually to help reduce energy use, with government offices allowing polo shirts, Hawaiian aloha shirts and similar attire.

Cool Biz, a campaign to set air conditioners at 28 C, will run until the end of September, a month earlier than last year. But the Environment Ministry is calling on workers to "dress casually at your discretion even in October if it is hot."

In central Tokyo where the temperature was 16.9 C at 9am, Environment Ministry officials came to work with casual outfits such as polo shirts and "kari-

yushi," an Okinawa's summer shirt.

"I can comfortably work with short sleeves in the office, although I wore a summer jacket because I felt chilly in the morning," said a 27-year-old female official.

Cool Biz allows people to work without their usual ties and jackets in offices, and has taken root both in the public and private sectors since its launch in 2005.

More than 200 department stores will promote the initiative by setting more moderate temperatures for air conditioners, switching off some lighting and installing light-emitting diode lights.—*Kyodo News*



Personnel at the Environment Ministry's Global Environment Bureau work in light-casual clothing in Tokyo on May 2, 2016, as the "Cool Biz" season started on the day in Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Sakura fest in Brooklyn marks 100<sup>th</sup> year of iconic Japanese garden

NEW YORK — Brooklyn Botanical Garden held its popular "sakura" festival this weekend, drawing crowds for Japanese arts and performances amid some 200 blooming cherry trees as the New York institution also celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden.

The 35<sup>th</sup> installment of the two-day annual event that ended Sunday paired the tradition of "hanami" cherry blossom-viewing with both ancient and contemporary aspects of Japan.

Classical Japanese dancer and long-time New York resident Sachiyo Ito performed on the main stage both days with her troupe, presenting a variety of dances drawing on kabuki and noh forms or taking cherry blossoms as a theme.

"Our aim is to introduce the culture of Japan through dance," Ito told Kyodo News. She has performed at every single Sakura Matsuri at Brooklyn's botanic garden and adds new or revised dances each year, beginning preparations up to five months in advance.

"I believe dance is a mirror of a culture, reflecting history, religion, literature — every aspect of a culture and how people have lived."

Other main-stage features included taiko drumming, J-pop and hip-hop musical acts, a samurai swordplay group and, as has become a tradition in recent years, a cosplay fashion show.

"Sakura Matsuri has blown up hugely for cosplay," said Jason Linetsky of CosplayNYC Magazine. "Every year we're growing exponentially."



Cosplayers pose as they enjoy the annual Sakura Matsuri cherry blossom festival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, on 30 April.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The cosplayers, who frequent comic conventions and other events dressed up most commonly as characters from Japanese anime or video games, fit in with the festival's vision of bringing together old and new.

"We really wanted to both honor traditional culture and also bring in a contemporary culture," said Anita Jacobs, the botanic garden's director of public programs who has overseen the growth of the festival over the past 16 years of her tenure.

Jacobs explained that she and the staff have worked "to make the festival a little bit more reflective of New York, and New York's love of Japanese culture."

The historic Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden, considered the masterpiece of landscape architect Takeo Shiota (1881-1943), was the first of its kind in a US public botanic garden when it opened in the summer of 1915.

Centred on an asymmetrical "koi" (carp) pond with a "torii" gate in the water, the garden features a Shinto shrine, authentic stone lanterns and an array of trees including Japanese maples, pines and cherry blossoms.

Visitors to this year's festival received guided tours of the site, which includes elements of a "stroll" garden with meandering paths along the five tiers of a waterfall running gently down the hill.

Though World War II led to the garden's temporary closure amid anti-Japanese sentiment, it was reopened in the early 1950s under the care of gardener Frank Okamoto, and later received a \$3 million renovation from 1999 to 2000.

The botanic garden also expanded its cherry tree collection after the war, and inaugurated its Sakura Matsuri in 1982.—*Kyodo News*

## Zambia's airports see 6 % growth in passenger arrivals in Q1

LUSAKA — Zambia's international airports recorded a six per cent growth in passenger arrivals during the first quarter of this year, a government agency that runs the airports said in a statement on Sunday.

The country saw 350,000 passengers enter at its four main

international airports during the period representing a six per cent growth compared to the same period last year, the Zambia Airports Corporation Limited said in the statement.

"During the same period last year, 336,010 passengers used the airports meaning that there was a

growth of nearly 20,000 passengers this year," Mweembe Sikaulu, the agency's communications and brand manager said.

He said records indicate that during the period, international passengers grew by nine per cent while domestic passengers declined by 10 per cent.

He attributed the increase in passenger arrivals to a relatively stable economy, the recently held International Parliamentary Union general assembly and reduced cases of Ebola in West Africa. Cargo grew by five per cent while mail declined by 2.8 per cent, he added.

Zambia has four international

airports namely the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport in Lusaka, the country's capital, Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe Airport in Ndola city in the Copperbelt Province, Harry Mwaanga Nkumbula Airport in the southern city of Livingstone and Mfuwe in eastern Zambia.—*Xinhua*



**Entertainment Channel**

(3- 5-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Myanmar Classical Songs

6:20 pm

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:40 pm

- Music Programme

7:00 pm

- International Drama Series

7:40 pm

- International Drama Series

8:20 pm

- Cartoon Programme "Scooby Doo Goes Hollywood"(Part-3)

8:50 pm

- Music Programme

9:00 pm

- Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung ( Part - 2 )

9:20 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:40 pm

- Village Belle

10:00 pm

- Myanmar Video

Midnight

- Close Down.

From 3-5-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm  
To 4-5-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm



**Myanmar International**

(3-5-2016 07:00am ~ 4-5-2016 7:00am) MST

**Today Fresh**

07:03 Am News

07:26 Am Insight Myanmar "MNHRC Complaints Mechanism"

07:51 Am Famous Pagodas of Sagaing

08:03 Am News

08:26 Am .....Shan Novices To Be.....

08:41 Am Excavation At Kawhmu

08:51 Am Licuala Palm Leaf

09:03 Am News

09:26 Am Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)

09:47 Am Today Myanmar: Yangon Stock Exchange Up & Running

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am Daingnak Style

10:40 Am Development Momentum Of Sittway

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday 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

07:27 Pm A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)

07:51 Pm Lines and Wash Painting

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Discovering Tribes "Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part- I)"

08:48 Pm Myanmar Leading Lady "Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe"

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

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

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

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



# Leicester champagne on ice, City crash at Southampton

LONDON — Leicester City failed to grasp their first chance to clinch the Premier League title when they drew 1-1 at Manchester United on Sunday but they moved ever closer to a first English top-flight crown.

That will be confirmed if Tottenham Hotspur do not beat Chelsea on Monday and, whatever the result at Stamford Bridge, Claudio Ranieri's side need two points from their last two games to complete their fairytale triumph.

The draw also hit United's hopes of securing a Champions League qualification spot, although Southampton's 4-2 victory over fourth-placed Manchester City kept them in the hunt.

Leicester have secured their place in Europe's premier competition and their manager Claudio Ranieri will not even be watching

the Chelsea v Spurs game with his team eight points clear at the top of the table.

"I think I'm on a flight back from Italy so it's difficult for me to watch the match," the Italian said.

"My mother is 96 years old and I would like to have a lunch with her. I will be the last man in England to know."

Ranieri believed Leicester, who had Danny Drinkwater sent off for a second bookable offence late on, deserved their point which was secured by a powerful Wes Morgan header after Anthony Martial scored early for the hosts.

United manager Louis van Gaal brushed off speculation that he is about to lose his job.

"I think we played one of our best matches of the season, but it was not enough. Next year you



Wes Morgan scores the first goal for Leicester against Manchester United during Barclays Premier League at Old Trafford on 1 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

will see me again," he said and his chances of staying at Old Trafford were helped by City's loss at Southampton.

Sadio Mane bagged his second hat-trick of the season to take his tally to 14 and Shane Long also scored for seventh-placed South-

ampton with Serbian Dusan Tadic providing assists for three of the goals.

City appeared to have one eye on Wednesday's Champions League semi-final second leg against Real Madrid and are now only four points ahead of fifth-

placed United who have a game in hand.

In Sunday's other game, a Liverpool side showing eight changes lost 3-1 at Swansea City, whose victory secured their Premier League status for another year.—Reuters

# Guardiola out to end semi-final misery against Atletico



Pep Guardiola. PHOTO: REUTERS

MUNICH — Bayern Munich are desperate to avoid losing a third consecutive Champions League semi-final to Spanish opponents when they host Atletico Madrid on Tuesday but coach Pep Guardiola has his work cut out to end his time in Germany on a high.

Guardiola inherited the reigning European champions when he joined Bayern in 2013, but has endured successive semi-final failures since, falling to Real Madrid in 2014 and to his former club Barcelona last season.

His hopes of reaching a first Champions League final since his Barcelona side beat Manchester United 3-1 in 2011 were dented after Saul Niguez's brilliant solo goal gave Atletico a 1-0 first-leg victory.

With Guardiola leaving for Manchester City at the season's end, this is his last chance to conquer Europe with Bayern, who won the first of their five European Cups by defeating Atletico in the 1974 final.

"It's not over yet, we still have a

chance," Guardiola told reporters. "If we lose it, you can kill me, but we still have a chance."

Atletico coach Diego Simeone also believes the tie is open.

"Playing in Munich means they'll have their fans supporting them, but we have the opportunity to score an away goal."

"We need to be on fire on Tuesday," said Thomas Mueller, who shone as Bayern were held 1-1 by Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday and were consequently made to wait for their fourth consecutive Bundesliga title.

Mueller's return was one of eight changes from the Atletico match made by Bayern, who were boosted by the return of Jerome Boateng, who had not featured since January.

Arjen Robben, sidelined for two months with a hamstring injury, says that he is "fighting" to return this season but will miss out, while Guardiola confirmed he does not know whether Franck Ribery will recover from a back complaint.

"We'll do everything we can to have Franck back," said Guardiola, who is also without defender Holger Badstuber.

While Bayern were unconvincing on Saturday, Diego Simeone's Atletico are finishing strongly in Spain, having won their last six league games and keeping four consecutive clean sheets.—Reuters

# Mercedes surprised by Ferrari's lack of pace

SOCHI — Ferrari are still waiting to take the fight to Formula One champions Mercedes after a Russian Grand Prix that left even their dominant rivals surprised by the gap in performance.

"We've always said that they've been close but this weekend they were not close at all," Mercedes winner and championship leader Nico Rosberg told reporters after his seventh win in succession on Sunday.

"We were really far ahead this weekend and that's been impressive to see."

Rosberg said the unique characteristics of the Sochi asphalt might have accounted for some of the advantage but Ferrari team principal Maurizio Arrivabene was not looking for excuses.

His post-race telephone conversation with hard-minded company president Sergio Marchionne was not going to give him any pleasure either.

"For sure he is not going to be amused," said the Italian.

Even bad luck, with four-times world champion Sebastian Vettel taken out at the start when Red Bull's Russian Daniil Kvyat twice drove into the back of him, could not hide the failings.

Vettel was seventh on the grid, and next to Kvyat, only because of a penalty for an earlier gearbox failure and replacement.

Kimi Raikkonen, who took Ferrari's 700th grand prix podium, finished third but 31 seconds behind Rosberg who had already turned down his power unit and had no need to push.—Reuters



Mercedes F1 driver Nico Rosberg of Germany shoots a selfie with the trophy and the Mercedes team. PHOTO: REUTERS