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STATE COUNSELLOR APPROVED

President signs State Counsellor Bill into law

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw signed the State Counsellor Bill into the law, creating the post of the State Counsellor for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in the new cabinet.

The bill was passed by the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) on 1 April and by the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) on 5 April.

The bill was sent to the President without a vote in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) as it was approved by votes in both houses.

During the debates in each house of parliament, military representatives opposed the bill, claiming it violated the separation of powers as outlined in the constitution. They also said if the State Counsellor Bill were in line with the constitution, they would support it.

Military MP Brig-Gen Maung Maung told reporters after the bill was passed by the Lower House that the passage of the bill constitutes 'democratic bullying' by the majority.

"The bill was drawn up with the aim of ensuring a multi-party democratic system, a market economic system, a federal Union, peace and development in the Union," said U Tun Tun Hein, chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, in his presentation of the committee's report, calling for parliamentary approval of the bill.

The bill includes five chapters and eight articles. The bill, reviewed by *The Global New Light of Myanmar*, guarantees Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's right to contact government ministries, departments,



President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the dinner reception on 30 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

organisations, associations and individuals and makes her accountable to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The term of the office for the State Counsellor is equal to the term of the president "who has taken office for the term of the current second parliament", according to the bill.

Aside from the opposition presented by the military MPs, the bill has also drawn criticism by others who claim the NLD government should be using its early days in power to enact policies that benefit the public, including the release of political prisoners, rather than focusing on consolidating power in the person of the party's leader.—GNLM

US president congratulates Myanmar counterpart

US President Barack Obama phoned his Myanmar counterpart President U Htin Kyaw last night to express his support Myanmar's new government, which began its term on 1 April.

President Obama congratulated his Myanmar counterpart on the latter's assumption of the presidency.

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Flyover budget redistributed to development projects

Ko Moe

INSTEAD of spending K32.2 billion (US\$26,923,077) to build two overpasses in Yangon this fiscal year, the money will be allocated to rural development projects, announced the Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance yesterday.

The minister informed regional MPs of his plan while clar-

ifying a regional planning bill for the 2016-2017 fiscal year at a parliamentary session yesterday.

"The budget for the construction of the two flyovers will be spent on development undertakings in places outside the municipal area," said Planning and Finance Minister U Myint Thuang.

The budget of K32.2 billion, of which K15.75 billion was allocated for an overpass at

the junction between Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Parami Road and K16.45 billion was set to go toward another overpass at North Okkalapa Junction, will be allocated to 12 townships situated outside the Yangon City municipal area to ensure better transportation and healthcare services and develop infrastructure there, the regional minister said.

In Yangon, the Tamwe

Junction flyover is being built at a cost of K22.5 billion. The former Yangon Region government built six overpasses at Hledan, Myaynigon, Bayintnaung, Shwegondine, Kokkaing and 8 Mile at a total cost of K104.291 billion (\$87,199,832).

The former government planned to spend 75 per cent (K32.2 billion) of its total capital expenditures (K44.782 bil-

lion) on the construction of the two flyovers.

During a parliamentary discussion on the minister's proposal to spend the money on rural development projects, some MPs suggested that funds be allocated to townships inside the municipal area, while Daw Sandar Min, chairperson of the Finance, Planning and Economic Committee, agreed to the minister's proposal.

US president congratulates Myanmar counterpart

>> From page 1

President Obama said he appreciates Myanmar's historic effort to effectuate democratic reform.

He also urged President U Htin Kyaw's regime to strive to make Myanmar a country of inclusive politics, affluence, economic development and improved human rights.

He also said the US is willing to provide assistance to Myanmar and asked to remain informed of Myanmar's future plans.

The American president told President U Htin Kyaw to have a detailed discussion in a friendly and frank manner with the proposed ambassador to Myanmar.

He then said he would also talk to Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Afterward, President Obama wished his Myanmar counterpart a happy water festival.

Next, President U Htin Kyaw said he highly appreciated the popular support.

He said: "I'm confident President [Obama] and the United States will continue to provide assistance to us. We want US investment in Myanmar, and we'd like to cooperate in various sectors with USAID. With the support of you and our other friends, I believe Myanmar will achieve its goals soon."—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw talks to US President Mr Obama over the phone. PHOTO: MNA



President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi. PHOTO: MNA

President expresses enthusiasm about cooperation with China

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received a Chinese delegation led by Foreign Minister Wang Yi at his palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The president hinted at his government's enthusiasm to cooperate with China, saying that there was room for bilateral cooperation in ensuring better living standards for the peoples of both countries.

The Chinese foreign minister pledged China's support for the government's emphasis on economic growth, better quality of life for the people, internal peace processes and better international relations, especially with its neighbours. He also expressed his country's willingness to cooperate with the host country in the high-speed rail system linking Yangon with Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay, add-

ing that China would want to act as a mediator in the process of national reconciliation while respecting the country's sovereignty.

He reaffirmed China's friendly relations with the country and extended invitations to President U Htin Kyaw and Union Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to visit China.

President U Htin Kyaw accepted the invitations and expressed his willingness to visit China at their convenience.

Union Ministers Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Dr Pe Myint and Dr Aung Thu were also present at the meeting. Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi was accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang. —*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw meets Italy's Foreign Minister

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw met Italy's Foreign Minister Mr Paolo Gentiloni Silveri at his office yesterday to discuss ways of creating new levels of bilateral cooperation in agriculture, food security, small and medium enterprises, tourism and protection of cultural heritage.

The president was accompanied by Union Ministers Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Dr Pe Myint and Thura U Aung Ko while the Italian foreign minister was joined by Italian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pier Giorgio Aliberti.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw and Italy's Foreign Minister Mr Paolo Gentiloni Silveri pose for documentary photos. PHOTO: MNA

Thingyan products see poor sales due to El Nino



Thingyan products are waiting for the buyers. PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

THE sale of water-throwing materials and Thingyan-related goods have met with luke warm sales at the Mandalay Zaycho market this year as Thingyan Festival grows near.

“Thingyan products are not selling well this year. Wa-

ter guns, Thingyan necklaces, masks, Thingyan glasses etc are being sold. Sales have obviously declined this year when compared to previous years because this year buyers from other towns other than Mandalay are not coming to buy our wares.

It’s only the Thingyan toys that do not sell well”, said the owner of Thanphyutan shop at Zaycho market.

The decline of sale is due to threat of El Nino weather, it is reported. —*Than Zaw Min (IPRD)*

Crime NEWS

Accidental pistol discharge injures one



Involuntary shooting of gun injures one

A MAN was seriously injured by an accidental shooting with a pistol on Tuesday in Tachilek. According to an investigation one Maung Shwe showed U Tin Tun a 9mm pistol which he claimed he received in Par Hset ward, Lun Kyine village while Maung Shwe, 22, U Tin Tun, 54, and four other men who were collecting rubbish using a six wheel truck. U Tin Tun was admiring the weapon when he accidentally fired off a round. The single bullet penetrated Maung Shwe’s chest. Maung Shwe was immediately sent to the local hospital and is currently receiving medical treatment. Police from Tachilek have filed charges against U Tin Tun. —*Myint Moeh (Tachilek)*

Drug dealers given 34-year prison sentence

ANTI-drug squads in Nay Pyi Taw stopped a vehicle being driven by one Sai Pan, 24, and Tun Win alias Aik Win, 32 while they were en route to Meiktila from Taunggyi near milepost No.30/7 on Meiktila-Taunggyi Road, Thazi Township on 20 October. Police discovered 7,000 yaba pills weighing 7g,

two hand-phones and K200,000.

“We were promised K30 lakh as carry charges by Sai Lon, 30, from Pha-ye ward, Taunggyi and We’ve already got K5 lakh as a deposit.” said Sai Pan and Tun Win alias Aik Win. The inspector of police Myint Thwin filed charges against the suspects.

Their cases were heard by the Meiktila district judge who meted out a four-year imprisonment with rigorous labour to both of them under Section 15 of anti-narcotic drugs law and 30-year imprisonment with rigorous labour under section 19(a) of the same law. Their vehicle and the deposit were confiscated.—012

Crime NEWS

4,400 kilos of caffeine found hidden in trailers in Tachilek Township

A combined team of Tatmadawmen and police members including narcotic officers seized 4,400 kilos of caffeine worth K352 million which were found hidden in trailers in Tachilek Township on Tuesday.

Three men— Sai Aun Kyauk, Aik Aun and Aik Kaung—were arrested during the seizure of the haul of caffeine in which and 2,150 kilos of caffeine was confiscated after seizing 2,250 kilos on the same day.

Likewise, a man who was identified as Aung Myint Naing was caught with 13 grams of heroin and 600 stimulant tablets in Hpakant Township on 3 April.

Police discovered 53 grams of heroin and 225 stimulant tablets at a house in Moenyin Township on the same day. Kan Tha, house owner, fled during the raid while his colleague Aik Kyaw was arrested. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Illegal logs and sawn timber seized in Katha

LOCAL Authorities seized illegal sawn timber weighing a total of 0.5 tonnes and teak logs weighing in at around 10 tonnes from one U Pout Si from Kat Kar Village, Katha township on Monday.

The same team discovered illegal sawn timber weighing 1 tonne and teak logs weigh-

ing around 5 tonnes from one Maung Kyaw from Kat Kar village. Another police team seized sawn timber weighing 4 tonnes from one Maung Kyaw Moe from Kat Kar village. All the illegal logs, weighing 20.5 tonnes in total, were handed over to the Moe Dar Lay police station. —200

Man killed at pagoda festival

A MAN was murdered at a village pagoda festival by a group of three assailants on 3 April in Meiktila. The victim was identified as Zaw Win Htein, 25. He was a civilian cook from a local military unit. A local villager found the dead body with several injuries and informed the police station. The police rushed to the scene and began an investigation.

According to the investigation, three men approached

the victim while he was talking with Zaw Min Oo, 20, and Aung Kyaw Thu, 24. Two out of the former three punched and kicked the victim into submission. The third assailant stabbed the victim to death. After that, the three men fled the scene.

Police arrested Nga Moss alias Pyae Phyoe Aung, Zayyar Min alias Kyay Si, Hnine Pho and Tayoke Gyi according to information given by a local.—*Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)*

174 traffic accidents over last three months

ONE hundred and seventy-four traffic accidents occurred on the Yangon- Mandalay highway within the first three months of 2016, according to local traffic police.

Official statistics show that out of 174 traffic accident cases 41 people were killed and 280 people were injured. This represents a rise in the number of traffic accidents over the time

period compared with the same period last year. Sub Inspector of police Soe Win said that most of the small vehicle accidents were caused by high speed.

The local traffic police announced that 412 traffic accidents occurred in 2014, killing 147 people and injuring 766. A total of 453 traffic accident cases occurred in 2015, killing 24 and injuring 1033.—*Naing Linn Kyi*

LOCAL Business

China firm wins approval for \$3 bln refinery in Myanmar

CHINESE state-controlled commodity trader Guangdong Zhenrong Energy Co has won approval from the Myanmar government to build a long-planned US\$3 billion refinery in the Southeast Asian nation in partnership with local parties including the Energy Ministry, company executives said on Tuesday.

The project, which also includes an oil terminal, storage and distribution facilities, would be one of the largest foreign investments in decades in Myanmar. Myanmar currently imports most of its fuel.

The Myanmar Investment Committee granted the Chinese firm approval to build a 100,000 barrels-per-day (bpd) refinery in the southeast coastal city of Dawei, Li Hui, a vice president of Guangdong Zhenrong and head of the company's refining business, told Reuters.

The Chinese firm will hold 70 percent of the project, and the remaining 30 percent will be shared by three Myanmar firms — the military-linked Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited; Myanmar Petrochemical Corp, an entity affiliated with the country's



China-oil-refinery. PHOTO: REUTERS

Energy Ministry; and Yangon Engineering Group, controlled by the privately-run Htoo Group of Companies, Li said.

As the approval came before the government led by (Daw) Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD)

was sworn in, Li said his firm was ready to work with the new Myanmar authorities to ensure the project gets off the ground.

"We are confident [about the project] as it has taken into considerations interests from all parties and the refinery will

benefit the local people as well as the economic development of the country," said Li. Guangdong Zhenrong, which first announced the project in 2011, won the green light from Beijing in late 2014 to proceed with the plan.

The firm, which had a turno-

ver of more than 100 billion yuan (\$15.45 billion) in 2013, is 44.3 percent owned by Zhuhai Zhenrong Corp, one of China's top four state petroleum traders, which was until the late 1990s an affiliate of the military.

Xiong Shaohui, the company's chairman, has said the project may attract financing from state policy banks such as China Development Bank and China Export & Import Bank, as the investment fits into Beijing's "marine silk road" policy that aims to connect China to neighbouring economies like Myanmar, India and Sri Lanka.

It would be the first foray into refining for Guangdong Zhenrong, which is largely a trader of petroleum products and metals, and more recently the operator of oil storage facilities and a shipyard.

Company executives have also said the firm was open to working on the project with established Chinese energy companies.

China's largest energy group CNPC is among the largest foreign investors in Myanmar, Asia's second-poorest nation, having built oil and gas pipelines that connect the two countries.—

Reuters

Sugarcane business thriving

SUGARCANE growers and traders are earning handsome profits as sugarcane mill owners are offering high price to sugarcane growers.

"Sugarcanes cost up to K30,000 per tonne this year, while melted sugarcane juice

sells for up to K800 per viss (1.63 kilos)," said a sugarcane grower from Katha Township.

Labourers in the sugarcane business are also doing well, though there was a difficulty hiring labourers earlier in the harvest season.—Ngwe-oe

Fibreglass products in high demand

FIBREGLASS products are being manufactured on a large scale to meet the high demand for alternatives to wooden products.

Toys made of fibreglass are sold at prices ranging from K30,000 to K1.3 million, depending on the size and variety. Fibreglass raw materials are imported from abroad, and local manufacturers craft this into various products.

Fibreglass is stronger than plastic and can endure the rough weather without decaying. Using fibreglass instead of wood is also thought to be eco-friendly by local consumers.

Fibreglass products are used in the parks, train stations, hospitals, offices and homes. Fibreglass tables, desks and other furniture are sold to schools with five-year warranties.—Teintaman

Car companies given 30 days to pay taxes

THE Supervision Committee for Motor Vehicles has urged 47 car companies to pay 100 per cent of their taxes within 30 days, starting from the second week of April. The committee will sue the companies that fail to do so in time, said a member of the committee.

"Registrations for cars also

have to be done during these 30 days. Action will be taken against those who violate the rules," he added.

Of those companies, 46 companies are from Yangon Region, and one is from Ayeyawady Region. The companies were found to have sold imported cars in 2015 without paying of taxes.—200

Vietnamese bank to open first Yangon branch

THE Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam will open a branch in Yangon and plans to invest US\$85 million for the extension of its business in Myanmar, according to Vietnamese newspapers.

In March, the Central Bank of Myanmar gave the green light

to BIDV to open a branch in the country.

This will be the first BIDV branch in Myanmar.

BIDV is a large state-owned bank in Viet Nam. The bank earned US\$313.5 million in profit last year. The total value of the bank's assets is

857 trillion Vietnamese dong (\$38,362,218,483).

Nine foreign banks are currently operating in Myanmar. The government has welcomed international banking service providers to invest in the country's banking industry.—Thuta

Share prices at YSX hit record low on Tuesday

SHARE prices at the Yangon Stock Exchange hit record low on 5 April.

"The value of a share has declined to K20,000 from 35,000 in a single day. The decline in share prices is linked to low demand. Fluctuations of share prices depend on demand and supply," a YSX official said.

Ko Win Kyaw Oo, a share trader, said; "On 29 March the share price reached its peak at K41,000 per share. The price has declined while sellers are waiting for high prices of roughly K50,000 per share."

Share trading at the stock market takes place two at 11am and 1pm every weekday.



Yangon Stock Exchange center opened by government officials in Yangon, on 9 December 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Share prices at closing time are used as the next day's opening price.

On 5 April, share trading at the market reached 22,096 units with the price of K30,000 per

share.

One share trader said: "Share prices also depend on the greenback value. Yesterday, the value of the US dollar stood at K1,205."—Myint Maung Soe

Vietnamese PM Nguyen Tan Dung relieved from duty



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.
PHOTO: AFP

HANOI — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung was relieved from duty on Wednesday afternoon at the ongoing 11th session of the 13th National Assembly (NA) of Vietnam in capital Hanoi.

The move was made with 418 “yes” votes out of 486 valid ballots cast by NA deputies.

Earlier on Wednesday morning, newly-elected Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang delivered

a proposal to the NA to relieve Dung from the prime minister’s duty.

According to the proposal, “While assuming the post of Vietnamese Prime Minister, Dung always fulfilled the tasks assigned.”

Also on Wednesday afternoon, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang delivered a proposal to the NA on nomination for the post of Vietnamese Prime Minister.

Member of the 12th Central committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPVCC) and 12th CPVCC’s Politburo member, Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc is the sole nominee to the post.

The voting to elect new prime minister will be conducted on Thursday.

In late January, Dung was not elected to be among 200 members of the new CPVCC.

At the second session of the 12th CPVCC in early March, Vietnamese party chief Nguyen Phu Trong said the central committee reached consensus that it is needed to soon replace and re-arrange key leadership positions in order to promptly implement the resolution of the 12th national party congress.

Over the past days, Vietnam has elected new chairperson of the National Assembly and new president.—*Xinhua*

China ready for nuclear power cooperation: premier

BEIJING — Premier Li Keqiang said Wednesday that China is willing to cooperate with various countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

He made the remarks in a congratulatory message sent to the 20th Pacific Basin Nuclear Conference, which opened on Wednesday in Beijing.

“The Chinese government attaches great impor-

tance to the development of nuclear power in a safe and efficient manner,” said Li, adding that the country has created generation III nuclear power reactors, built a number of plants and established a comparatively complete nuclear science and technology industry system.

The peaceful use of nuclear energy plays an irreplaceable role in securing the energy supply, promoting economic growth,

addressing climate change and improving people’s lives, he said. The premier said he hoped attendees at the nuclear conference could share their insights and contribute to the development of the industry.

The current conference, co-hosted by the Chinese Nuclear Society and the Pacific Nuclear Council, has attracted more than 800 attendees from more than 40 countries.—*Reuters*

Three men sentenced to life in jail over 2002-2003 Mumbai blasts

NEW DELHI — An Indian special court sentenced three men to life in jail on Wednesday for their role in the 2002-03 Mumbai multiple blasts case.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) court also handed down 10-year sentences to five others and a two-year jail term to the remaining two men.

A total of 10 men were convicted of the multiple blasts last month, while three other accused had been acquitted.

The triple bomb blasts took place across Mumbai over a span of three months between December 2002 and March 2003, killing at least 12 people and injuring over 27 others. The first

blast took place on 6 December, 2002, at a McDonald’s restaurant at the Mumbai Central Railway Station, while the second one on 27 January, 2003 in a crowded market in Vile Parle East. The third and the last blast happened in a busy local train at the Mulund railway station in Mumbai on 13 March, 2003.—*Xinhua*

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi
ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Chief Reporter - Ye Myint
chiefreporter@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg
consultanteditor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Alec Wilmot
consultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editors

Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Kyaw Thura,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International news

Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tun Aung Kyaw
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Translators

Hay Mar Tin Win
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Computer Team

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

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Japan’s Diet OKs legal change to allow voting at stations, malls

TOKYO — Japan’s Diet on Wednesday enacted a law that allows voters to cast their ballots for national and local elections at polling stations to be set up at train stations and commercial complexes such as shopping malls.

The government-sponsored bill to revise the Public Offices Election Law passed a House of Councillors plenary session with the backing of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, the Komeito party, as well as the Democratic Party and other opposition parties.

Hoping to raise voter turnout, the revised law also enables local governments to extend polling hours for people wishing to vote before an election day.

Under the amended legislation, local governments can open polling

stations by up to two hours earlier from the current 8:30am or close them by up to two hours later from pm.

The revision will take effect 19 June, meaning that it will apply to this summer’s upper house election.

According to the revised law, local authorities can set up “common voting stations” on election days in high-traffic locations such as train stations, shopping centres and other public facilities, in addition to current polling stations.

At present, people are allowed to vote on an election day at only one place, usually a school or public office in the neighbourhood where they live, designated by election administration authorities.

In some municipalities, people can already cast votes before an elec-



Japanese Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Sanae Takaichi bows during a House of Councillors plenary session in Tokyo on 6 April 2016, after the upper house enacted a law that allows voters to cast their ballots for national and local elections at polling stations to be set up at train stations and commercial complexes such as shopping malls. The legislation is expected to take effect 19 June meaning that it will apply to the upper house election in the summer. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

tion day at commercial complexes and other places, but not on a voting day.

The legal change coincides with enforcement the same day of the lower-

ing of the voting age to 18 from the current 20. With the move, about 2.4 million people aged 18 and 19 will newly become eligible voters.—*Kyodo News*

High court rejects residents' call to halt reactors in southwest Japan

MIYAZAKI — A high court in southwestern Japan on Wednesday rejected an appeal by local residents against a lower-court decision last year allowing the restart of two reactors at Kyushu Electric Power Co.'s Sendai nuclear power plant in Kagoshima Prefecture.

The Fukuoka High Court's Miyazaki branch ruled that "it cannot be said that new nuclear safety standards are unreasonable." Japan tightened nuclear safety regulations in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis.

The appeal was filed last May against the Kagoshima District Court's rejection the previous month of a local call for an injunction to halt the restarts of the Nos. 1 and 2 reactors at the plant.

The injunction was sought due to concerns over earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and evacuation plans in the event of such calamities, although the government's nuclear regulatory body approved their restarts under the new safety standards.

The Sendai plant sits about

50 kilometres from Mt. Sakurajima, a volcano that erupts frequently and is relatively close to several other active volcanoes.

The plant's two units resumed operation in subsequent months, and are the only operating reactors in Japan at present after the Otsu District Court issued an injunction last month ordering Kansai Electric Power Co. to halt the operation of two restarted reactors at its Takahama nuclear plant. It was the first such court decision affecting operating reactors. Kansai Electric filed an objection to the injunction, seeking its suspension.

At the high court on Wednesday, Presiding Judge Tomoichiro Nishikawa said the judgment by the Nuclear Regulation Authority that quake-proof measures for the two Sendai reactors met the new safety standards was "appropriate."

While disputing the NRA's assumption that it is possible to predict the exact timing and scale of a volcanic eruption, the judge said a catastrophic eruption could occur only "extremely infrequently."

Even if there were questions about the rationality and effectiveness of evacuation plans as claimed by the plaintiffs, the judge said "that alone could not be seen as infringing upon their personal rights."

While some local residents welcomed the decision, others remained concerned about the safety of the reactors. A 57-year-old female pharmacist in the city of Kagoshima, who joined other residents in filing the injunction, said she will "continue this campaign to achieve zero nuclear power."

A 67-year-old taxi driver said halting the reactors would hurt the local economy. The Kagoshima District Court ruled last April that there were no "irrationalities" in the new safety standards and that having cleared those standards the Sendai plant in Kagoshima Prefecture was fit for operation.

The No. 1 reactor at the Sendai complex was brought back online last August, becoming the first unit to operate under the new stricter safety regulations.—*Kyodo News*

UN Secretary-General's message on World Health Day

7 April 2016

Diabetes is an ancient disease that is taking a growing toll on the modern world. In 1980, 108 million adults were living with diabetes. By 2014, that number had risen to 422 million – 8.5 per cent of adults – reflecting a global increase in risk factors such as being overweight or obese. Even though we have the tools to prevent and treat it, diabetes now causes some 1.5 million deaths a year. High blood glucose causes an additional 2.2 million deaths.

This year, the World Health Organization has issued its first *Global Report on Diabetes*, outlining the scale of the problem and suggesting ways to reverse current trends. The burden of diabetes is not equally shared, within or between countries. People in low- and middle-income countries are disproportionately affected, but wherever we find poverty we also find disease and premature deaths.

Diabetes affects countries' health systems and economies, through increased medical costs and lost wages. In 2011, world leaders agreed that non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, represent a major challenge to achieving sustainable development. Last year, Governments adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, which include the target of reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third.

We can limit the spread and impact of diabetes by promoting and adopting healthier lifestyles, especially among young people. This includes eating better and being physically active. We must also improve diabetes diagnosis and access to essential medicines such as insulin. Governments, health-care providers, people with diabetes, civil society, food producers and manufacturers and suppliers of medicines and technology must all contribute to changing the status quo.

On this World Health Day, let us all commit to working together to halt the rise in diabetes and improve the lives of those living with this dangerous but preventable and treatable disease.—*UNIC/ Yangon*

Viet Nam busts transnational fraud ring

HO CHI MINH CITY — Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City has detained 7 foreign and local people for having cheated many victims out of over 400,000 US dollars since late last year, local media reported Wednesday.

The seven detainees include two Nigerian citizens named Ihugba Augustine, 30, and Onu Chinonso Peter, 31, who have stayed in Ho Chi

Minh City's District 12m and five local people from the city, southern Dong Nai province, southern Tay Ninh province, and central Binh Thuan province, daily newspaper *Thanh Nien (Young People)* reported.

The frauds' most common trick is informing their potential victims that they are subject to receive big rewards overseas, and they should pay cash to complete legal, cus-

toms and banking procedures to get the rewards.

Another trick is that the frauds impersonated wealthy businesspeople to make friends with Vietnamese girls, then promise to send them valuable items or cash.

After that, the frauds disguise themselves as customs or police officers to call their victims to force them to pay fees.—*Xinhua*

IMF calls for Asian nations' cooperation to prevent tax avoidance

TOKYO — A senior International Monetary Fund official on Wednesday called for developing countries in Asia to join efforts to impose tougher international tax rules to prevent corporate tax avoidance by multinational enterprises.

"There is a widely shared recognition that too many multinational companies and wealthy individuals are gaming a creaking system of international taxation that was not designed for the modern global economy," IMF Deputy Managing Director Mitsuhiro Furusawa said in an opening address at an IMF workshop in Tokyo.

The issue of tax avoidance has taken center stage as leaked internal files from a Panama-based law firm that specializes in setting up shell companies point to wealthy clients hiding assets through offshore tax havens.

Furusawa said there has been "progress" in cracking down on tax avoidance, referring to the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting project launched by the Organisation

for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Group of 20 economies.

The workshop hosted by the Washington-based lender was designed to provide a venue for developing countries in the Asian region to raise and discuss their concerns related to international taxation, according to Furusawa.

"Our key objective is to help develop approaches to all taxation issues, both international and more generally, that are relevant and appropriate for all of our members, both advanced and developing," Furusawa said.

The Paris-based OECD is seeking to broaden participation in the project, given developing countries' greater reliance on corporate income tax revenues. Under the new rules compiled in the project, companies will be asked to pay appropriate taxes in places where they make profits, even if a company transfers profits to a subsidiary set up in a country with low tax rates with the intention of easing its tax burden.—*Kyodo News*

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Flame and smoke are seen from destroyed Malaysian vessels off the coast of Kuala Langsa in Aceh, Indonesia, on 5 April 2016. Indonesian authorities sank 23 foreign fishing boats on Tuesday, saying they were "operating illegally in the archipelago's vast waters in continuation efforts for anti-poaching." PHOTO: XINHUA

OPINION

Even in parliament, divided we fall

Kyaw Thura

AT first glance, it seems our country is now back on track, with a civilian president to speed up our forward movement. However, the country's political representation faces more complexities than expected, both theoretically and in practice, given the rise of challenges in parliament with each new day.

These differences have something more to

do with elected and non-elected lawmakers than the constitution or the institutions themselves. Both elected and non-elected lawmakers have a responsibility to make things better for the people and the country as a whole during their tenure. It is understandable that failure is hard to accept. However, wasting lamenting one's failure will doom anyone to a hopeless future. There is no such thing as instant success.

Just a few days into the parliament, the tempo of disagreement rose to a new level, instilling a feeling among the public that the country is still in a difficult state of transition. In the past five years, few people would watch parliamentary news on TV. Since the new government took office, more and more people are viewing live parliamentary broadcasts out of curiosity about what the new government will do for them.

It is, therefore, necessary for all represent-

atives to display positive attitudes toward each other. In addition, they need to renew their dedication and determination in order to normalise relations with each other and serve national interests. Now is the time for all of us to pay complete attention to the adage "United we stand, divided we fall" with the knowledge in mind that there are always differences of opinion in the realm of politics.

Write for us

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

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

MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES EVERY DAY KEEP DIABETES AT BAY

Dr. Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

THE slogan mentioned above is meant for the World Health Day 2016 which falls on April 7. Since 1950, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been choosing a dynamic slogan every year concerning the threat to public health around that particular year, for example, KNOW YOUR OWN HEALTH SERVICES (1950), HEALTH FOR YOUR CHILD AND WORLD'S CHILDREN (1951), HEALTHY SURROUNDINGS MAKE HEALTHY PEOPLE (1952), HEALTH IS WEALTH (1953) and so on uptil today. In 1971 too, A FULL LIFE DESPITE DIABETES was WHD slogan.

This year's slogan is concerned with DIABETES, as it was in 1971 too. Let me briefly elaborate some points about Diabetes, a socio-economical disease.

Probable causes of diabetes

- Type 1 : Destruction (possibly autoimmune) of insulin producing β cells of pancreas, resulting in significant insulin deficiency; patients require insulin.
- Type 2 : Due to impaired insulin secretion ("burn-out" of β cells), insulin resistance (at level of peripheral insulin receptors), and increased hepatic glucose production : patient may or may not require insulin.
- Glucose is toxic to nerve cells (resulting in neuropathy), blood vessels (resulting in heart disease, kidney disease, peripheral vascular disease, and hypertension, retinal cells (blindness) and many other cell types.

Diabetes should not be mistaken for : -

- Insulin resistance syndrome (syndrome X)
- Gestational diabetes
- Pancreatic disease (pancreatitis, pancreatic tumour, infection)
- Systemic disease resulting in pancreatic insufficiency (hemochromatosis, cystic fibrosis, hormonal changes)

Prevailing diabetes

- Affects about 10 percent of community
- Type 1 accounts for less than 10 percent of cases
- Type 2 accounts for more than 90 percent; genetic predisposition : risk increases with increased age and weight.
- Affects males and females roughly equally.

One should be alert to notice

- Polyuria (frequent urination), polydipsia (increased thirst), polyphagia (excessive desire for large meals)
- Fatigue
- Frequent infections
- Retinopathy : blindness, cataracts

- Nephropathy : Glomerulosclerosis, nephrotic syndrome, renal failure
- Atherosclerosis : - Coronary Artery Disease
- Peripheral Vascular Disease (foot ulcers, gangrene)
- Cardio Vascular Accidents
- Autonomic neuropathy : Orthostatic hypotension, gastroparesis, urinary retention, neurogenic bladder, impotency, arrhythmias
- Peripheral neuropathy : decreased sensation Charot joints
- Hypertension

How to know you have diabetes

- There are numerous criteria. ADA criteria for diagnosis is : symptoms of diabetes plus random blood glucose more than 200 mg/dL or fasting blood glucose more than 126 on blood glucose more than 200 during oral glucose tolerance test (2 hours after glucose load)
- Fasting blood glucose (more than 8 hours fasting)
 - blood glucose less than 110 is normal
 - 110 - 125 is considered impaired fasting glucose (IFG)
 - 126 or more is considered diabetes
- Every person over 45 years to be screened 3 yearly
- HbA1C reflects glucose control over past 3 months.
- Serum insulin : Greatly decreased in Type 1 DM, initially increased in Type 2, but

- falls as β cells "burn out"
- Signs and symptoms of end organ damage
- Renal functions : Microalbuminuria (30-300 mg/24 hrs) signifies early stage nephropathy : BUN / creatinine increase as renal function decreases.

To seek treatment from care givers

- Be attached to your family doctor. Should consult in time to physician, surgeon, diabetician, endocrinologist, podiatrist, pathologist, ophthalmologist, nephrologist, urologist, rheumatologist diabetic nurse and others whenever necessary through your family doctor.
- Carefully integrate low-sugar diet, exercise, insulin
- Oral agents
 - Sulphonyurias : increase insulin secretion
 - Biguanides (metformin) : decrease hepatic glucose, weight loss
 - Thiazolidinediones : decrease insulin resistance
 - α -Glucosidase inhibitors : decrease carb absorption.
 - Orlistat : decrease fat absorption from gut
- Insulin preparation
 - Rapid - acting, short duration : Regular, Lispro
 - Immediate acting - medium duration : NPH, lente
 - long acting : Ultraline, Glargine
 - combination 70/30 (70% NPH 30% regular)
- Aspirin, antihypertensives (preferably ACE inhibitors

- for renal protective), statins, heart medicines
- Patient should avoid self-medication.

Always bear in mind:-

- Acute complications
 - Diabetic ketoacidosis (Type 1)
 - Non-ketotic hyperosmolar coma (Type 2)
 - Hypoglycemia
- Chronic complications : end-organ disease
 - non traumatic leg amputation
 - adult blindness
- Morbidity is due to Myocardial Infarction, Cardio Vascular Accident, renal failure and infections
- Regular monitoring of glucose, lipids, renal functions, Blood Pressure and peripheral neuropathy.

How to make healthy choices everyday to keep diabetes at bay

Smoking and tobacco consumption should be discouraged. Do not start smoking in public or in the vicinity of young children. Smoking and chewing tobacco should be strictly avoided during pregnancy.

Social drinking, if not controlled, could lead to chronic and severe alcoholism. People should be better informed regarding alcohol and illicit liquor.

Stress and strain often create mental, social and physical deterioration. Take vacation to get relaxed, and get proper rest and sleep. Balanced nutrition and regular exercise will promote your health.

SG Min Aung Hlaing meets Chinese FM



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi at Zeyarthiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting the two representatives held talks on bilateral cooperation and relations between Myanmar and Chinese armed forces as well as the effective management of peace and stability in and around border regions. The two further exchanged views on Myanmar's transition to democracy.

Also present were Acting Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Commander in Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint and senior military officers from Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang, Director-General Mr. Xiao Qian of the Department of Asian Affairs and other officials.

The Senior General also received Italy's Foreign Minister Mr Paolo Gentiloni Silveri at his office yesterday. — *Myawady*

KOICA supports to strengthen Health Care Capacity at ECCD in Myanmar

KOICA handed over a project of "Enhancing Health Education & Environment for ECCD (Early Childhood Care and Development Resource center)" from 2015 to 2016, worth USD 20,530, at Thageda kindergarten on 5 April.

Under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, ECCD, producing around 400 teachers annually was organized as a training center for would-be kindergarten teacher, and an upper echelon of kindergartens to monitor their administration work and provide additional education to teachers.

However, unfortunately kindergarten teachers are currently not getting enough health education programs including emergency medical service and center has only few limited practical training materials for first-aid.

In order to improve its condition and strengthen health care capacity for teachers, Ms. Shin Young Jin, a World Friends Ko-

rea(WFK) Volunteer planned this project as a volunteer cooperation activity project of KOICA.

Ms. Shin Young Jin has been providing training programmes on how to prevent infectious diseases and to handle emergency situation effectively for the teachers. KOICA established emergency facilities and distributed medical supplies for 28 national kindergartens in Yangon and rehabilitation work were done in five kindergartens outside Yangon. In cooperation with Myanmar doctors, WFK volunteers specialized in nursing published medical dictionaries in Korean-English-Myanmar also to give proper medical treatment for young patients by solving language difficulties.

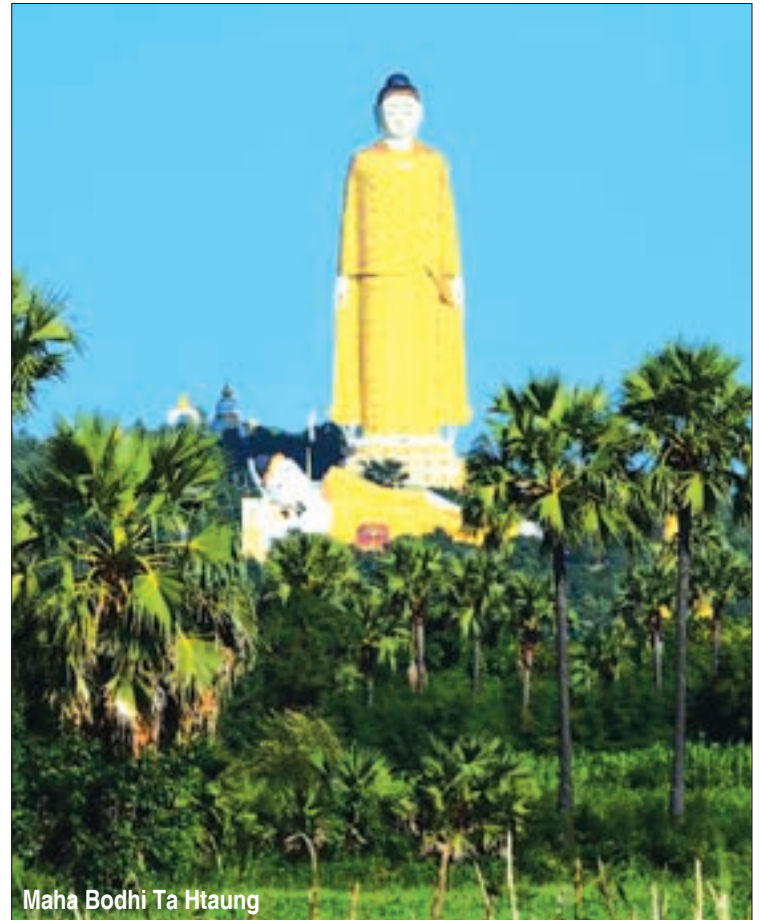
The ceremony was successfully accomplished with the presence of Chief Resident Representative, Mr. Nam Kwon Hyoung, officials from the Department of Social Welfare as well as others community people and students.—*GNLM*

Greening project for Maha Bodhi Ta Htaung to be implemented this year

AROUND 4,000 plants will be grown on a hundred acres of land within the pagoda precinct of the Mah Bodhi Ta Htaung to make it a lush and greener site over the fiscal year 2016-2017, it has been learned.

Plantation lands are annually set up by the Dry Zones Greening Department on the pagoda precinct of Maha Bodhi Ta Htaung, Khatakan village, Monywa, Sagaing Region for greening.

"We conserve the trees for lush mountain ranges. Annually, over 20,000 plants such as eucalyptus, hardwood trees etc are grown on 100 acres of land at the bottom of hill and hill side. Around 4,500 plants such as neem, papaya, Padauk etc are grown as well. Irrigation water is pumped from the dam of Bodhi Ta Htaung to water the trees" said a responsible person speaking on behalf of the Dry Zones Greening Department. —*Phoe Chan (Monywa)*



Maha Bodhi Ta Htaung

Customs office to open during Thingyan

THE Customs Department will be opened over the Thingyan holiday in order to facilitate imports and exports as normal, according to a responsible person speaking on behalf of the Customs Department.

The Customs Department will open its offices at Head of-

fice, jetties, airports and ports from 10 am to 3 pm on Thingyan holidays from 11th to 20th April.

Shipments of imports and exports via airlines will continue without off days during the festival period. However, the office will accept only payment orders in trading during Thing-

yan. A deposit must be paid for the business transaction to run normally.

Those companies which have urgent business in regard to imports and exports during Thingyan are invited to submit applications to the Customs Department by 8 April—200

7th ASEAN Quiz national contest held in Yangon



Winners of 7th ASEAN Quiz national contest pose for group photo. PHOTO:MNA

THE seventh ASEAN Quiz national competition was held at MRTV under the Ministry of Information in Yangon yesterday.

Altogether 10 contestants from states and regions took part in the national competition that

has been held since 2009.

Among the 10 contestants, first prize went to Maung Paing Kaung Khant from BEHS No(2) in Bahan Township while Ma Khine Su Yee Aung from Paung Township BEHS and Maung

Aung Kyaw Myint from BEHS No (5) in Botahtaung Township stood second and third respectively. The winners will be sent to Laos to participate in the 7th ASEAN Quiz Contest this August. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Migrant arrivals on Greek islands slow to a trickle



Migrants who will be returned to Turkey demonstrate inside the Moria registration centre on the Greek island of Lesbos, on 5 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ATHENS — Arrivals in Greece of migrants crossing by sea from Turkey fell sharply on Wednesday, three days after an agreement came into force to seal off a route used by hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflict in the past year.

New arrivals on the Greek islands facing Turkey dropped to 68 in the 24 hours to Wednesday morning from 225 the previous day, data from the migration ministry showed.

It was unclear if the decline was directly related to the accord.

“We had a very low influx from the other side of the Aegean... which we consider positive,” said George Kyritsis, a government spokesman on the refugee crisis.

Under the accord brokered last month between the European Union and Ankara, migrants and refugees who use irregular sea crossings in the Aegean to get into Greece are being sent back to Turkey.

In return, the EU says will take in thousands of Syrian refugees directly from Turkey and reward it with financial aid, visa-free travel and progress in its EU membership negotiations.

Human rights campaigners say the accord is a sham that runs roughshod over people displaced by war.

Since the deal was implemented on Monday 202 people, the vast majority from Pakistan, have been returned from Greece, according to authorities in Athens.

Kyritsis told Greek state TV more people could be returned later this week.

“It is possible... We are interested in two things. Sticking to the deal, and maintaining the rights (of migrants and refugees) ..It is a delicate and complicated process, we don’t want to make mistakes,” he said.

Greece has reported a spike in the number of asylum applications of individuals who have arrived since 20 March, the date the first phase of the EU accord took effect and new arrivals were detained in holding centres.

Under a newly-introduced Greek law, an asylum applications process within the detention centres, which includes a recourse to appeal, lasts about nine days.—*Reuters*

PM: Serbia strengthening Air Force and Air Defence

BELGRADE — Serbia will continue to compete with far more developed countries so as to protect its territory, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said on Wednesday while touring a new hangar due to meet the needs of the Air Force and Air Defence.

The Batajnica airport houses 12 out of the 14 Lasta aircraft that will be in full operation for basic pilot trainings in several months, the prime minister noted.

Much has been done on missile systems, guided missiles, given the developments in the

region, he said.

“We are strengthening the Air Force and Air Defence slowly, but steadily,” Vucic said.

Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic attended on Wednesday the opening of a new hangar at the Batajnica military airport and the promotion of new weapons manufactured in Serbia.

The previous hangar was destroyed during the 1999 NATO bombing, and the new one will be used for the storage of light aircraft, or the maintenance of Lasta airplanes and MI-

17 and Gazela helicopters.

After touring the hangar, the prime minister was shown the new weapons made in Serbia. Outside the hangar, a Lasta aircraft, a MIP-11 multisensory system, an improved Oganj missile launcher, a Milica anti-tank military robot system, and MIG 21, AN 25 aircraft were put on display.

The prime minister was accompanied by Defence Minister Zoran Djordjevic and Deputy Chief of the Serbian Armed Forces General Staff Lieutenant General Jovica Draganic.—*Tanjug*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air defence force jet disappears from radar over southwestern Japan

TOKYO — An Air Self-Defence Force jet carrying six people disappeared from radar over Kagoshima Prefecture in southwestern Japan on Wednesday afternoon, the ASDF said.

The U-125 disappeared from radar at around 2:35 pm while it was flying about 10 kilometres north of the Maritime Self-Defence Force’s Kanoya air base in Kanoya, Kagoshima. U-125 aircraft are often used in search and rescue missions.—*Kyodo News*

South Korea welcomes China’s sanctions against North Korea

SEOUL — South Korea on Wednesday welcomed China’s imposition of sanctions against North Korea to punish that country for its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

“We think (China’s move) is expected to help widen the belt of consensus for sanctions against North Korea and be helpful in fully implementing such sanctions,” Unification Ministry spokesman, Jeong Joon Hee, told reporters.

His comment was made in response to China’s announcement of a series of measures on Tuesday, mainly restricting imports of North Korean coal and sales of jet fuel under sanctions taken by the UN Security Council last month. The Security Council approved additional sanctions against North Korea following its fourth nuclear test in January and launch of a long-range rocket using banned ballistic missile technology a month later.—*Kyodo News*

Hollande tells Germany: let’s bulk up defence to fight terrorism

BERLIN — French President Francois Hollande has pressed Germany to dedicate resources to its military and to intervene outside Europe, arguing that they should not rely on allies to fight terrorism threats.

In an interview with mass-selling German daily *Bild* published on Wednesday, Hollande thanked Berlin for its military support in Mali, where German forces are helping support a United Nations peacekeeping mission, and Syria.

“Our two countries must agree to a budgetary effort on defence. And to act outside Europe. Let’s not rely on another power, even a friendly one, to do away with terrorism.”—*Reuters*

Ukraine to ban imports of Russian oil products — PM

KIEV — Ukraine plans to ban imports of Russian oil products, and to remove import duties on second-hand cars except for Russian ones, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk said in a televised cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The announcement is the latest move in an ongoing trade war between Russia and Ukraine that follows Russia’s annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

“I am asking the Ministry of Economy to prepare a mechanism for banning the purchase of petroleum products from the country of the aggressor, which is the Russian Federation,” the prime minister said.—*Reuters*

Turkey to work on new rules to strip citizenship for backing terrorism — minister

ISTANBUL — Turkey will work on new rules to strip citizenship from Turks found to be supporting terrorism, Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said on Wednesday, a day after President Tayyip Erdogan called for the measure.

Bozdag also told reporters that authorities have started an inquiry into a reported data link that purportedly compromised sensitive identity data for some 50 million Turks, about 64 per cent of the population.—*Reuters*

Russia says more than 1.5 thousand mines removed in Syria’s Palmyra

MOSCOW — Russian forces have helped remove more than 1.5 thousand mines in the Syrian city of Palmyra since it was taken from Islamic State militants by government forces in March, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Wednesday.—*Reuters*

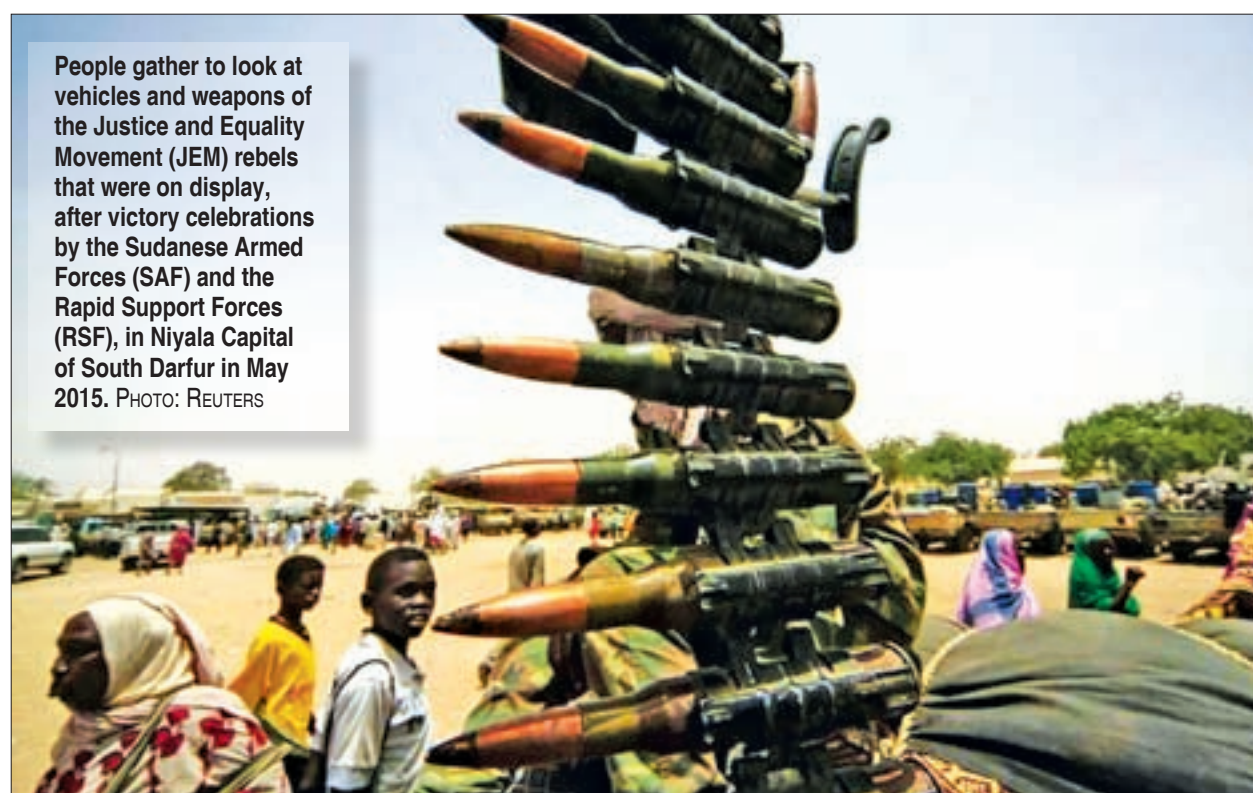
UN experts report cluster bombs, gold smuggling in Darfur

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations sanctions monitors confirmed in their latest report the recent presence of cluster munitions in Sudan's conflict-torn Darfur region in violation of a UN arms embargo while rebel groups earned cash from illicit gold mining.

The UN Security Council's Panel of Experts on Darfur said it had evidence Sudan's air force recently had RBK-500 cluster bombs at the Nyala Forward Operation Base.

"Although Sudan is not a signatory to the Cluster Munition Convention, it has previously denied either possessing or using cluster munitions," the panel said in its report, seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

Cluster munitions explode in the air and scatter smaller "bomblets" over a huge area that detonate when stepped on or picked up. The panel's sighting of cluster munitions supports the findings of the UN Mine Action Service that the Su-



People gather to look at vehicles and weapons of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) rebels that were on display, after victory celebrations by the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), in Niyala Capital of South Darfur in May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

danese Air Force has used RBK-500 cluster bombs.

The panel also raised concerns about gold smuggling. Moscow, which has good relations with the Khartoum government, was unhappy with the panel's

reporting.

Russian Deputy UN Ambassador Petr Iliichev said Russia was opposed to publishing the report because "the experts are not behaving like they are required to." The UN Security

Council sanctions committee has to agree by consensus to release the report.

The experts said some 48,000 kg (105,822 pounds) of gold was potentially smuggled to United Arab Emirates from Darfur

between 2010 and 2014 and "such an export level equates to an additional income of \$123 million to the armed groups of Darfur over this period."

The experts visited the Jebel Amir artisanal gold

mines in June 2015 and said they were certain that the Abbala militia control at least 400 mines. They said the group earns some \$54 million annually from levies on prospectors and support businesses, direct prospecting and the illegal exporting of mined gold.

The panel said South Sudan violated the sanctions regime by failing to stop training of the Darfur rebel group known as the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on South Sudanese territory, and by failing to prevent it from transferring weapons into Darfur.

The experts said the Juba government clearly knew about JEM's presence and therefore violated the sanctions.

The Darfur conflict began in 2003 when mainly non-Arab tribes took up arms against the Arab-led government in Khartoum, accusing it of discrimination. The UN says up to 300,000 people have been killed and millions displaced in Darfur.—Reuters

Pakistan PM forms commission to probe 'Panama Papers' allegations

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addressed the nation by television on Tuesday to defend his family's business practices, denying any wrongdoing and calling corruption claims "old accusations repeated over and over again".

Sharif set up a commission on Tuesday to investigate allegations, based on leaked documents from Panama, that offshore companies headed by members of his family were avoiding paying taxes or disguising assets and their origins.

On Monday, leaked documents from the Panama-based Mossack Fonseca law firm showed that Sharif's daughter Mariam and sons Hussain and Hassan owned at least three offshore holding companies registered in the British Virgin Islands. Mossack Fonseca denied any wrongdoing.

The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists said these companies were involved in the purchase and mortgage of at least \$13.8 mil-

lion in UK properties.

One of the holding companies also purchased another, Liberia-based, holding company for \$11.2 million in August 2007, according to the documents.

The documents do not show the source of the assets held by the holding companies. They are part of a tranche of 11.5 million documents leaked by the ICIJ, dubbed the 'Panama Papers'.

Political opponents in Pakistan, notably Imran Khan, have accused Sharif's family of having gained the funds illegally through corruption during his two previous stints as prime minister in the 1990s.

Sharif and his family have denied any wrongdoing, saying the assets were gained legally, mainly through the family's network of businesses and industries in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

"I say that those who are repeating tired accusations should go before this commission and prove their accusations," Sharif said in his televised speech.—Reuters

Parents of missing Nigeria schoolgirls hope 2 year event reminds world of their fate

ABUJA (Nigeria) — Nigerian officials gave permission on Tuesday for a memorial event at a school in northeast Nigeria from where Islamist rebels abducted 276 girls two years ago with parents hoping this would remind the world their daughters are still missing.

The event, a prayer session integrating both Muslim and Christian faiths, will mark the second anniversary of the girls' abduction by Boko Haram militants from Chibok that provoked an international outcry and a viral campaign #bringbackourgirls. It will be held on 14 April — exactly two years since Boko Haram fighters stormed the Government Secondary School in Chibok in the middle of the night and kidnapped 276 girls. In total 57 managed to escape but 219 remain missing.

Lawan Zanna, secretary of the Parents of the Abducted Girls from Chibok association, said the government had agreed to give the parents access to the school that is heavily guarded and all the parents of the missing girls are expected to attend.

The parents were



Parents of the Chibok girls weep during their meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari at the presidential villa in Abuja, Nigeria, on 14 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

hoping the event would again garner attention for the girls who have not been seen since the night of their abduction despite calls to find them from celebrities and politicians including US first lady Michelle Obama.

"We have also invited all the government officials from Chibok .. and they also promised to allow any person from the media to join us," Zanna, whose 18-year-old daughter is among the missing girls, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Boko Haram has kidnapped thousands of boys and girls in northeast Nigeria over the past seven years, turning them into cooks, sex slaves, fighters, and even suicide bombers to attack their

own villages, according to Amnesty International.

But the Chibok abduction remains the most high-profile.

On the first anniversary of the abduction the parents held a memorial event at the school but then a military checkpoint was then set up outside the school and the area ruled out of bounds.

Visitors are required to seek official permission from the government or the military to get access to the school and also to Chibok town. The parents received permission to use the venue for this year's event on Tuesday after three representatives of the parents' association met with government officials.—Reuters

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Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 11th April to 20th April 2016 "Myanmar New Year Holidays", under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Half of natural World Heritage sites at risk from industry — WWF

OSLO — Industrial activity such as mining and logging threatens almost half of the world's natural World Heritage sites, from Australia's Great Barrier Reef to the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu in Peru, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) conservation group said on Wednesday.

It urged companies to obey UN appeals to declare all heritage sites "no go" areas for oil and gas exploration, mines, unsustainable timber production and over-fishing.

A total of 114 World Heritage sites out of 229 worldwide that are prized for nature or a mixture of nature and culture were under threat, according to the study by WWF and Dalberg Global Development Advisors, a US-based consultancy. "This is staggering. We're trying to raise a flag here," Marco Lambertini,

director general of WWF International, told Reuters. "We're not opposing development, we're opposing badly planned development."

The WWF findings are far higher than the 18 natural sites listed as "in danger", a more severe condition, by the World Heritage Committee of the UN's cultural agency UNESCO.

The WWF rates the Great Barrier Reef, for instance, as under threat from mining and shipping, while last year, the Heritage Committee stopped short of an "in danger" listing. And the WWF says Machu Picchu in the Andes, also not on the UN list, is under threat from logging.

Other sites under threat include the Everglades in the United States, Ecuador's Galapagos islands or Russia's Kamchatka volcanoes, it said. Of those, only



A llama is seen near the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu in Cusco, Peru, in 2014.

PHOTO: REUTERS

the Everglades were rated "in danger" by the Heritage Committee.

Mechtild Rossler, director of UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in Paris,

said she welcomed such non-governmental reports as an aid to raise awareness of risks. Only some companies have heeded repeated UN calls for no go zones.

The International Council of Mining and Metals, grouping major companies, agreed in 2003 to stay out of World Heritage sites. Some oil and gas

companies, such as Total and Shell, have made similar commitments.

"Oil and gas is more an individual discussion. We lack the overall organised approach," Rossler told Reuters. The WWF study said that more than 11 million people depended on the heritage sites for food, water, shelter and medicine.

Lambertini said that the economic value of nature was too often ignored, even though the sites created jobs, for instance from ecotourism worth billions of dollars. "Nature continues to be taken for granted," he said. The study expands on a report by the WWF last year that said about a third of sites were threatened by mining and oil and gas. It adds threats such as over-fishing, harmful logging and disruptions of water supplies from dams. —Reuters

Fiji braces for second cyclone, thousands shelter in evacuation centres

SYDNEY — Cyclone Zena, a category three tropical storm with winds in excess of 120 kph (75 mph), is set to hit Fiji within 24 hours as the South Pacific island nation struggles to recover from a devastating cyclone in February.

Category five Cyclone Winston, one of the most powerful storms recorded in the southern hemisphere, killed 42 people and flattened settlements in February. Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama said it could take years for Fiji to recover. With widespread damage to homes across Fiji, many people have returned to shelters used when Cy-

clone Winston hit. Nearly 80 evacuation centres have been opened with 3,592 people taking shelter there, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"We have pretty significant concerns of public health outbreaks," Alice Clements, Fiji representative at the UN Children's Agency, UNICEF, told Reuters.

"In times of flooding there is an increase in water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, eye infections and the spread of mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue fever and the Zika virus." —Reuters

Myanma Port Authority Holiday Notice

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 11th April 2016 to 20th April 2016 Thingyan Festival (New Year Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Date 7 April 2016
Imm@kcyangon.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAUNTLESS VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAUNTLESS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SHWE ME BOOY where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (02/16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (02/16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC MUMBAI VOY NO (011W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC MUMBAI VOY NO (011W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2016 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEA CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Argentine official commends Chinese-built dams in revamping energy sector

BUENOS AIRES — An Argentine official on Tuesday commended China's constructive assistance in the construction of the two dams, which were set to boost renewable energy provision and promote development in the country's remote Patagonian region.

The two dams of Jorge Cepernic and Nestor Kirchner, built in in Santa Cruz province with a total of 4.71 billion US dollars in Chinese financing, will help provide not just energy, but also a much-needed alternative to the traditional fossil fuels in the country's southern tip, said Daniel Redondo, energy planning secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mining, on the sidelines of

an economic seminar.

State daily Telam quoted Redondo as saying the two countries are seeking to "minimize the environmental impact" of the dams and make them more environmentally friendly, so as to guarantee their feasibility.

"China's response was favourable," he noted.

"We are interested in changing the country's energy matrix, which currently consumes oil and gas by some 85 per cent," he said.

He added that the government planned to "add 1,000 megawatts, half of which will be from renewable energy, and the other half from hydroelectric projects."—Xinhua

Executions hit highest level in 25 years in 2015 — Amnesty

BERLIN — There were more executions worldwide in 2015 than in any year since 1990 and almost 90 per cent occurred in three countries — Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, human rights watchdog Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

At least 1,634 people were executed last year, the organisation said, adding that the actual number was probably significantly higher given that there are no definitive numbers for China.

"The number of known executions rose by more than 50 per cent compared with 2014 — this development is unsettling and alarming," said Oliver Hendrich, an expert on capital punishment at Amnesty International in Germany.

At least 977 people were executed in Iran last year, mostly for drug crimes, Amnesty said, while more than 320 death sentences were carried out in Pakistan and at least 158 people were executed in Saudi Arabia.

In the United States, 28 people were executed last year — the lowest number since 1991, Amnesty said. China is believed to remain the world's top executioner, with the number of people put to death annually in the thousands, though the exact figure is a state secret, the rights group said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang, asked about the report, said Amnesty often released "unfair" statements about China that lacked objectivity.—Reuters

Seven killed, 22 taken ill after consuming spurious liquor in India

NEW DELHI — At least seven people were killed and 22 were taken ill after consuming spurious liquor in India's western state of Rajasthan, officials said Wednesday.

The deceased included two border guards of India's Border Security Force (BSF) posted in the area.

The victims had purchased the liquor from a local shop in the frontier district of Barmer, about 538 km west of Jaipur city, the capital of Rajasthan.

"After consuming the liquor, the people complained of chest pain and nausea," an official said. "Though they were immediately rushed to district hospital, of them seven died."

The condition of 22 others admitted in Jodhpur and Barmer hospitals, according to reports, was critical.

India's state-run broadcaster — All India Radio (AIR) said the local authorities have suspended seven officials of police and excise depart-

ments in connection with the case.

"The team of excise department has seized seven drums of illicit liquor from a spurious liquor factory in Jhunjhynali village of Jaiselmer district," the broadcaster said. "It is learnt that spurious liquor was supplied from this factory to the different places in Jodhpur division."

Meanwhile, 11 teams have been deployed to recover illicit liquor across the division.

Reports said samples

of the liquor have been sent to the forensic sciences laboratory and efforts were initiated to nab the culprits responsible for the tragedy.

So far, one person has been arrested, officials said. On Tuesday, local government in India's eastern state of Bihar announced a blanket ban on sale and consumption of all kinds of liquor. The ban was one of incumbent Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's promises during last year's local elections in the state.—Xinhua

Japanese lawmaker Inoki forgoes visit to North Korea



Professional wrestler-turned-lawmaker Antonio Inoki tells reporters in Tokyo on 6 April, 2016 that he will forgo his planned visit to North Korea after a senior Diet member asked him to refrain from traveling to the reclusive country. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Professional wrestler-turned-lawmaker Antonio Inoki told reporters Wednesday he will forgo his planned four-day visit to North Korea after a senior Diet member asked him to refrain from traveling to the reclusive country.

When asked by reporters if he would cancel

the visit, Inoki said, "I am thinking of doing so. I don't want to create a commotion." The member of the small opposition Assembly to Energize Japan party had planned to make a trip from Friday to meet with a senior North Korean official and to attend a marathon in Pyongyang, according to the House of Councillors secretariat.

The decision came after Inoki met with Masaji Matsuyama, chairman of the upper house Rules and Administration Committee and a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. Approval of the upper chamber is required for its member to visit a foreign country while parliament is in session.

LDP members said at a meeting of the committee executives on Tuesday that Inoki should not travel to North Korea at a time when the Japanese government is asking its people to refrain

from going there as part of sanctions against the country's nuclear and missile programs, according to a participant.

Inoki cast doubt on Matsuyama's stance, saying, "There is criticism about sports exchanges, but how will we deal with issues of North Korea if the window (for exchanges) is closed."

The 73-year-old lawmaker has visited North Korea on numerous occasions, often to promote exchanges between the two countries through sports. He was suspended from the upper house for 30 days after visiting North Korea in November 2013 without obtaining the chamber's approval.

Inoki, whose real first name is Kanji, is serving his second term in the upper house and sits on the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.—Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (545N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (545N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YIN SHI VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YIN SHI VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (028W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (028W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.4.2016 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEA

CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Johnny Depp to replace Michael Keaton in 'Beetlejuice' sequel?

LONDON — Actor Johnny Depp may replace Michael Keaton in the "Beetlejuice" sequel, if it happens.

Following his career revival with "Birdman" and "Spotlight," Keaton is allegedly reluctant to return for the sequel, reported Digital Spy. Director Tim Burton has reportedly decided to move on and wishes to cast his regular star Johnny Depp to fill Keaton's shoes as the "ghost with the most".

This would mark the latest collaboration between Burton and Depp following the likes of "Edward Scissorhands," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Sweeney Todd," "Dark Shadows" and "Alice in Wonderland."

Depp, 52, wants to make Beetlejuice similar to his Guy Lapointe character that he's played for Kevin Smith in both Tusk and Yoga Hosers, while adding a cockney accent.—PTI



Actor Johnny Depp. PHOTO: REUTERS

Author Meg Rosoff wins Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

STOCKHOLM

— London-based writer Meg Rosoff was stunned and had to sit down after learning that she had won the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA), the world's largest children and young adult literature prize on Tuesday.

ALMA chair Boel Westin announced the winner in Stockholm and informed the US-born writer by telephone from a news conference. "Oh my God. That's amazing. I have to sit down. I can't believe that," Rosoff said by telephone from London.

Rosoff's first novel, the dystopian young adult book "How I Live Now," was published in 2004. She was awarded the 5 million kroner (\$614,979) prize for her body of work, which Boel described as "novels that speak to the emotions as well as the intellect."

The Swedish government established the annual ALMA in 2002 following the death at age 94 of Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren, who is best known for her Pippi Longstocking books.—Reuters

Beyonce sues over 'Feyonce' knockoffs



Beyonce performs on the Pyramid stage at the Glastonbury Festival in Somerset in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — In her 2008 smash hit "Single Ladies," Beyonce sang of telling a jealous ex-boyfriend that if he had wanted to commit to their relationship, he should have "put a ring on it."

Now Beyonce is telling a Texas company selling stuff online bearing the name "Feyonce" to put a lid on it.

Beyonce, one of the world's

most famous and influential pop stars, on Tuesday sued to stop the sale of dozens of shirts, sweaters, tank tops, hoodies and even coffee mugs bearing the "Feyonce" name, which she calls too close to her own trademarked name.

In a complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, Beyonce accused Feyonce Inc and three individuals, all from San Antonio,

of "brazenly" selling infringing "Feyonce" merchandise at their website.

Among the items is a \$14.95 mug with the phrase "he put a ring on it," which Beyonce said was intended to call to mind the lyrics of "Single Ladies."

Beyonce, 34, who is married to rapper Jay Z and has won Grammy awards as a solo artist and with Destiny's Child, said the sale of Feyonce knockoffs confuses consumers and causes her irreparable harm, and that the defendants have ignored her requests to stop.

She also said one defendant, Andre Maurice, has gone so far as to file two US trademark applications for "Feyonce," with and without the accent over the "e."

"Defendants adopted the Feyonce mark to call to mind Beyonce and her famous song," the lawsuit said. "Defendants' conduct described herein is intentional, fraudulent, malicious, willful and wanton."

Beyonce's lawsuit also seeks unspecified damages.

It is unclear whether the defendants have lawyers. Maurice, speaking by phone, declined to comment, saying he had yet to review the lawsuit.

Beyonce's law firm, Pryor Cashman, declined further comment.—Reuters

Actress Drew Barrymore to divorce

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood actress Drew Barrymore and her husband Will Kopelman are divorcing, according to a statement from the couple released to *People* magazine.

"Sadly our family is separating legally, although we do not feel this takes away from us being a family," they said in the statement.

"Divorce might make one feel like a failure, but eventually you start to find grace in the idea that life goes on...Our children

are our universe, and we look forward to living the rest of our lives with them as the first priority."

Barrymore and Kopelman married in 2012 and have two children together.

The actress was previously married to bar owner Jeremy Thomas in March 1994, filing for divorce less than two months later, and comedian Tom Green in July 2001, with Green filing for divorce less than six months later.—Reuters

Miley Cyrus attacked by cat



Pop star Miley Cyrus. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Miley Cyrus has revealed she was recently mauled by a cat.

The vegetarian singer took to Instagram to share gruesome pictures of her bloody wounds caused by the unidentified cat, reported Ace Showbiz.

The 23-year-old singer/actress was scratched by the kitty

on her arm and face.

A few weeks ago, the former Disney star, who will be a coach on "The Voice" season 11, shared a picture of a black-and-white cat called Harlem.

"Harlem my little baby girl," she wrote alongside the photo showing her lying next to the feline.—PTI

New 'Star Wars 8' set photo teases return of Lupita Nyong'o

LOS ANGELES — In the latest behind-the-scenes photo, Maz Kanata, the character played by Lupita Nyong'o seems to have survived the First Order attack on her castle and will be back for the follow-up movie, "Star Wars Episode VIII".

The black-and-white photo was shared by the upcoming

film's director and writer Rian Johnson. Apparently taken on the motion capture set, it shows someone who's presumably Nyong'o standing in the middle of a stage wearing a motion capture suit. Her alien character is seen in two screens set up around her.

"Episode VIII" has started its production and is slated to open in

theatres across the US on 14 December 2017.

Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Oscar Isaac will be back to reprise their respective roles.

Meanwhile, Benicio Del Toro, Laura Dern and newcomer Kelly Marie Tran will be among new cast members.—PTI

Museum for Long March to open in May

CHENGDU — A museum dedicated to the Long March of Red Army will open to the public in May in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The museum and underground exhibition hall, designed by Yung Ho Chang, head of the

department of architecture at MIT, was funded by entrepreneur Fan Jianchuan. It will form part of the Jianchuan Museum Cluster, a collection of more than 15 museums in Anren Township, Dayi County, displaying one of the largest private collections of historical ar-

tifacts in China. At a cost of 100 million yuan (15.4 million US dollars), the museum will cover 4,000 square metres over two floors, with around 1,000 artifacts and almost 600 photographs on display.

Veterans of the 12,500-kilometre Long March can be seen and

heard recounting audio and video anecdotes of their personal experiences 80 years ago. The strategic military manoeuvre, led by the Communist Party of China in its flight from the Kuomintang army, marked the turning of the tide in China's civil war, and formed the

basis of the Communist victory.

The Long March passed through much of Sichuan Province and many important battles occurred there.

"As a veteran, I want to preserve history for future generations," Fan said.—*Xinhua*

Painting by Chinese master fetches record \$35 million in Hong Kong

HONG KONG — A painting by Chinese artist Zhang Daqian sold for nearly \$35 million at an auction in Hong Kong on Tuesday, the most one of his works has ever fetched, underscoring strong demand for quality Chinese art despite an overall slowdown in the market.

The two-metre (6.5 feet) long scroll inkbrush painting "Peach Blossom Spring" more than tripled its expected price at a spring Sotheby's sale to fetch HK\$270.7 million (\$34.91 million), including the buyer's premium.

Kevin Ching, chief executive of Sotheby's Asia, said the 1982 work was monumental and deserved the valuation.

"The colours are absolutely vibrant, and (it is) ... probably one

of the two or three most important works available now in private hands," Ching told reporters.

Bidders battled in a packed room before the hammer came down after a tense 50 minutes, making it one of the longest auctions seen by Sotheby's in recent years. It was the most expensive Chinese painting sold at Sotheby's in Hong Kong.

The winning bid was placed by the Long Museum in Shanghai, founded by Chinese tycoon Liu Yiqian and his wife, Wang Wei, who have over the past few years bought some of the world's most expensive Chinese and Western artworks including Modigliani's 1917 "Nu couché" (Reclining Nude) for \$170.4 million.

Zhang Daqian (1899-1983)

is widely considered one of the greats of Chinese painting in a prolific career that spanned stints in Argentina, Brazil, California and Taiwan.

The sale of the impressionistic landscape of peach blossoms and towering turquoise mountains with a poetic inscription, comes at a time of sluggish global art sales due to slowing growth in China, the world's second largest economy, and buyers growing more selective.

Global sales of art fell 7 per cent year on year in 2015 to \$63.8 billion, while sales of art in China fell by 23 per cent in the same period, according to the TEFAF Art Market Report.

Ching said the market was showing signs of recovery.



An inkbrush painting by late Chinese artist Zhang Daqian called "Peach Blossom Spring" is rolled during a preview at Sotheby's in Hong Kong, China, on 10 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"This goes to prove that ... the general economy is not a predictor of the art market," he said.

Buyers are also failing to pay up for their pieces with more than a third of lots sold for over 10 million yuan (\$1.55 million) last year not paid for and only a quarter

partly paid for, according to the Chinese Auctioneers Association.

Interest in art, however, continues to grow in China with Art Basel's Hong Kong fair of mostly contemporary and modern art seeing 70,000 visitors over the five-day event last month.—*Reuters*

Taxi companies in Tokyo eye lowering minimum fares to attract tourists

TOKYO — Some taxi companies in Tokyo are seeking to lower their minimum fares to encourage foreign tourists and elderly people to use taxis over short distances, the companies said Tuesday, a move that could spread to other areas of Japan.

Taxi fares in Tokyo typically start from 730 yen (\$7) for the first 2 kilometres, but if the envisioned change is authorised, possibly next spring, minimum fares could be set between 400 yen and 500 yen for the first kilometre.

Nihon Kotsu Co., a major taxi company in the Japanese capital, applied to the transport ministry on Tuesday to revise its fares in To-

kyo's 23 wards and two adjacent cities, proposing 410 yen for a ride of up to 1.059 km and increases of 80 yen for every additional 237 metres travelled.

For the new fare system to be applied in the area across the board, other companies would have to make similar applications to the ministry, with 70 per cent of the taxis operating in the area covered.

"We've received some complaints from customers that the initial fare is expensive," an official of Nihon Kotsu said. "We hope to offer services that customers are more eager to use."—*Kyodo News*

Chair used by 'Harry Potter' author J.K. Rowling up for auction

NEW YORK — A wooden dining chair used by author J.K. Rowling while she wrote the first two "Harry Potter" books is up for grabs at auction in New York and is expected to fetch tens of thousands of dollars.

Hand painted and signed by the novelist, the oak chair comes with a letter marked as having been sent by "Owl Post", in which Rowling described the chair's history.

"It was given to her with a group of chairs and this was the most comfortable," James Gannon, director of rare books

at Heritage Auctions, told Reuters. "She says in her letter that she parked it in front of her typewriter and it stayed there."

Rowling's 1997 "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" was the first of seven hugely popular books about the boy wizard living in a world of magic. "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" followed a year later.

According to the auctioneer's website, bidding currently stands at \$65,000.

Gannon said the chair itself was not that valuable but its lit-

erary association immediately made it more prized.

"She said at the time that it was something you would pick up at a junk shop," he said. "But it's really just the fact that she took the time to decorate it and the fact she actually wrote the books on it that is important."

The chair was last sold at auction in 2009, fetching around \$29,000, according to the auctioneer.

The live auction will be held at New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel and online on Wednesday.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

(7-4-2016 07:00am ~ 8-4-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

| | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | Ancient Shwe-San-Taw Pagoda |
| 07:41 | Am | Myanmar Invites You |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax |
| 08:44 | Am | Thingyan Songs & Dances |
| 08:54 | Am | Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Products Of Myanmar - Craft Blacksmithing |
| 09:50 | Am | Thingyan Songs & Dances |
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-1) |

10:44 Am Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names (Part-2)

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

Prime Time

| | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:26 | Pm | Travelogue "To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung)" (Part-2) |
| 07:42 | Pm | Thingyan Songs & Dances |
| 07:52 | Pm | Graffiti: Portraiture |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Exquisite Myanmar Silk |
| 08:45 | Pm | A Simple And Peaceful Life |

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(7-4-2016, Thursday)

| | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 6:00 pm | "Alice in Wonderland" (Part III) |
| • Weather Report | |
| • Music Programme | |
| 6:30 pm | |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | |
| 6:40 pm | |
| • Thingyan Dances | |
| 6:50 pm | |
| • Music Programme | |
| 7:00 pm | |
| • International Drama Series | |
| 7:50 pm | |
| • International Drama Series | |
| 8:30 pm | |
| • Cartoon Programme | |
| 9:10 pm | |
| • Music Programme | |
| 9:20 pm | |
| • Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-3) | |
| 9:50 pm | |
| • International Movie Songs | |
| 10:00 pm | |
| • English Premier League (Review) (Part-II) | |
| 10:20 pm | |
| • Myanmar Video | |

From 7-4-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 8-4-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm

Reprieve for West Ham's Kouyate as FA rescind red card

LONDON — West Ham United midfielder Cheikhou Kouyate is free to face Arsenal on Saturday after the Football Association rescinded the red card he received against Crystal Palace in last weekend's 2-2 Premier League draw.

The 26-year old was sent off in the second half at Upton Park for a challenge on Dwight Gayle, with West Ham leading 2-1.

"An Independent Regulatory Commission has... upheld a wrongful dismissal claim in relation to West Ham United's Cheikhou Kouyate," the FA said on its website (www.thefa.com).

"The player, who was dismissed for serious foul play during the game against Crystal Palace on Saturday (2 April 2016), will therefore not serve any suspension."

This is the second time this year that Kouyate has had a red card rescinded on review.

He was sent off in an FA Cup tie against Blackburn Rovers in February for denying a clear goal-scoring opportunity, a decision that was also subsequently overturned.—Reuters



Luis Suarez celebrates scoring the second goal for Barcelona during UEFA Champions League Quarter Final First Leg at The Nou Camp, Barcelona, Spain on 5 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Suarez double sees Barca recover to beat 10-man Atletico

BARCELONA — Barcelona's Luis Suarez netted twice for a 2-1 win over 10-man Atletico Madrid in their Champions League quarter-final, first leg on Tuesday after the visitors' Fernando Torres opened the scoring and was later sent off. After a flurry of chances for the home side, Suarez levelled from close range in the 63rd minute and then headed the winner in the 74th, giving the European champions the edge before next week's second leg at the Vicente Calderon. Atletico got off to the ideal start when Torres fired Koke's pass through the legs of keeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen after 25 minutes but 10 minutes later he was dismissed for a second booking as they suffered a seventh straight loss to Barca.

Atletico had been in confident mood after thrashing Real Betis 5-1 in La Liga on Saturday and were looking to take advantage of Barcelona, who were reeling from a 2-1 home defeat by Real Madrid that ended their record 39-game unbeaten run. Diego Simeone's men defended as a team and their organised play and high pressing interrupted Barca's usual quick passing game. "We are still alive in the tie," Atletico coach Simeone said. "They had a chance to score

another goal with an extra man and they didn't, so that gives us hope and belief. The second leg is going to be a great game."

After Lionel Messi and Neymar missed the target in the early stages, Atletico pounced with their first proper chance.

After a long spell of possession, Koke received a pass from Gabi and took a touch before threading the ball into the path of Torres, who got his 11th goal in 15 matches against Barcelona.

The former Liverpool and Chelsea striker received his first booking for a late tackle on Neymar in the middle of the pitch four minutes after scoring and got his marching orders for a second yellow minutes later for fouling Sergio Busquets. Simeone's side had two sent off when they lost to the Catalans in La Liga and were again punished for indiscipline.

After the break Messi was inches away from his 500th career goal with a scissors kick before Neymar hit the far post and then sent a shot whistling just wide. Barcelona broke Atletico's resistance when Suarez diverted Jordi Alba's low cross home with his shin and then powered into the area to head Dani Alves' cross past Jan Oblak to score the winner with his eighth Champions League goal this season.—Reuters

Gavrilova to make Australia Fed Cup debut against US

MELBOURNE — Russian-born Daria Gavrilova will make her Fed Cup debut for Australia against the United States in Brisbane next week after being named in the squad for the world group playoff on Wednesday.

The rising 22-year-old talent, who reached the fourth round of the Australian Open in January, has already represented her adopted country after teaming up with Nick Kyrgios to win the Hopman Cup at the start of the year.

Despite having received her Australian passport in December, Gavrilova was only cleared to play Fed Cup by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) last month. Former US Open champion Sam Stosur, Casey Dellacqua and Arina Rodionova round out the Australia team

for the tie against the 17-times champions, which will be played on clay at the Pat Rafter Arena from 16-17 April. "We're thrilled for Dasha to make her Fed Cup debut for Australia on home soil next weekend and we know she'll bring great energy and a fighting spirit to the team," team captain Alicia Molik said in a Tennis Australia statement.

"Sam is our most experienced Fed Cup player and will really enjoy the opportunity to play in front of her home crowd at Pat Rafter Arena, and Casey and Arina add great depth to the squad.

"The USA has been dominant in Fed Cup competition for many decades and we know it will be a tough assignment next weekend, but we're ready for the challenge and really looking forward to the tie."—Reuters

Man City's Demichelis accepts FA betting charge

LONDON — Manchester City centre back Martin Demichelis has accepted a Football Association charge that he broke betting rules, British media reported.

The 35-year-old was accused last month of committing 12 breaches of FA rules governing betting on football matches between 22-28 January.

There is no suggestion that the charge is linked to any games that Demichelis played for City or any match he could have had

an influence over. The Argentina international is in France for his team's Champions League quarter-final, first-leg clash with Paris St Germain on Wednesday.

He had until 1600 GMT on 5 April to respond to the charge and now faces potential sanctions, ranging from a fine to a ban from the FA.

Rules introduced last season prohibit players and coaches from betting on any football activity.—Reuters



Manchester City's Martin Demichelis listens to a question during a news conference at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gignac brace puts Tigres in CONCACAF Champions League final

MEXICO CITY — Andre-Pierre Gignac scored twice in the last six minutes to give UANL Tigres a 2-0 home win over Queretaro on Tuesday that earned them a place in their first CONCACAF Champions League final.

Gignac opened the scoring in the 84th minute when he con-

verted Rafael Sobis's cross then sealed the all-Mexican semi-final four minutes later for a 2-0 aggregate victory after the sides drew 0-0 in the first leg.

Tigres, whose previous best run in the competition had been to the 2012/13 quarter-finals, had midfielder Jesus Duenas sent off

19 minutes from time for a second bookable offence.

In the other semi-final, holders America host Santos Laguna at the Azteca after a 0-0 draw in the first leg of another all-Mexican tie. Mexican clubs have won the last 10 editions of the tournament.—Reuters