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HONEST BARGAINING

New govt to reinstate transparency in tender processes: Mon State minister

THE current government will carry out the announcement of tenders with transparency, unlike the previous government, which received criticism for its handling of tender processes, said U Min Htin Aung Han, the

Mon State Minister for Electricity, Power and Industry at a press briefing on April 25.

“[Government] departments will be calling for tender bids before long. We are disseminating this news to the public at this

juncture so they can be informed in advance. We want those who are actually working to get the contracts. We don’t want them to be won by those who have close links or connections, like in the past. This is being done in the

name of unilateral development for small, medium and large-scale companies. Local residents will be prioritised.

People will work with a good nature if it is for the development of their region. The principal as-

pect is having complete transparency in the conduction of tender processes,” the minister said.

Entrepreneurs have said their experiences with the unsystematic conduction of business, **See page 3 >>**



A farmer sprays tonic on green gram field.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Bad weather blamed for rising green gram prices

Aung Thant Khaing

A SACK of green gram is currently priced at K150,000 in the market, up K5,000 from the previous price after bad weather hit the summer crop in central Myanmar last week.

Strong hail destroyed plantations, causing green gram outputs to fall, said U Soe Win Myint, a crop broker in Mandalay. This has resulted in a rise in the price of green gram as supply and demand are not in balance in the market, he added.

U Kyaw Moe, a farmer in Sintgaing Township, said he felt disappointed when his green gram plantations were battered by the bad weather.

Farmers in Monywa and Pakokku townships said their green gram output is expected to be cut in half due to the damage caused by bad weather.

Strong wind and hail hit 2,886 acres of green gram plantations in Mandalay, where 13 kinds of summer crops grow on 12,815 acres.

Pyithu, Amyotha hluttaws to resume on 2 May

THE Second Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw sessions that were put into recess are scheduled to resume on 2 May.

When the hluttaw sessions reconvene, a bill to revoke the Law to Safeguard the State against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts is expected

to be submitted. The previous parliament rejected a proposal to revoke the law, which many believe is not in conformity with democratic ideals as it is used to prosecute political dissent.

“For politicians, the law should be taken into consideration for revocation. A proposal to re-

voke the law was put forward to the previous parliament, but it failed to gain support. The main point in the law is Section 5(j). Politicians are always charged under this section. I understand it is a law that should be revoked,” said MP Daw Khin San Hline of Pale Constituency.—*Kyaw Thu Htet*

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets with foreign guests



Speaker U Win Myint receives UN Coordinator Ms. Renata Dessallien. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Alan Marciel, ICRC Resident Representative Mr. Jurg Montani and UN Coordinator Ms. Renata Dessal-

lien separately in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Likewise, the Speaker met the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Ms. Isabella Lövi and her

party and held talks on transition in Myanmar, internal peace and national reconciliation as well as bilateral relations and opportunities for cooperation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Information Minister holds talks with foreign guests on media development

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received the Head of UNESCO Myanmar Office Mr. Sandar Umar Alam and Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the talk with the UN-

ESCO Myanmar Head the two held discussions on media development in Myanmar and further cooperation in UNESCO activities in the country.

In meeting with the Indonesian Ambassador, they discussed matters relating to coop-

eration in media development between Myanmar and Indonesia and the exchange of media delegations.

Also present at the calls were Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Japanese FM to visit Myanmar for two days

FOREIGN Minister of Japan Mr Fumio Kishida will lead a delegation to visit Myanmar from 2 to 3 May, officials said.

In his two-day visit, the Japanese foreign minister will separately meet the president, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker, the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker, the commander-in-chief of defence services, and the union ministers of foreign affairs and national planning and finance.

Myanmar established diplomatic relations with Japan in November 1954, with a frequent exchange of visits between the two countries over the years.

High-ranking officials from Japan, including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, visited the country seven times from 2002 to 2014. The country's top government officials, including the president, visited Japan 13 times from 2000 to 2014. As for bilateral trade, Myanmar

exports garments and marine products to Japan. The Japanese major exports to the country include automobiles and machines. Japan is one of the largest investors in Myanmar, with US\$270 million in overall investments in a period from 1988 to 2013. In 2012, Japan offered financial assistance of 27.7 billion yen (\$258m) and technical assistance to the value of 3.7 billion yen (\$34m) to Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets US Ambassador, Swedish Minister and ICRC resident representative

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Alan Marciel and Swedish Minister for Intentional Development Cooperation Ms. Isabella Lövi and ICRC Resident Representative Mr. Jurg Montani separately in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting with the US ambassador the two held talks on legislative matters and bilateral relations.

During talks with the Swedish minister and ICRC resident representative, they held discussions on parliamentary matters and the ongoing activities of the ICRC in Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Alan Marciel. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, Mongolia look to cooperate on constitutional tribunals

U MYO Nyunt, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, held talks with Mongolian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tugsbilguun Tumurkhuleg at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two held discussions on matters related to cooperation in

constitutional matters between the two tribunals of Myanmar and Mongolia.

Also present were members of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Twal Kyin Paung and U Kyaw Sann as well as other officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



KBZ foundation's new machinery can drill down up to a depth of 1,800ft. PHOTO: KBZ

KBZ foundation provide modern machinery to its water drilling project

KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation, which has drilled more than 100 tube wells in arid areas nationwide, will use a modern drilling machine to drill further tube-wells in the country, it has been learned. The foundation has bought a modern machine manufactured by Dando company in England which is reportedly worth more than US\$1 million. The new drill will begin

operations in Bawsai, Shan State, under the supervision of Mr Stanley Kirby, an expert from the company, according to the foundation.

The new machine can drill down to a depth of 1,800 feet. The previous machines used by the foundation could only drill to a depth to 1,000 ft. To combat water scarcity in arid areas across the country, the foundation imple-

mented the water supply project on 11 March, 2014 with the use of six heavy machinery in Bawsai, Heho, Kalaw, Aungban, Pintaya, Taunggyi, Hopone and Namsam townships in Shan State, and Satsatyo Village in MyaukU District and Kyauktan Village in Chauk Township. So far, 109 tube-wells have been drilled by the foundation.—*GNLM*

Union FM meets Swedish Minister, US and Mongolian ambassadors

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Ms. Isabella Lövi, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Alan Marciel and Mongolian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tugsbilguun Tumurkhuleg separately at her office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In her talks with the Swedish minister the two discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and Sweden, the development of Rakhine State including the provision of humanitarian aid and Swedish candidacy for a non-permanent membership with the United Nations Security Council.

Likewise, the Union minister held talks with the US and Mongolian ambassadors to Myanmar regarding the strengthening of bilateral relations and opportunities to enhance cooperation between the two countries as well as matters of common interest and mutual prosperity.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Ms. Isabella Lövi. PHOTO: MNA

New govt to reinstate transparency in tender processes: Mon State minister

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together with a lack of transparency under the previous government, has meant they are still not able to trust the current government for lack of experience working together, but that they will continue to monitor the situation.

“There needs to be transparency in the calling of tender bids and the announcement of successful bidders—in all parts of the process. The region in which activities have been earmarked must be revealed in the calling of bids for tender.

We want such announcements to be made to local township administrations as well as the press. The chances of foul play are that much more probable when the allocated time of accepting tender bids is short. [The government] is saying they will be open [with tender processes], but we are not yet convinced. We will keep our eyes on how the process unfolds,” said U Ko Ko Lat, managing director of the construction company KKLC.

The quality of tender activities will be systematically scrutinised by experts, with effective legal action to be taken against those who default on contract stipulations.

Minister U Min Htun Aung Han also said legal action against contract violators in road and bridge construction tenders will be scrutinised by independent experts.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Paungde court drops charges against student protest supporters

THE Paungde Township court, located in Bago Region, has dropped charges against members of the People’s Agency Network (PAN) for protesting against the violent crackdown on student protesters in the township. The court’s decision came on 28 April.

“Not long after we rallied against the use of violence against our students, violence was used to disperse the protesting students.

We were also prosecuted. There’s no question we would be imprisoned under the previous government. We are thankful for the dropping of these charges,” said U Chit Ko, a member of PAN whose charges were dropped.

Four members of the network were charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly Law on 3 March 2015, while another four were charged under the same sec-

tion a few days later. The charges were dropped after the student stood trial for over a year.

“All charges against the defendants have been definitely revoked in accordance with Section 494(a) of the criminal procedure,” said a police officer from the Paungde police station. The first four protesters to face charges under Section 18 were Ko Chit Ko, Ko Khin Maung Hlaing, Ko

Moe Hlaing and Ko Ye Kyaw Nang. Their charges were brought by the Paungde Township deputy police station Commander U Nay Myo Htun. U Aung Maung Yi, the chief of police for Paungde Township, pressed charges against Ko Chit Ko, Ko Khin Maung Hlaing, Ko Kyaw Moe Htun and Ko Aung Aung following the second wave of protests.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Quadruplets delivered at Sagaing hospital

A 29-YEAR-OLD mother gave birth naturally to quadruplets in Sagaing Region on Thursday. The weight of the children was taken down as averaging from 1kg to 1.3kg, according to a paediatrician.

Medical Superintendent Dr Thet Swe said that Daw Myint Myint Aye did not know she was pregnant with quadruplets as she failed to receive medical check-ups during her pregnancy.

“The most common forms of multiples are twins and triplets.



The quadruplets are seen at Mandalay Hospital. PHOTO: ATK

The delivery of quadruplets is quite rare,” the doctor said, adding that the mother was referred to a 550-bed hospital in Mandalay, where she is kept in intensive care unit because she was weak with exhaustion.

As the father of the four newborns is a carpenter, the Department of Social Welfare provided financial assistance. Well

wishers in Sagaing contributed K140,000 (US\$120) to the parents.

The third newborn is in a critical condition while the fourth has been put on a ventilator. From the medical point of view, multiple births are associated with a high rate of infant mortality.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Myanmar migrant receives over bahts 500,000 in compensation for loss of arm

A MYANMAR migrant worker at a rubber plant in Mahachai, Thailand, received over bahts 500,000 in compensation for hand injury at work on Thursday, according to the Myanmar Association in Thailand.

Ko Than Sein, aged 32, from Rakhine State, lost his right hand when it got caught in a grinding machine at work resulting in the need for him to have it amputated.

Neglected by the factory, he stood on trial for compensation without success. Despite a verdict passed by Thailand’s Ministry of Labour after the trial entered one year, the factory refused to compensate him.

The Myanmar Association in Thailand, in partnership with Thai lawyers, helped the victim win his right to compensation. —*Soe Win-SP*



Ko Than Sein. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Crime NEWS

Elephant hides and trunks seized



Seized elephant hides and trunks being seen. PHOTO: MAUNG NYI NYAR (MYAY LAT)

LOCAL Authorities seized animal hides and trunks along Minbu- Padan road on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from Magwe police force searched a vehicle

near milepost 3/3.

The search revealed 196 elephant hides, 36 pieces of elephant trunk, 51 muntjac hides and 64 boar heads as well as other animal parts. A total of Ks 5,800,000 was discovered on the

driver of the vehicle, one Myint Thein, 48, together with Chit Tun, 50, his passenger.

The two suspects are being charged by the Minbu police station.— *Maung Nyi Nyar (Myay Lat)*

Yaba and heroin seized

A LOCAL anti-drug squad in Kalaw seized 1800 yaba pills from a vehicle being driven by one Min Thu with Kyaw Wunna on board at Kalaw entrance gate, Pyihtaungsu road on Tuesday.

Similarly, police discovered 33 grams of heroin on a motorcycle being driven by one Kun Paung with Law Sam on board at an oriental toll gate, Lashio. The police have taken action against all suspects under the anti-Narcotic Law.—*The mirror*



Min Thu with Kyaw Wunna.
PHOTO: THE MIRROR

Six killed by falling timber logs



The truck being seen overturned. PHOTO: TIN TUN OO (MINBU)

SIX men were killed when a truck carrying timber logs overturned in Setottaya township, Minbu on Wednesday.

The truck was being driven by one Than Zaw Oo, 40, with six passengers on board, when it crashed into a hill slope and overturned.

The crash killed all six passengers on the spot. The driver was not injured and fled the scene of the accident. Police are searching for the absconding driver and have filed charges against him.—*Tin Tun Oo (Minbu)*

30 injured in Mandalay-Yangon bus accident

A BUS overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay highway yesterday, leaving 30 passengers injured.

The bus was en route from Mandalay to Yangon. The driver lost control as he passed another car near mile posts No

11/1. The bus hit a barrier and overturned.

There were 49 passengers on board when the accident occurred. Highway Police Station No 3 has filed charges against the bus driver.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Railway employee falls off train, suffers serious injury

A MAN was injured when he fell from a train at Taikkyi railway station on Wednesday. According to an investigation, U Nay Myo Tint, 47, a railway employee, fell from the train when the locomotive started to move. U Nay Myo Tint lost his

balance and slipped into a gap between the coach and platform.

The accident seriously injured the man and he is currently receiving medical treatment at Taikkyi general hospital.—*Tun Hlaing (Myine)*



Yaba and Marijuana seized

LOCAL authorities at Muse entrance seized 1,740 yaba pills from motorbike driver Yan Kyaung Yin near oriental toll gate, Muse town on Wednesday.

On the same day, police discovered 200 yaba pills on one Sithu Nyunt near a tea shop on Shukhinthar road in Tharkayta township.

The police also found 80 yaba pills and marijuana weighing 60 grams on one Maung Maung Zaw in Tharkayta township. Police searched the home of Maung Maung Zaw and found 1,073 yaba pills and marijuana weighing 6.3 gram on Myawutyee road, Dagon Myothit East.—*Myanmar Police Force*



Maung Maung Zaw. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

FMI sells K30 billion worth of shares since start of trading

FIRST Myanmar Investment (FMI), the first listed company on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) permitted to trade shares, has managed to sell K30 billion worth of shares since it started trading on March 25 of this year.

The YSX opened in the erstwhile headquarters of the Myawaddy Bank on 9 December 2015, while trading on the exchange commenced on 25 March 2016.

“K30 billion worth of shares have been sold since the start of trading. Over 800,000 shares have been sold. The price of shares depends on buyer and seller demand,” said U

Thet Htun Oo, executive senior manager of the Yangon Stock Exchange administration department.

Shares of the six listed companies on YSX will be sold through the third party securities companies of KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities, Myanmar Securities Exchange Center,

AYA Trust Securities, CB Securities and KTZRH Securities.

“A share was worth K31,000 at the start of the day’s trading, while the price had dropped to K30,500 by the end of the day. Only 11,628 shares were able to be sold,” U Thet Htun

Oo added.

The YSX is jointly owned by the Myanmar Economic Bank, who has a fifty-one per cent stake in the exchange, and the Japanese Stock Exchange Committee and Japan Daiwa Company, who share ownership of the remaining forty-nine per cent.

The six listed companies which have been permitted to sell stocks on the YSX are FMI, Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings, Myanmar Citizens Bank, First Private Bank Limited, Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation and the Great Hor Kham Public Company.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

Second listed company to start trading on Myanmar’ Yangon Stock Exchange in May

MYANMAR Thilawa SEZ Public Limited (MTSH) will start trading on Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in second week of May as a second listed company, U Win Aung, chairman of MTSH, told Xinhua Friday.

Early this month, Dr. Maung Maung Thein, current chairman of Myanmar Securities Exchange Commission (SECM) said that MTSH would start trading on April 29. But the date has been delayed.

MTSH is the biggest public company in Myanmar with 17,990 shareholders. It was established by a Myanmar Consortium comprising the Nine Promoters for the purpose of participating in the Zone A Project which is an Industrial Park Development to be located within the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The Zone A Project, located on 396 Hectares, is being undertaken by Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Limited (MJTD), which is a Joint Venture company, MMS Thilawa Development Company Limited (MMSTD), Thilawa Special Economic

Zone Management Committee (TSMC) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

MMSTD is formed by a Consortium of Japanese Developers which includes Marubeni Corporation, Mitsubishi Corporation and Sumitomo Corporation. Our company has entered into a joint venture agreement with them in connection with the establishment of the JV Company to undertake the development, construction, marketing, sales and operation of the Zone A project.

Other listed companies, Myanmar Citizens Bank and First Private Bank, will follow MTSH as soon as possible, according to Dr. Maung Maung Thein, president of the country’s Securities Exchange Commission (SECM).

The YSX officially began trading on March 25, with only one listed company, FMI, available for transactions. At present, there are five securities companies providing services as underwriters on YSX while another five firms are waiting to be awarded licenses.—*Xinhua*



A woman makes small clay toy pots in Twantay. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

SME centre aims to support local entrepreneurs

WITH the aim of developing small and medium-sized enterprises in Myanmar, an SME centre will be established in Yangon, the country’s commercial hub, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyto Min Thein.

He added, “It is difficult for some local entrepreneurs to create business links with international companies. That is why

the centre needs to be developed in the country.”

This is part of the government’s efforts to promote the role of the private sector in boosting economic growth and reducing poverty.

The role of SMEs has become vital to strengthening national competitive advantages and the speedy economic integration of the ASEAN region.

Currently, local authorities prioritise the distribution of electricity to production firms that play an important role in boosting the country’s development.

According to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, nearly 20,000 small private enterprises are operating in the country.—200

Myanmar stops exporting long-finned eel larvae to Japan

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation will stop exporting the larvae of the long-finned eel to Japan until the end of this year, but the federation will continue to export adult long-finned eels to Japan, said vice chairman U Hnin Oo.

One of the reasons for the halt in exports of the larvae is de-

clining yields at home. The new policy is also expected to help local breeders expand their farms.

“Due to high temperatures in Myanmar, long-finned eel production has decreased this season. The current production level of larvae is not high enough for local consumption,” said U Hnin Oo.

“However, prices for the freshwater fish are gradually rising in the international market. That is why local fish farmers are trying to expand their breeding businesses,” he added.

The MFF was founded in 1989 to promote fishery industries in Myanmar.—200

Myanmar’s Securities Exchange Commission chairman to resign

CHAIRMAN of Myanmar’s Securities Exchange Commission (SECM) for Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) Dr. Maung Maung Thein submitted a resignation letter to Ministry of Planning and Finance on Thursday, he told Xinhua on Friday.

Dr. Thein who was former deputy minister of finance with the previous government is also chairman of Insurance Business Supervisory Board (IBSB).

Thein said he asked to resign from both duties.

“I think I have served my both duties to establish Yangon Stock Exchange and encourage the private companies to enter the country’s insurance market which was driven only by state-owned Myanmar Insurance since 1963,” he said.

“Now you can see these mar-

kets are implemented although they are not very developed. So it’s time to transfer duty to others. I think they would serve well.”

Thein was the general manager of government-owned Myanmar Insurance before he was appointed as deputy minister. And then he formed IBSB as a chairman and re-established the country’s insurance market in 2012.

At present, there are 12 private insurances in the market. In 2013, he tried to implement Myanmar’s very first YSX. It was opened with six listed companies, two securities companies and one fund settlement bank in December 2015 although it was not ready for trading.

In later March, securities trading was started with one listed company and five securities companies.—*Xinhua*

Aussie detention centre operator agrees Spanish takeover offer amid PNG uncertainty

SYDNEY — The operator of Australia's controversial offshore detention centres Broadpectrum Ltd has reversed its position to accept a 769-million-Australian dollar takeover offer after Papua New Guinea (PNG) deemed its local processing centre unconstitutional.

Broadpectrum had urged shareholders to reject a revised bid by Spanish infrastructure giant Ferrovial SA in early April, but said the PNG decision had increased uncertainty over its contract with the Australian government, and therefore future earnings.

The centre Broadpectrum operates on behalf of the Australian and PNG governments was deemed unconstitutional by the PNG Supreme Court earlier this week. Subsequently the Pacific nation's Prime Minister Peter O'Neill vowed to close the centre, however he is at loggerheads with Australian officials who maintain asylum seekers housed at Manus won't be pro-

cessed or resettled in Australia. The episode "has increased the level of near-term uncertainty to its contract with the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, and future earnings that may be derived from it," Broadpectrum said in a statement early Friday. Noting that the Ferrovial offer expires on 2 May, Broadpectrum said "it is unlikely the company will have certainty as to the potential impacts before the current scheduled closing date."

Australian officials are preparing to travel to PNG next week for extended negotiations over the centre's, and asylum seeker's future.

Broadpectrum's shares bounced in early trade on Friday after exiting a trading halt while the company reviewed its options, up 36 Australian cents (27.51 US cents), or 32.14 per cent to 1.48 Australian dollars (1.13 US dollars) by 1155 local time (AEST).—Xinhua

Viet Nam tells Taiwan firm to dig up waste pipe amid 'huge' coastal disaster

HANOI — Viet Nam has told owners of a Taiwanese-built steel plant to dig up a controversial waste pipe, even after it found no evidence tying its discharge to mass fish deaths that have triggered health fears and public anger.

Huge numbers of dead fish have appeared at farms and on beaches in central Vietnam since 6 April, impacting 200 km (124 miles) of coastline, with no known cause of what the government is calling one of its worst ever environmental disasters.

Environment Minister Tran Hong Ha declared illegal the waste pipe operated by Hung Nghiep Formosa Ha Tinh, a unit of Formosa Plastics (1301.TW), after officials examined water samples around the site.

"We propose to have measures in place to monitor this system after it is elevated,



Viet Nam's National Resources and Environment Minister Tran Hong Ha. PHOTO: REUTERS

ed, for easy access and surveillance," Ha told Formosa officials and reporters on Thursday.

Ha's comments suggest the government retains doubts despite tests that show Formosa, a major investor leading the \$10.6 billion steel project, was not behind the pollution.

Public outrage was also evident on social media, the

only real channel through which Vietnamese get to vent in a country tightly controlled by the Communist Party.

In a statement on Friday Ha admitted the government lacked experience in dealing with disasters and had been slow to act. He called it a "very huge and serious environment disaster".

The government has banned sale and distribution of non-living aquatic products in four affected provinces.

Its probe said either toxic discharge caused by humans or "red tide", when algae blooming at an abnormal rate produce toxins, may have killed the fish.

Facebook, which is used by some 30 million Vietnamese, is seeing an outpouring of anger directed at Formosa and criticism of the government's sluggish response.

Many used the hashtag #toichonca, which means: "I choose fish".

The hashtag emerged after a Taiwanese official at Formosa Ha Tinh said Viet Nam had to choose between "catching fish and shrimp and building a modern steel industry". He later apologised.

In a government letter issued on Friday, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said authorities had yet to find the cause, and acknowledged public concerns.

Viet Nam's seafood exports, which totalled \$6.6 billion last year, will not be hurt, the industry's body said. Top buyers are the United States, Europe and Japan.

A petition on the White House website is urging President Barack Obama to raise the issue with Viet Nam's leaders when he visits next month.—Reuters

Thailand jails eight activists charged with sedition

BANGKOK — A military court in Thailand on Friday jailed eight activists who posted comments critical of the ruling junta and a military-backed draft constitution, the latest opponents of the government penalised for airing dissent.

The military seized power in May 2014, throwing out an old constitution, clamping down on dissent and promising an election by mid-2017.

But a draft constitution drawn up under military supervision has drawn disapproval from both sides of the political divide, and the junta has responded by banning criticism of the charter in the run-up to an August referendum on it.

The activists were detained by the military on Wednesday over Facebook posts criticising the draft and junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha. They were charged with sedition and computer crimes.

"The court has approved the first phase of their jail term which will be 12 days. They are now being taken to jail," Winyat Chatmontree, a lawyer for the group, told Reuters.

Under the law, suspects can be detained for up to 12 days, extended seven times, before they are formally



Police officers escorts three of the eight people charged with sedition and computer crimes (2nd L, 3rd L and back) as they arrive at the military court in Bangkok, Thailand on 29 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

tried in court. Demonstrations have been rare since the generals overthrew the government of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in May 2014, but a small wave of opposition to the junta and the military-backed charter has arisen in recent weeks.

The junta has appeared increasingly jittery ahead of the 7 August referendum on the constitution, which the country's two biggest political parties have both criticised as undemocratic.

Opponents say the charter would enshrine mil-

itary power and would not heal political rivalry that has divided the country for more than a decade.

The military denies seeking indefinite power and says the proposed constitution would heal divisions and usher in stable, corruption-free politics.

At the heart of Thailand's decade of tumultuous politics has been rivalry between populist political forces that have won huge support in the countryside and the Bangkok-based military-dominated establishment. Fifteen people

were arrested on Wednesday and later released, after they attended small, silent protests in the capital, Bangkok, including one at the Victory Monument, a central landmark and transport hub.

Sunai Phasuk, senior Thailand researcher at Human Rights Watch, said the protests had rattled the military.

"Their fear tactics worked right after the coup," said Sunai. "But what they saw at Victory Monument shook their confidence."—Reuters

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi
ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Chief Reporter - Ye Myint
chiefreporter@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg
consultanteditor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Alec Wilmot
consultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editors

Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Kyaw Thura,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International news

Tun Tun Naing
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tun Aung Kyaw
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Translators

Hay Mar Tin Win
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Computer Team

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

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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DPRK sentences South Korea-born American to 10 years of hard labour for subversion, espionage



Kim Dong-chul (C) is escorted to the Supreme Court in Pyongyang, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), on 29 April 2016. The Supreme Court of the DPRK on Friday sentenced the South Korea-born US citizen to 10 years of hard labour for subversion of the DPRK social system and espionage activities. PHOTO: XINHUA

PYONGYANG — The Supreme Court of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Friday sentenced a South Korea-born US citizen to 10 years of hard labour for subversion of the DPRK social system and espionage activities.

Kim Dong-chul, who was born in 1953 in Seoul and immigrated to the United States in 1972, was charged with plotting to subvert the DPRK system, slandering the supreme leadership of the socialist country and gathering state and military secrets for espionage.

In 2005, Kim moved to Yanji, a Chinese city some 10 km from the border with the DPRK and later in 2008 established a trade company named Dongmyong in Rason, a special economic zone in North Hamgyong Province of the DPRK, where a large number of Chinese businesses operate.

After his company was founded, he continuously carried out reactionary propaganda

against the DPRK and injected into local people fantasies about the superiority of the United States, in order to shaken the stability of the political and social system of the country, according to the prosecutor.

Kim started espionage in 2013 after coming into contact with several South Koreans who tasked him with collecting top party, state and military secrets of the DPRK, including its nuclear facilities, nuclear tests and photographs of warships as well as other information, inside the DPRK.

He was arrested on 2 October, 2015 when he was receiving an SD card that contained photos of local markets in Rason and documents about the DPRK's nuclear programmes from a local resident in Rason whom he had bought off, said the prosecutor.

Kim confessed to the charges, repented of his crimes and appealed for gracious treatment in court.—Xinhua

Australian police arrest 70 after spate of Melbourne University thefts

MELBOURNE — Australian Police have arrested 70 people in relation to a wave of thefts on Melbourne University students, but have watered down suggestions that criminals were specifically targeting wealthy Chinese nationals.

Since January, Victoria Police have been cracking down on crooks stealing bags, wallets and phones from people in the general vicinity of Melbourne University's inner-city campus.

Earlier this month, local media reported that many of these victims were Chinese students, with the university, arguably the most prestigious in Australia, having received calls from their concerned parents.

Subsequently, Victoria Police, in consultation with the Chinese consulate and Melbourne University, decided to ramp up patrols of the area, with the university's 24-hour security service also put on high alert.

But on Friday Victoria Police's Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton refuted the claim that Chinese students, and more broadly Asian-born internationals, were the only target of the city's petty thieves.

"There was certainly a perception in the media ... that there was targeting of Chinese students," Ashton told Melbourne radio on Friday. "It's certainly not the case." "I think only one-third of victims of those particularly robberies, which were mainly snatch and grabs of phones, were Asian. "Of those Asians only a small percentage of those were Chinese."

Despite the spate of attacks, Ashton said future Chinese students shouldn't be deterred from pursuing an education in the Victorian capital. "It wasn't really targeting Chinese students; I think that's an important message to get across," he said on Friday.—Xinhua

Shanghai Hongqiao airport fire put out, two dead

SHANGHAI — A fire in a basement at the Shanghai Hongqiao airport that broke out on Friday and killed two people has been put out, China Central Television (CCTV) said on its microblog, while an airport official said there had been no disruption to flights.

Four people were also injured, CCTV said. It said the fire started underground in a pile of insulation material.

"There's been no impact on airport operations," an airport official, who only gave his surname as Wang and said he was responsible for traveller inquiries, told Reuters. *The People's Daily* said on its official microblog the fire broke out in the basement of terminal one at the airport at around 7am (2300 GMT on Thursday) during an underground renovation project.—Reuters



Firefighters and police are seen near the site of a fire at the Shanghai Hongqiao Airport in Shanghai on 29 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia blocks land sale to Chinese for second time in six months

SYDNEY — The Australian government on Friday blocked the sale of S. Kidman & Co, the country's largest private land holding, to a Chinese-led consortium for the second time in six months, again saying the sale is not in the national interest.

Treasurer Scott Morrison said he had given China's Hunan Dakang Pasture Farming Co Ltd and Shanghai CRED Real Estate Stock Co Ltd until Tuesday to address the government's concerns over the A\$371 million (\$288 million) offer.

Ownership of farmland is a

sensitive issue in Australia amid concerns that foreign buyers are snapping up properties to cash in on a boom in Asian food demand. The government's finding comes just weeks before the country holds federal elections.

Morrison said he was concerned about S. Kidman's vast land assets falling into offshore hands and the difficulty of Australian bidders in launching a rival offer because of the size of the holdings.

The Kidman lands are about 2.5 per cent of Australia's agricultural land.

Morrison rejected a previous Chinese-led offer for the ranching company — whose land holdings are the size of South Korea — just six months ago. That denial led S. Kidman to eliminate some lands from the current offer to Hunan Dakan and Shanghai CRED.

S. Kidman said they were "disappointed and confused" by the Treasurer's decision.

The Chinese bidders will go back to the government to ask "whether any kind of further remix of Chinese and Australian investment in the consortium

would be acceptable and whether or not there is land area and herd size limits that may be acceptable," said Greg Campbell, S. Kidman's chief executive officer and managing director.

An Australian company, DomaCom attempted to crowd fund about A\$400 million from self-managed superannuation investors to purchase S. Kidman.

"The form in which the Kidman portfolio has been offered as a single aggregated asset, has rendered it difficult for Australian bidders to be able to make a competitive bid," said Morrison.

The previous offer for S. Kidman by two Chinese companies, Genius Link Asset and Shanghai Pengxin, had raised red flags because Kidman's Anna Creek cattle station in South Australia state is close to an Australian military rocket test site.

Kidman had agreed under the new deal to remove Anna Creek from the sale.

Kidman's 10 cattle stations cover more than 100,000 sq km (25 million acres) of land spread across Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland and South Australia.—Reuters

Opinion

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

Your might is your right to make peace a reality

Kyaw Thura

MORE than half a century of internal armed conflict has brought Myanmar's development to a standstill in many areas. This situation acts as a painful reminder that the absence of social justice is a major threat to peace in society.

Negotiation alone cannot solve any conflict. It is important to understand that negotiation is one thing, and

compromise is another. Despite decades of negotiation between the conflicting parties, peace is not yet in sight. It is imperative for the army and the ethnic armed organisations to formulate action plans dedicated to creating a society devoid of discrimination and exploitation in any form.

In addition, justice alone cannot guarantee the resto-

ration of peace and equality. It is justice with fairness that matters most in working for peace and harmony in our country, which is home to a diversity of ethnic communities.

The onus is on all stakeholders to ensure that no lives are lost to pointless conflict. If you want peace, choose it.

Obviously, the restora-

tion of peace requires one hundred per cent commitment. Now is the most opportune time for our country, as a nascent democracy, to build a culture of peace that can foster the wellbeing of our brethren across the country.

Most importantly, it is time to for all of us to work in concert through inspired interaction to make peace a practical reality.

Business and Human Rights

Dr. Khine Khine Win

BUSINESSES impact human rights whatever and however they do businesses. And it has long been recognized that business can have a profound impact on human rights. These impacts can be positive or they can be negative. Employment, economic and infrastructure development, improvement of living standard are positive impact and child labor, pollution, discrimination and corruption are examples of negative impact. From human rights perspective, labor rights can be affected by business such as right to equal pay for equal work, right to a safe work environment, right to rest and leisure, right to equality at work etc. And also other rights may be affected by business such as right to privacy, right to education, right to social security, right to physical and mental health (access to medical services) etc. However, nowadays, one of the most significant challenges in the human rights debate is the increased recognition of the link between business and human rights.

It is generally recognized that human rights standards were only applicable to governments, not to the private sector. Some

companies claimed that their sole obligation was to respect national laws, even where those laws failed to meet international human rights standards. Although the primary duty to protect human rights remains with national governments, companies also have a responsibility to respect human rights in their operations.

June 16, 2011 the United Nations Human Rights Council endorsed the "Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework'" which is set of 31 principles directed to States and companies that clarify their duties and responsibilities to protect and respect human rights in the context of business activities and ensure an effective remedy. The Principles were created by the UN Special Rapporteur on Business and Human Rights, Prof. John Ruggie to implement which was agreed by the UN in 2008.

This framework consists of the state duty to protect against human rights abuses; the corporate responsibility to respect human rights; and greater access by victims to effective remedies. And the guiding principles seek to provide authoritative global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse human rights impact linked to busi-

ness activity. This UN guiding principles encompass three pillars outlining how states and businesses should implement the framework. Pillar 1 is state duty to protect. Governments have to make sure that business do not violate anyone human rights. It means passing laws to prevent human rights violation but also have to make sure that those laws are implemented. The UN guiding principles said governments have to prevent against business-related abuse within their territory and/or jurisdiction even if the states itself acting like one.

Pillar 2 is to respect corporate responsibility. Businesses have to refrain from violations of human rights whenever and however they do business. It means that it is not enough for companies to simply follow the law where they operate. Companies have to perform human rights due-diligence by talking in people who might be affected by the companies like government responsibilities. And it should be a continuous process. In this regard, companies must "know and show" respect for human rights through exercising human rights due diligence.

Pillar 3 is access to remedy. Access to remedy is itself a human right. In this regard, UDHR article 8 clearly states that every-

one has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the Constitution or by law. What will happen to something goes wrong? If the company abuses human rights, the government have to make sure that the court system or some other legitimate process allow the victims to file complaint and that complaint is investigate in settle. Companies have obligation too, part of human rights due-diligence, its allowing people affected by the people to file grievances and participating in process to make them right. Remedy may include apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, financial or non-financial compensation, guarantees of non-repetition Ensuring access to remedy for business related human rights abuse requires also that States facilitate public awareness understanding of these mechanisms, how they can be accessed, and any support (financial or expert) for doing so. Bear in mind that effective judicial mechanisms are at the core of ensuring access to remedy.

With regard to National Action Plan, UN Working Group on business and human rights strongly encourages all States to develop, enact and update a national action plan on business

and human rights as part of the State responsibility to disseminate and implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights. Only ten countries have produced a national action plan and 19 countries including Myanmar are in the process of developing a national action plan or have committed to doing one according to OHCHR. And also 8 countries, in which either the NHRI or civil society have began steps in the development of a national action plan.

My perceptions is that if we want to implement the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights effectively, first we need to establish capacity building as limited capacity is obstacle to rapid progress in business and human rights and it affects the ability of all stakeholders including government, business and NGOs. But capacity building is not only a resource issue and institutional reengineering should be considered too. Second, State should enforce and review laws that require businesses to respect human rights, make ensure laws and policies governing businesses enable respect for human rights, provide guidance for companies and encourage or require business to communicate how they address human rights impacts.

Tech entrepreneurs to be supported by Lithan Education Group

THE Lithan Education group has announced plans to provide US\$3 million to support Myanmar tech entrepreneurs.

Beginning from June 2016, Lithan will provide skills training to produce Startups and professionals in Myanmar. Lithan has said, however, that these

plans are not the limits of their assistance.

Lithan is now accepting applications for the start up course at Yangon Lithan University with an aim to produce over 100 startups and over 400 professionals within the first 3 years of being established..

The course offered runs for 9-months as a 3-stage programme. Qualified candidates will be provided with monetary assistance and access to the market. The Lithan Education Group is based in Singapore and has opened seven IT schools.—200

Fundraising event aims to support Lisu war victims

A MUSICAL entertainment and fashion show will be staged by the Lisu Musicians Association next month in Yangon with the aim of raising funds for victims of war in Kachin and Shan states.

The fundraising event is scheduled to be held on the evening of 6 May at the National Theatre in Yangon. People are invited to attend the free event and make donations for the rehabilitation of Lisu communities in conflict-stricken areas.

About 3,000 Lisu people fled their homes during recent conflicts in Kachin State and northern Shan State. They are currently staying at relief shelters in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Satone, MAishu, Tanaing and Hpakan townships.

The event is also aimed at showcasing the culture and traditions of Lisu people,



Three Lisu women wear traditional dress.

with plans to feature colourful Lisu national dress and various traditional dances performed by Lisu troupes in cooperation with a Yunnan-based troupe in China.

“The money earned from the event will go to 2,824 victims in those relief camps,” said one of fundraisers. According to the latest survey, over 400,000 Lisu people live in Myanmar.—*Khin Zarli*

Over 600 teachers to be added to Kachin State

WITH the aim of raising the teacher-student ratio in Kachin State, local authorities will appoint 622 new teachers before June this academic year as part of a broader plan to appoint an additional 5,000 teachers nationwide, State Education Officer U Myint

Zaw said.

Last academic year about 2,000 education service providers were appointed across the state. The student-teacher ratio in the state last year is 14:1 that indicates there are 14 students for every one teacher.

A total of 326,111 students—36,837 high school students, 115,112 middle school students and 174,162 primary school students—attended 1,505 government schools across Kachin State.—*MYZ/Union Daily*

Authorities to continue water distribution in Pauk Tsp

LOCAL authorities will continue their daily distribution of drinking water to residents of rural villages in Pauk Township, Magwe Region, until 6 May.

“We started supplying drinking water to four villages in

the township on 23 April under the arrangement made by U Win Khaing, the Union Minister for Construction,” an official said.

In cooperation with the township water distribution supervision committee, the road

department has distributed 800 gallons of water to Thetkechaung Village, 8,000 gallons to Thab-yay and Sanphonechaung villages and 1,600 gallons to Myauk-kapaing Village.—*Township IPRD*



Pauk township authorities distribute drinking water to water-scarce villages.

High temperature kills hundreds of chickens in Nay Pyi Taw

EL NIÑO-induced high temperatures have killed hundreds of chicken in Nay Pyi Taw.

“A veterinarian assumed they died due to high temperature,” said U San Win, the owner of a farm where more than 700 chickens were killed within a week.

Some chicken farms in villages near Nay Pyi Taw saw several chicken deaths this week, said Upper House MP U Maung Maung Swe, who visited the chicken farms yesterday.

“I found about 50 chickens dead this afternoon while I was visiting there,” he added.

The Ministry of Health released a statement saying more than 450 broilers died between 23 and 28 April in farms in Pobathiri Township.

Record temperatures hit Nay Pyi Taw, reaching 44 degrees Celsius on 29 April. The temperature has been around 30 degrees in previous years.—*Thein Ko Lwin*



A chicken farm in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: THEIN KO LWIN

Ayeyawady Region in need of 45 cyclone shelters, says government

FORTY-five cyclone shelters are needed across the Ayeyawady Region to allow the public to seek refuge in the event of a natural disaster, the office of the Department of Relief and Resettlement has made it known.

The Ayeyawady Region township's that require the shelters are Labutta, Mawlamyinegyun, Bogale, Pyapon, Dedaye and Ngapudaw, all of which are located in coastal regions.

“A complied list of area requirements, dependent upon the extent of possibly experiencing natural disasters, highlights a need for forty-five cyclone shelters [to be constructed]. We are currently reaching out to potential donors. As a department, we will also strive, as much as our capacity will allow, to build one shelter a year.” said U Than Soe, director of the Department of Relief and Resettlement.

A total of forty-five cyclone shelters were constructed with international aid throughout the cyclone stricken Ayeyawady Region in the wake of

cyclone Nargis. But, according to the aforementioned government department, thirty-five of them were permitted to be turned into primary schools, while medicine dispensaries were opened in the remaining shelters.

“Administrative authorities, together with local residents, should rally round to take care of ensuring that important infrastructural development to our region is preserved for the long term. Only with such action will our region boast robust buildings which can be relied upon to seek shelter in the event of a crisis.” stated U Myint Aung of the Beautiful Land environmental conservation group.

Hundreds of people lost their lives, when cyclone Nargis decimated the Ayeyawady Region back in May 2008, after they sought shelter in local monasteries which later collapsed under the force of the cyclone, as no study structures, such as cyclone shelters, which could withstand rain and wind damage were ever constructed.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

China, Russia urge US to drop Korea missile defence proposal



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency.

PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — China and Russia urged the United States on Friday not to install a new anti-missile system in South Korea, after Washington said it was in talks with Seoul in the wake of nuclear arms and missile tests by North Korea.

The United States and South Korea have begun talks on possible deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system after North Korea tested its fourth nuclear bomb on 6 January and conducted missile tests.

The nuclear test and missile launches are in violation of UN resolutions against North Korea backed by Russia and China. US and South Korean officials have expressed concern that the North could attempt a fifth nuclear test in a show of strength ahead of its Workers' Party congress, which begins on 6 May.

North Korea test-fired what appeared to be two intermediate range ballistic missiles on Thursday, but both failed, the US military said.

Speaking at joint press briefing with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the United States should respect "legitimate concerns" of China and Russia over the missile system.

"This move goes beyond the defensive needs of the relevant countries. If it is deployed it will directly impact China's and Russia's respective strategic security," Wang said.

"Not only does it threaten the resolution of the peninsula nuclear issue, it quite possibly could pour oil on the fire of an already tense situation, and even destroy strategic equilibrium on the peninsula."

North Korea's actions

should not be used as an excuse to make moves that would escalate tensions, especially the US deployment of an anti-missile system, Lavrov said, according to an interpretation in Chinese.

North Korea's drive to develop a nuclear weapons capability has angered China, Pyongyang's sole major diplomatic and economic supporter. But Beijing fears THAAD and its radar have a range that would extend far beyond the Korean peninsula and into China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Thursday that Beijing would not allow war and chaos to break out on the Korean peninsula.

North and South Korea remain technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in a truce, rather than a treaty. The North routinely threatens to destroy South Korea and its major ally, the United States.—Reuters

Israel opposes French peace drive, wants direct talks with Palestinians

JERUSALEM — Israel formally expressed its opposition on Thursday to a French-proposed peace initiative, reaffirming its position that only direct talks with the Palestinians can resolve the decades-old conflict.

A week ago, France said it would hold an international conference in Paris on 30 May in a bid to relaunch talks between Palestinians and Israelis by the end of the year.

But a statement to the media issued by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Thursday said "Israel maintains its position that the best way to resolve the conflict ... is through direct, bilateral negotiations."

The statement did not explicitly say Israel would not attend any other type of forum but it added that "any other diplomatic initiative would distance the

Palestinians from direct talks".

With US efforts to broker a two-state accord in tatters since April 2014 and Washington focused on a November presidential election, Paris has lobbied countries to commit to a conference that would set out a framework to get Israelis and Palestinians back into negotiations.

The May talks are set to include the Middle East Quartet (the United States, Russia, European Union and United Nations), the Arab League, the UN Security Council and about 20 countries.

Neither Israeli nor Palestinian officials have been invited, but the Palestinians have welcomed the French initiative and Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki said they were "looking forward to help".

After France's special en-

voy Pierre Vimont met Israeli diplomats last month, Israel said it was struggling to "understand the logic" of the Paris initiative. A French diplomat said at the time it was required because of the risk of a "powder keg" exploding.

In the last half year, Palestinian attacks have killed 28 Israelis and two visiting US citizens.

Israeli forces have killed at least 193 Palestinians, 130 of whom Israel says were assailants. Many others were shot dead in clashes and protests. Factors behind the bloodshed include Palestinian bitterness over stalled statehood talks, the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, stepped-up Jewish access to a disputed Jerusalem shrine and Islamist-led calls for Israel's destruction.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

US military punishes 16 over 2015 Afghan hospital bombing

WASHINGTON — The US military will announce on Friday that has taken disciplinary action against 16 service members over a deadly 3 October air strike in Afghanistan that destroyed a hospital run by the international medical charity Medecins Sans Frontieres, US officials told Reuters.

The disclosure of the nonjudicial punishments will come during the release of the findings of a US military investigation into the incident, which will broadly conclude that the strike was a tragic mistake, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. That finding is consistent with the results of a preliminary investigation released by the US military in November, when commanders stressed that American forces did not intentionally target the hospital.—Reuters

M4.4 quake rocks southwest Japan, upper 5 on seismic scale logged

TOKYO — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.4 jolted southwestern Japan on Friday, registering upper 5 on the Japanese seismic scale of 7 in Oita Prefecture, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

The quake, which was centered in central Oita Prefecture at a depth of around 10 kilometres, occurred at 3:09pm, the agency said, adding no tsunami warning was issued.

The hot spring resort area of Yufuin was hit the hardest, while the quake was also felt in other areas such as Kumamoto and Miyazaki prefectures.

Japan's Kyushu region has been jolted by numerous quakes since a M6.5 temblor on 14 April.—Kyodo News

Georgia detains five suspected of selling uranium

TBILISI (Georgia) — The security service in the former Soviet republic of Georgia said on Thursday it had detained five Georgian citizens who were trying to sell \$3 million worth of radioactive uranium. Security service officers did not say whether the group had a buyer for the uranium, nor where the group had acquired it.

World leaders have been concerned about the security of Soviet nuclear weapons since the Soviet Union's demise in 1991. Concern has also grown that radical groups are seeking material with which to make a 'dirty bomb'. "The detainees were planning to sell nuclear material with total weights of 1 kilogramme and 665 grammes, which contained two radioactive isotopes — Uranium-238 and a small amount, 0.23 per cent, of Uranium-235," security service investigator Savle Motiashvili told a briefing.—Reuters

German minister concerned migrant numbers via Libya, Italy will rise

BERLIN — Migrants should no longer be able to get to Germany and Europe via the Balkan route, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said on Friday, adding that was concerned refugee numbers would rise with people now coming via Libya and Italy.

"It's clear that the Balkan route is a thing of the past and no longer will or should be a place again from where people will be waved through to Germany and Austria and to the centre of Europe," he said at a news conference in Potsdam.

"Now the issue is alternative routes — on the Balkan route and also we are of course concerned that we'll get rising refugee numbers again as they come via Libya and Italy," he added.—Reuters

At least 1 protester arrested near Trump's rally in Southern California

LOS ANGELES — At least one protester was arrested while the police were trying to disperse protesters who occupied an intersection near Republican presidential contender Donald Trump's campaign rally in Costa Mesa in Southern California Thursday evening.

According to local media reports, hundreds of protesters started to gather and occupied the street since 4 pm local time (2300 GMT) outside the Orange County Fair & Event Centre, which neighbors the Pacific Amphitheatre where Trump was giving a speech to thousands of supporters. The demonstration turned wild as nearly 200 police officers, including mounted units, were trying to clear the street. A car was seen spinning in the street close to the crowd, almost hurting several people before it sped off. Later, a group of protesters were spotted rocking a police car and broke out the rear window.—Xinhua

Obama expects US to admit 10,000 Syrian refugees this year

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said on Thursday he expected the United States would meet a goal of admitting 10,000 Syrian refugees before the end of the year despite delays and opposition from critics concerned about security implications.

As Europe grappled with Syrians fleeing the country's civil war last autumn, Obama promised to admit 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of fiscal year 2016. But the State Department reported on 31 March, halfway into the fiscal year, that only 1,285 Syrians had been admitted into the United States.

"We're going to keep on pushing," Obama said when asked on Thursday whether the goal would be achieved.

Obama's promise has come under fire from Re-

publicans concerned that violent militants could come into the United States posing as refugees.

More than 30 governors have tried to block refugees from their states, but courts and attorneys general have said it is up to the federal government to screen refugees and settle them.

The president said his administration wanted to assure the public the refugees were being properly screened and vetted. Congress may put up roadblocks to the process, he said.

"Administratively I think now we have the process to speed it up," he told a news conference with student journalists at the White House.

"Our goal is to continue to try to make the case to Congress and the American people (that) this is the right



Internally displaced people, covered with mud, wait as they are stuck in the town of Khirbet Al-Joz, in Latakia countryside, waiting to get permission to cross into Turkey near the Syrian-Turkish border, Syria, on 7 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

thing to do and we believe that we can hit those marks before the end of the year."

Washington has offered refuge to far fewer of the millions fleeing war in

Syria and Iraq than many of its closest allies in Europe and the Middle East.

The agency responsible for processing and admitting refugees, US Citi-

zenship and Immigration Services, is under added pressure to make sure none of those admitted have ties to violent extremists.

Requirements for ad-

ditional screening measures were passed following the 13 November attacks in Paris after Obama had laid out his goal of admitting 10,000 Syrians.—Reuters

Italy says uncovers possible plot to attack Rome, arrests suspects



Men identified by Italian police as Moutaharrik Abderrahim (R) and Khachia Abderrahmane are seen in this handout picture released by Italian police to Reuters, on 28 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

ROME — Italian police issued arrest warrants on Thursday for six people suspected of conspiring to join Islamic State, and court documents said three of them had been discussing possible attacks on the Vatican and the Israeli embassy in Rome.

Four of the suspects — a couple living near Lake Como, a 23-year-old-man and a woman, all of them Moroccans — were detained in Italy on Thursday, Milan prosecutor Maurizio Romanelli told a news conference.

The other two — a

Moroccan man and his Italian wife — left Italy last year, travelled to Iraq and Syria and are still on the loose, Romanelli added.

Italy has not suffered the kind of deadly Islamist attacks that hit France and Belgium, but authorities have arrested a number of people suspected of planning assaults.

Transcripts of wiretapped phone conversations between three of the suspects, contained in the arrest warrant and seen by Reuters, mentioned the possibility of an attack against the Vatican and the

Israeli embassy in the Italian capital.

"I swear I will be the first to attack them in this Italy of crusaders, I swear I'll attack it, in the Vatican God willing," one of the arrested men is quoted as telling the man on the run in the transcript.

In a separate conversation with another of the suspects arrested on Thursday, the same man said he wanted to hit the Israeli embassy in Rome and had contacted an Albanian man to get a gun.

"The new aspect here is that we are not talking

about a generic indication (of an attack) but a specific person being appointed to act on Italian soil," Romanelli said.

"Rome attracts attention because it is a destination for Christian pilgrims," the prosecutor added.

A lawyer appointed to represent two of the suspects declined to comment, saying he was waiting for court papers.

A 22-year-old Somali asylum seeker who worked as an imam was detained in southern Italy last month on suspicion of planning an attack in Rome.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (112N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (112N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YOSSA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YOSSA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2016 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PEGASUS VOY NO (0263)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PEGASUS VOY NO (0263) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Mexico investigates top crime fighter over missing 43 students case

MEXICO CITY — One of Mexico's top crime fighters is under investigation over a key incident in the probe into the apparent massacre of 43 trainee teachers in 2014, the attorney general's office said on Thursday, adding a twist to a case that has shaken the country.

The probe into officials including Tomas Zeron, head of the attorney general's criminal investigation agency, was triggered by a report by a panel of experts questioning the circumstances in which a charred bone fragment was discovered in a river. The fragment belonged to the only one of the 43 whose remains have been definitively identified, evidence which has sustained the government's version the teachers were murdered by a

drug gang, incinerated and dumped into the river.

Zeron came under the spotlight on Sunday when the team of international experts presented video and photographs suggesting he was at the site where the bone was found a day before its official discovery, but made no report of his visit.

The attorney general's office said in a statement an internal disciplinary body would "investigate the actions of the public servants of the institution in these events." Zeron's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But responding to the panel's disclosures on Wednesday, Zeron said the visit was legal and that he had been accompanied by representatives of the UN human rights office.



Relatives of the 43 missing students of the Ayotzinapa teacher training college march before receiving the final report on the disappearance of their sons by members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in Tixtla, Guerrero state, Mexico, on 27 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

He did not explain why the trip was not officially documented. Mexico's UN human rights office said it had not accompanied Zeron, saying in a statement it "finds it strange that its presence and role were mentioned in activities of the attorney general's office it never took part in."

The panel of experts has picked holes in the government's official account of how the 43 students disappeared in the southwestern city of Iguala in late September 2014. Although many questions remain unanswered, the government said the panel's participation in the case would finish this month, and there have been a number of claims and counterclaims between the two sides over the investigation.—Reuters

Trump attacks Clinton on gender, risking backlash from women

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump waded into politically risky territory this week when he accused Democrat Hillary Clinton of exploiting her gender to win votes and said she would have little support if she were not a woman.

As Trump and Clinton, fresh off big wins in five Northeastern state primaries on Tuesday, circled each other for a potential match-

up in the 8 November US presidential election, his comments portended what could be an unusually nasty campaign.

Like other controversial remarks during his White House campaign, Trump's comments drew criticism from a wide spectrum but also reinforced his image — which has been attractive to some supporters — for plain talk that defies political norms.

"The only thing she's got going is the fact that she's a woman," Trump, 69, said on Thursday on NBC's "Today" show, refusing to back down from targeting Clinton, 68, for what he called "playing the woman's card." Trump's remarks, reaching into an area of gender attacks that is conventionally seen as off-limits, energized Democrats.

"Keep talking, Donald Trump," Democratic

Committee National Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz told CNN on Wednesday. "Every single day when Donald Trump opens his mouth, he does more to alienate women."

Trump, unfazed by the criticism, told supporters in Evansville, Indiana, that he has gotten a bad rap.

"Nobody cherishes and nobody respects women more than Donald Trump," he said after being intro-

duced by famed former Indiana University basketball coach Bobby Knight. "I will be so much better to women than Hillary Clinton."

Trump, who can be as free with his personal attacks on men, has consistently polled poorly with women. Democrats and Republicans both accuse Trump of sexism over verbal insults lobbed at Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly and former Republican presidential

candidate Carly Fiorina. On Wednesday, Trump's closest Republican rival, US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, named Fiorina, 61, as his running mate should he win the party's nomination, a move that could help him draw women's support.

"Donald has a problem with strong women," Cruz, 45, told reporters in Fort Wayne, Indiana, before a rally. "This is not subtle, it's not complicated."—Reuters

Announcement to MPT Service Users

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

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

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

Myanma Post and Telecommunications

Poland could face legal chaos as authorities defy government

WARSAW — The Polish government faces a growing rebellion among judges and local authorities over its reform of the constitutional court, in a row that could lead to different state bodies following conflicting legal standards.

In recent days, several municipalities, including the city of Warsaw, and the Supreme Court have said they will recognise the rulings of the constitutional court even if the government refuses to do so.

The ruling conservatives, meanwhile, insist the constitutional court's verdicts are illegal until it complies with the reform, which includes new regulations increasing the majority required for the court to pass a ruling.

Critics say the changes are part of an authoritarian push by the conservatives to bring key institutions to heel.

The new rules have drawn international criticism, including from the European Union and some rating agencies, which say they undermine the state's credibility. The constitutional judges have them-



People hold giant Polish national flag as they take part in a march demanding their government to respect the country's constitution in front of the Constitutional Court in Warsaw, Poland, on 12 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

selves struck the proposed reforms down as illegal.

The latest body to throw its weight behind the constitutional court is the top administrative court, which said on Wednesday it was the government's duty to recognise rulings "without undue delay".

"Such statements reflect the disapproval (of the government) and its failure

to uphold the constitution," said Jan Wawrzyniak, a constitutional law professor at a Warsaw university.

"What they can lead to is our legal system being split into two competing realities."

The Law and Justice party (PiS) argues its reform of the constitutional court is necessary to reflect a new balance of power in

Poland after it won an October election. It is dismissive of talk of pending legal trouble.

"In reality, it's a team of cronies who got together to defend the previous government's status quo," PiS spokeswoman Beata Mazurek told reporters, referring to the Supreme Court's decision to defy the government.—Reuters

Paris police detain dozens after overnight violence

PARIS — French riot police arrested 27 people after running battles with dozens of hooded and masked youths in downtown Paris's Place de la République square overnight, after a day of separate protest marches over labour reform that were also marked by violence.

In the early hours of the morning police moved in to clear out a group of around 150 youths who refused to quit the vast open square which has been occupied daily for the past month by mostly peaceful sit-in protesters.

The evacuation followed running battles between police and youths who set cars on fire and hurled lumps of concrete and cobblestones ripped up from the streets, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

It said 24 of the 27 arrested in the standoff were placed in custody. "These are largely people coming looking for a fight," Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet said.

The late-night clashes

followed a day of street marches in which dozens more were arrested. The violence took place on the fringes of rallies involving tens of thousands of people protesting over a law to make hiring and firing easier in a country where labour protection is sacrosanct and unemployment above 10 per cent.

In all, police reported 124 arrests during Thursday's day of protests and demonstrations, in which 24 police were injured, one in serious condition after a skull-cracking blow from a paving block.

Paris police prefect Michel Cadot says highly organised and methodical groups are behind the violence which has developed despite the state of emergency rules imposed since the deadly Islamist attacks of last November.

The French government has condemned the violence, but with just a year to elections, seems keen so far to waive the blanket curfew option it has under the state of emergency system.—Reuters

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES-Individual Consultants)

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Agricultural Development Support Project (ADSP)
Credit No. : 5624 MM**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is in the process of receiving funds from the World Bank toward the cost of the ADSP Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Project Management Unit now invites expressions of interest from qualified candidates for the below positions. Interested consultants must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, qualifications and experience in similar assignments. In submitting their expressions of interest, consultants are kindly requested to indicate the positions they apply and the reference numbers stated below.

1. National Finance Officer (Ref # SC-23)
2. National Procurement Officer (Ref # SC-25)
3. National Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (Ref # SC-21)
4. National Environmental Safeguards Specialist (Ref # SC-19)
5. National Social Safeguards Specialist (Ref # SC-20)

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of 12 months with the possibility of extension depending on the performance, starting in May 2016. The location of work will be the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Loans and International Development Association (IDA) Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) can be obtained at the address below during working days from 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail, or by Fax) not later than May 16, 2016.

Attn: U Tint Lwin, Director of Procurement

Department: Department of Irrigation and Management of Water Utilization,

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Address: Building No. 15, MOALI, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Phone: +95-67-410019, Fax: +95-67-410102

Email: tlwin4.irr@gmail.com; hatint2009@gmail.com

Cuba, Britain to cooperate on energy, education, financial services

HAVANA — Cuba and Britain on Thursday signed several cooperation agreements regarding energy, education, cultural and financial services.

"These are areas where we believe we can do a great deal together. Financial services is an area where the UK leads the world. Cuba has a very strong education sector and we've discussed today areas where we can

work together," British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond told reporters after meeting with his Cuban counterpart, Bruno Rodriguez. Hammond arrived in Cuba on Thursday on the first such visit since 1959. He and Rodriguez discussed a variety of issues including trade, the social and economic changes in Cuba, and the response to health issues such as the Zika virus.

Hammond said that a visit to Havana by British Prime Minister David Cameron is not expected in the short term but "anything is possible in the long term."

The top British diplomat highlighted London's willingness to deepen tourism cooperation with Havana. More than 160,000 Britons visited the island last year and tourism has become one of the most booming

sectors in Cuba.

"Cuba is also developing its renewable energy market and other forms of energy, which is also an area where the UK has technology and services to offer. The cultural exchange is also very important as we seek to underpin this growing relationship for the better understanding between the British and the Cuban people," Hammond said.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV UBC CHILE VOY NO (85)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CHILE VOY NO (85) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 MERIDIAN SHIPPING
AGENCIES PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (138)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (138) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-3 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

Drew Barrymore boards TV dating show

LOS ANGELES — Newly-single actress Drew Barrymore has joined “First Dates” as the narrator of the new reality TV series for people looking for love.

The 41-year-old “Never Been Kissed” star, who announced her split from husband Will Kopelman earlier this month, has loaned her voice to the new programme which follows couples on first dates over the course of one night in a restaurant.

At the end of each episode, the ‘daters’ will reveal if they are interested in

seeing their partners again, reported Deadline.

The series, produced by comedienne Ellen DeGeneres, is based on a UK show of the same name.

“First Dates” is the latest small screen project for Barrymore.

She and “Justified” star Timothy Olyphant will star in a new comedy, titled “Santa Clarita Diet.”

The two will play married real estate agents on the Netflix series penned by “Better Off Ted” writer Victor Fresco. It is scheduled to debut in 2017.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Prince Memorial to be held in Los Angeles in May

LOS ANGELES — Fans will be able pay tribute to late music icon Prince during a public memorial in Los Angeles next month.

The “Purple Rain” star, 57, was found dead at his Paisley Park studio in Chanhassen, Minnesota on 21 April, and next Friday on 6 May, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti will host a memorial for the legend. The event will be held at Los Angeles City Hall, where Prince filmed his music video for 1991 hit “Diamonds and Pearls.” The building has been lit up with purple lights in honour of the star since his passing, reported Entertainment Tonight.

Mayor Garcetti praised Prince following his death, releasing a statement which read: “Prince was a once-in-a-generation talent.

His genius on stage, and in the studio, was matched only by his determination to protect the integrity of his art and defend the rights of artists to control what they create.

“Memories of his work take me back to my childhood— and years later, I had the good fortune to witness his brilliance

during an incredible performance at the Roosevelt Hotel. That night, I spoke to him briefly about my admiration for his music.

Today, I join people in Los Angeles and throughout the world in mourning the loss of a true icon.”

Meanwhile, Prince’s half-brother Alfred Jackson has spoken out for the first time since his sibling’s passing.

“I miss my brother, because my brother was everything in the world to me. God bless Prince, God bless the world. He’s a legend, he really is. He was a genius,” he said.

A Minnesota judge recently placed bank bosses at the Bremer Trust, National Association, in charge of Prince’s estate after determining the superstar died without a will.

The singer’s sister, Tyka Nelson, asked a state judge to appoint her as a “special administrator”, and insisted she would be an heir to her brother’s fortune, while their five half-siblings were potential beneficiaries too.

Prince’s assets have reportedly been valued at less than USD 150 million.—PTI



Pop star Beyonce. PHOTO: REUTERS

Beyonce dedicates song to Jay Z during tour opener

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Beyonce put the Jay Z cheating rumours to behind by dedicating a song to her “beautiful husband” during her tour opening show in Miami, Florida.

The pop superstar, 34, reignited rumours that her husband of eight years had been unfaithful when she released new album Lemonade, which featured lyrics detailing a broken marriage and infidelity, reported Vanity Fair. However, the pair put on a united front ahead of the opening of the Formation World Tour in Miami as Jay

Z was spotted at rehearsals and he later watched Beyonce perform her hits from the audience.

“I want to dedicate this song to my family, thank you guys for supporting me. I want to dedicate this song to my beautiful husband, I love you so much,” she told the crowd at Marlins Park.

“I love you so much. Blue, I love you so much.”

Beyonce also paid tribute to Prince by saying, “God, thank you for speaking through this beautiful artist that inspired all of us.—PTI

Cyrus, Hemsworth to have quick wedding in Las Vegas?

LOS ANGELES — Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth are reportedly planning to get married soon in Las Vegas.

The 23-year-old actress-singer “wants a sum-

mer wedding” and her mother, Tish, is helping her plan the vows, reported Ace Showbiz.

“It’s possible they’ll just run off to Vegas and tie the knot!,” a source said.

The source also claims that the pair are going stronger than ever.

“They live together and are very serious. They’re very much together.—PTI

Taylor Swift number one in my house: Julia Roberts

LONDON — Oscar-winning actress Julia Roberts’ children are massive fans of Taylor Swift.

The 48-year-old actress was one of a huge number of stars to take to the stage with Swift during her 1989 tour last year, reported Contactmusic.

Her cameo appearance was out of character for the star, but Roberts said she was encouraged to do it by her children, and specifically her sons, 11-year-old Phinneas and eight-year-old Henry.

“I will say this, when she very sweetly asked if I would go on stage, my oldest son said, because I of course went ‘ugh’ my oldest son said ‘Mommy You have to do it’ and my youngest son said ‘Mom-



PHOTO: REUTERS

my only do it if you feel comfortable’,” Roberts smiled during an appearance on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show”.

“They all love Taylor

Swift and she is just number one in our house and that was their first concert ever and we took a bunch of friends and had a great time.—PTI

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Holiday traveller exodus starts as Japan enters Golden Week

TOKYO — Major airports, railway stations and expressways across Japan were crowded with holiday travellers on Friday as the Golden Week spring holiday season started.

Areas in southwestern Japan devastated by the recent earthquakes also saw many people returning home to take advantage of the holiday season that lasts until 8 May to visit and help work on their parents’ and relatives’ homes damaged by the temblors. Many volunteer workers also arrived in hopes of comforting or supporting people displaced in the disaster.

Narita International Airport Corp. said it expects the number of departures from the airport to reach about 52,000 on Friday alone and for total departures and arrivals of international flights during the period to rise 8.4 per cent from a year earlier to 814,000.

At the airport, 10-year-old Keito Isoe from Fuji, Shizuoka Prefecture, said he will be visiting Palau with his family. “I’m looking forward to snorkeling in the beautiful ocean. I hope to see rainbow-coloured fish.” His mother Mika, 45, said her family chose to go to Palau as “Europe was not our preferred destination as we were afraid of terrorist attacks.”

Occupancy rates for nonreserved seats on many of the Tokaido Shinkansen bullet trains from Tokyo to Osaka exceeded 100 per cent, Central Japan Railway Co. said, while those of Hokuriku Shinkansen bullet train from Tokyo to Kanazawa in Ishikawa Prefecture exceeded 150 per cent. At Kumamoto airport, a 27-year-old woman from Tokyo’s Setagaya Ward said she is visiting her parents to help clear their home in Mashiki, one of the towns hardest-hit by the earthquakes. “One of my friends was going to hold a wedding party during the Golden Week holiday but it was postponed.”—*Kyodo News*

Cliffside Hanging Temple to reopen after rock damage



The Hanging Temple built upon crags of Hengshan Mountain, Datong, north China’s Shanxi Province in 2012. The Hanging Temple, involving the Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, could date back to Northern Wei Dynasty (386-535 AD). The unique wooden structure has kept it on the cliff face for more than 1500 years, and made it survived from several earthquakes. In 2010, the Hanging Temple listed on “World’s Top 10 Most Dangerous Architectures” by the Time Magazine. PHOTO: XINHUA

TAIYUAN — An ancient temple known for its precarious perch on a cliff face in north China will reopen in time for the May Day holiday after being damaged by a falling rock last year.

The Hanging Temple in Hunyuan County, Shanxi Province, was closed in October, when the rock fell through its roof.

Guo Lingxia, deputy director of the temple’s administration team, said workers had reinforced a wall designed to protect the building against falling rocks, and repaired and revamped the roof.

Anticipating a tourist rush during the coming three-day holiday, the administrators have organised a thorough clean of the temple’s 400 halls and rooms, and increased parking.—*Xinhua*

MRTV

News Channel
in Brief

(30- 4-2016, Saturday)

6:00 am

• Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:35 am

• Hyper Sport

8:35 am

• The Farmer

9:35 am

• MRTV’s Youth Programme

10:35 am

• Documentary

11:35 am

• Game For Children

1:00 pm

• TV Drama Series

1:45 pm

• Teleplay

2:35 pm

• Musical Programme

3:35 pm

• Hyper Sport

4:35 pm

• MRTV Job Opportunity Programme

5:35 pm

• Poem for Children

5:45 pm

• Documentary (NHK)

6:20 pm

• Grapic Info (Stock Exchange)

6:35 pm

• Business News

7:15 pm

• Teleplay (Part-6)

8:00 pm

• News / International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

• News

• Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

Note / Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

Christie’s fetes 250 years in business with major British art sale

LONDON — From Joshua Reynolds to Lucian Freud, works spanning several centuries of British art will go under the hammer as part of a sale celebrating 250 years since auction house Christie’s was founded.

The highlights are three major works, led by “Ib and her Husband”, an intimate 1992 portrait by Freud of his pregnant daughter and her partner lying on a bed.

The painting is estimated at around 18 million pounds (\$26.24 million).

Joining it is Reynolds’ 1778 “Portrait of Lucy Long, Mrs George Hardinge”, which has never previously been publicly offered for sale and has been described as “one of the finest works by the artist to come to the market in a generation”.

Said to be in “remarkable” condition, the portrait is estimated at around 2-3 million pounds.

The third major work is “Golden Hours”, painted circa 1864 by Frederic Leighton, which goes to auction for the first time in 100 years and is estimated at 3-5 million pounds.

“All of the pictures are exemplary of their type,” Orlando Rock, chairman of Christie’s UK, told Reuters.

“I think from a quality point of view, they ... all epitomize the periods they were created in.”

The works are set to go on tour at Christie’s in New York and Hong Kong next month before the June “Defining British Art” sale, which will be launched alongside an exhibition of British art works handled by Christie’s.—*Reuters*

MRTV

Entertainment Channel

(30- 4-2016, Saturday)

6:00 pm

• Weather Report

• Music Programme

6:30 pm

• Young Lady Musician Nge Nge Lay

6:50 pm

• Music Programme

7:10 pm

• Cassette Recording

8:10 pm

• Music Programme

8:30 pm

• Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) “Osi”

8:40 pm

• International Movie Songs

8:50 pm

• Reviving and Promoting a Traditional Festival

9:20 pm

• Myanmar Movie

Midnight

• Close Down.

* 08:30 pm Live: Everton Vs AFC Bournemouth

From 30-4-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm
To 1-5-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm

mitv

Myanmar International

(30-4-2016 07:00am ~ 1-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am

News

07:26 Am

Great Shwedagon- Charitable Associations

08:03 Am

News

08:26 Am

Ar Khar New Year Festival

08:47 Am

Toddy Palm Product Shop

09:03 Am

News

09:26 Am

Myanmar Game Changers (Episode - IV)

09:51 Am

Sai Ye Kwan

10:03 Am

News

10:26 Am

Interview with Union Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (Part-1)

10:42 Am

Interview with Union Minister, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (Part-2)

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

A Famous Pagoda in the Sea

07:52 Pm

Today Myanmar: El Niño Impacts On Fish Breeding

08:03 Pm

News

08:26 Pm

Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part- 2)

08:53 Pm

Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art

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

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

Villarreal strike late against Liverpool, Sevilla draw at Shakhtar

LONDON — Villarreal's Adrian Lopez produced a stinging sucker punch in stoppage time to leave Liverpool reeling and move the Spaniards closer to a maiden European final after their Europa League last four first leg clash finished 1-0 on Thursday.

Liverpool, who got a taste of their own medicine having scored deep in added time to knock Borussia Dortmund out in the quarter-finals, looked comfortable before Denis Suarez broke into the box and unselfishly squared for Lopez to sweep home.

In the other semi-final, holders Sevilla had their fingers briefly loosened from the trophy before grabbing a 2-2 draw at Shakhtar Donetsk that left them well-placed to progress.

Sevilla's bid to become the first side to lift the trophy three years running got off to a great start when they opened the scoring through Vitolo after six minutes.

Shakhtar produced a spirited response, though, with goals from Marlos and Taras Stepanenko to lead at halftime before Kevin Gameiro's 82nd-minute penalty left the Spaniards as favourites to progress with two away goals.

Five times European champions Liverpool had not lost in 12 Europa League games this season and were facing a Villarreal side out to banish a last-four curse and reach a European final for the first time at their fourth attempt.



Villarreal's Adrian celebrates scoring their first goal during UEFA Europa League Semi Final First Leg at El Madrigal Stadium, Villarreal, Spain, on 28 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

Villarreal had proven to be shrewd opponents in Europe's second tier competition and in Cedric Bakambu boast a striker with nine goals in this season's Europa League, while no Liverpool player has scored more than two.

The Merseysiders' manager

Juergen Klopp decided to leave the most prolific marksman at his disposal, Daniel Sturridge, on the bench for the entire 90 minutes and in his absence the visitors looked cautious and laboured in attack.

They had their chances, with Joe Allen firing straight at keeper

Sergio Asenjo from close range after five minutes while Roberto Firmino hit the post midway through the second half.

Villarreal, however, had chances of their own with Liverpool's Simon Mignolet making fine saves to deny Tomas Pina and Bakambu, who also hit the post

with a header.

The winner arrived after Liverpool looked to have absorbed everything the hosts could throw at them and Lopez's late goal has left Klopp's side facing a tricky task next week, where an away goal would leave them needing to win by at least two.—Reuters

Arsenal's Wilshere rules out changing style to avoid injury



Arsenal's Jack Wilshere. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Arsenal's Jack Wilshere is not going to change his playing style even if it results in more injuries, the combative midfielder has said.

Known for his creative passing and solid defending that also provokes tackles, Wilshere made his return from an 11-month spell on the sidelines in Sunday's goalless Premier League draw with Sunderland.

Having made his Arsenal debut aged 16, the injury-plagued 24-year-old has only once played more than 25 Premier League games in a season.

"All my injuries have been

impact injuries and I have been a little bit unfortunate at times," he told the club website (www.arsenal.com).

"When I'm on the ball, I have to get close to the defender, which is going to cause him to attempt to tackle me or mistime it as we have seen in the past.

That is part of my game. I don't think there is anything I can do differently. "Maybe I should pass it a little bit more or a little bit quicker, but as soon as I get back on the ball and there is an opportunity for me to run at someone, that is what I want to do. I don't think I can change."—Reuters

Serena Williams withdraws from Madrid Open with flu

MADRID — Women's world number one Serena Williams has withdrawn from the Madrid Open because of flu, the organisers said on Friday.

"Unfortunately, I have to withdraw from Madrid because I've been battling the flu and I'm not at 100 per cent. I look forward to returning soon," Williams said in a statement.

Agnieszka Radwanska is now the top seed at the tournament starting on Saturday.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Hur takes first-round LPGA lead as Wie struggles again

IRVING — Hur Mi-jung reeled off five consecutive birdies on her way to a one-shot lead after the first round at the Texas Shootout in Irving on Thursday.

On a leaderboard dominated by South Korean players, Hur carded a five-under-par 66 in the LPGA event at Las Colinas Country Club.

Compatriots Ryu So-yeon and Ji Eun-hee joined American Gerina Pillier on 67, with

three other Korean players on 68 along with Scottish veteran Catriona Matthew.

Hur, a two-time LPGA winner, could become the oldest winner on the tour this season. She is 26, while the first 10 events have been won by players 23 or younger.

Hur bided her time as she started with five straight pars, before beginning her sizzling birdie run at the par-four 15th,

her sixth hole.

She completed her charge to the front by threading her approach shot from the rough at the first hole under a tree, running the ball up to tap-in range to go five-under.

Meanwhile, it was another disappointing day for Michelle Wie, the biggest name in women's golf.

The 2014 US Women's Open champion withdrew

from last week's LPGA event in San Francisco due to neck spasms, later posting pictures on social media of herself in a neck brace.

It was the latest in a litany of injuries that have hampered the career of the 26-year-old from Hawaii.

On Thursday, Wie plunged to six over after just eight holes, before steadying her sinking ship and posting a 76.—Reuters